



# *BIDDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL*

## PARISH COUNCIL

Firstly, a thank you to all involved in this June issue of the Loop. The Parish is pleased to have contributed to the printing costs to allow a copy to be delivered to every household, and a big thank you to the many volunteers who have helped to distribute it. It's a great opportunity for Parishioners to learn about the many activities, clubs and facilities available.

The **Parish Council** meets usually on the first Tuesday of the month. Our annual meeting this year was held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May. Present at the meeting were Parish Councillors Peter Chase, Chris Gee, Harry Fowler, Simi Otukoya and Laura Simmonds. Apologies were received from Caroline Cross, Helen Humphreys and Francia Slade. Also present were the Clerk, David Brough, and myself.

The first items of business were to elect a Chair and Vice Chair for the forthcoming Municipal year. I am honoured to be re-elected and pleased to have Peter Chase in the role of Vice-Chair.

A regular concern raised with the Parish Council is the condition of Gold Lane and this meeting was no different with the poor condition of the road once again being raised. We were told several years ago it was due to be resurfaced in December 2022 (we were told this as their Contractor was going to use the road planings to improve the surface of the Red Gate footpath - but that's another story). Then we were told the works would need to be delayed due to the works associated with the Dandara development. The Borough Council didn't want any newly resurfaced road surface damaged by their works, which is a sensible consideration. Access to the development was then changed to be off Deep Spinney, so, naively, it would appear there was no impediment to the works progressing. Disappointingly, rather than the scheme rolling over to this year's programme it is still on hold for the same reason. I am struggling to understand what damage to Gold Lane would be caused by the developer accessing his site as heavy delivery vehicles still enter and exit via Deep Spinney and not Gold Lane. Nobody seems to be able to tell me. In the meantime, the Borough Council will continue to spend money on temporary repairs and residents will continue to worry about their vehicle suspensions – and not just Gold Lane having recently driven along Bromham Road! So please do report potholes via <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/roads-and-pavements/potholes>.

I suppose the good thing to come out from the delay to these essential works on Gold Lane is that it provides an opportunity to review whether the request we made for double yellow lines on Gold Lane is still needed. There was a reported issue of cars associated with the development parking in the road and causing a problem. Now there is a settled pattern of traffic use the question is whether that problem remains?

It was great to see Will Jenkins, Chair of the Biddenham Society, attend the public session and talk to the Parish Council about the Society's plans to realign the scope of its aims and objectives. The overarching theme is one of bringing together the community, young and old, from the older more established parts and the newer estates and having a voice in shaping the community and our local environment. I certainly see a common thread between our activities and theirs. I look forward to working with them in the future to support their objectives and indeed any other local groups.

The meeting also considered a request from the Village Hall Management Committee to make a CIL contribution to their planned project to install an electric heating system, install LED lighting and update their electricity supply to 3 phase. I think there was general support for the idea. The next stage is to score the project against our CIL priorities and, presuming it meets the criteria, then the Parish Council would be in the position to approve making a financial contribution to the project.

Regular readers may recall we had agreed to fund the stoning of the red gate public footpath by the Borough Council to help make this route an easier walk for residents - notably during the winter when it becomes a mud bath. The good news is the work is planned for the end of June, so don't be surprised if there is some disruption while the works are carried out.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 7.30pm** at the **St James's Barn, Church End** and all are welcome.

Stewart Briggs

Chair – Biddenham Parish Council