



BIDDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The **Parish Council** met on Tuesday 14th November. Present at the meeting were Parish Councillors Peter Chase, Caroline Cross, Harry Fowler, Chris Gee and Laura Simmonds. Apologies were received from Aaron Melvin, Simi Otukoya and Francia Slade. Also present were the Clerk, David Brough, myself, and Borough Councillor Jon Gambold.

I'll start with saying a big thank you to all those who braved the rain on Remembrance Sunday morning to pay tribute to those who have fallen in service and to all at St James's Church who led us in the service. The Union flag looked resplendent as we paid our respects. At this time, I am always moved by the poem by Laurence Binyon '*For The Fallen*' – also sometimes known as Ode To Remember – which was first published in September 1914 and continues to strike a chord even today; especially the line "*At the going down of the sun and in the morning We will remember them*". It was a privilege to lay a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council and also would like to thank Councillor Jon Gambold for laying a wreath on behalf of the Borough Council and to Ralph Harding for laying a wreath as a former soldier.



In a similar vein it was great to see that the new flag pole now allows the Parish Council to fly two flags. Currently the St George's flag and the Ukrainian flag are flying.

These will be changed to recognise national events such as the King's birthday, Coronation Day and other occasions. I think the flags look very good and it sends a great message of support to our Ukrainian friends.

The plans for the refurbishment of the play area by our appointed contractor, Proludic, remains on track and notices will be put up shortly around the Pavilion and entrances to let our users know of the planned start date in January. Once completed it would be great to receive some feedback.

I was hoping to update readers on our discussions with the Borough to address our highway concerns but as we hadn't received their proposals in time for the meeting it now looks like it will be the January meeting when we will be in a position to have a meaningful discussion.

There will be no meeting in December but during this period we will be preparing for next year's budget.

With the festive season approaching I hope that residents enjoy the two Christmas trees installed by the Parish. I think they look splendid. I'll also take this early opportunity to wish all of our residents a safe, happy and relaxing time over the Christmas and New Year period.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 7.30pm** at the **St James's Barn, Church End** and all are welcome.

Stewart Briggs

Chair – Biddenham Parish Council

