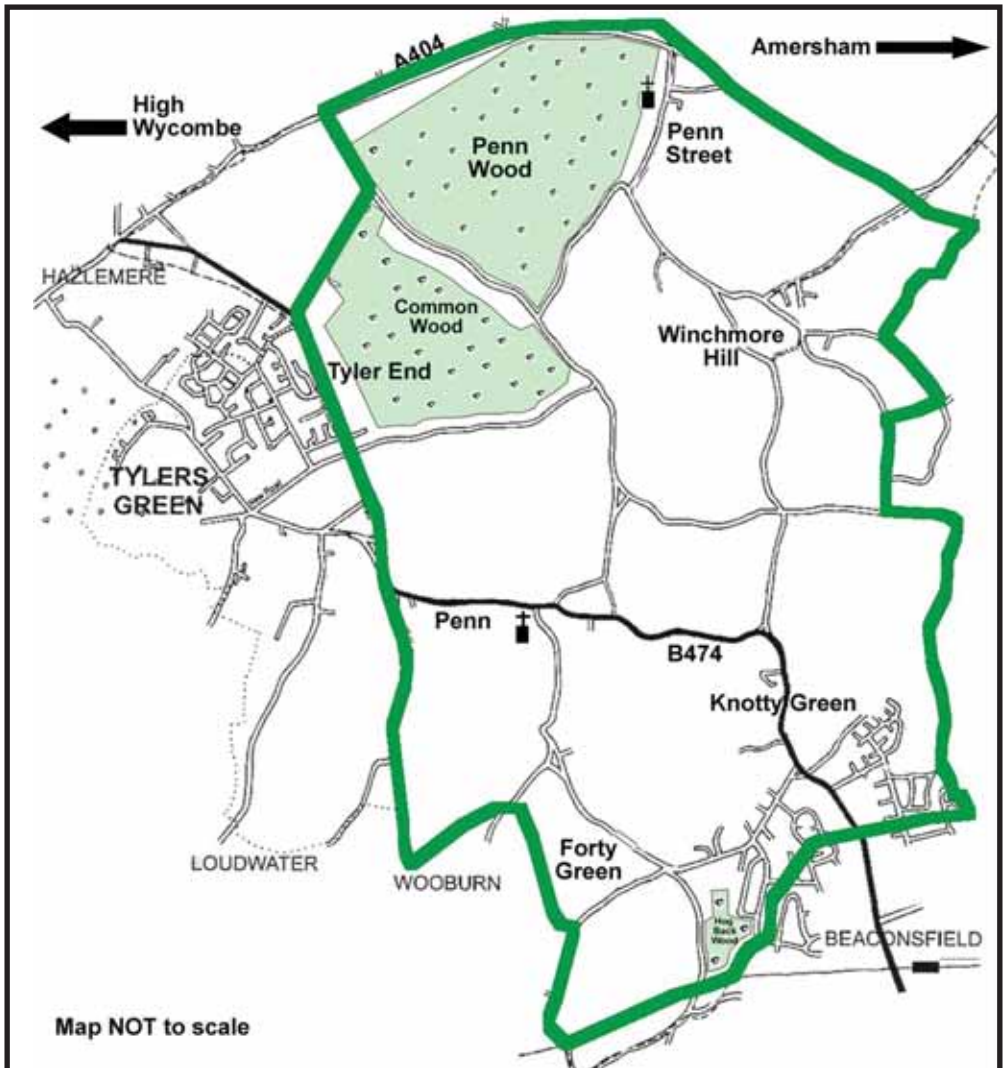


Penn Parish Council

Annual Report 2010/2011



Parish map - The extent of Penn Parish is outlined in green

Annual Report 2010/11

(covering the year up to 31 March 2011)

The Parish

Penn Parish covers about 4,000 acres and has an electorate of 3,216, an estimated population of some 3,860 in 1,608 households. It includes the communities of Penn, Knotty Green, Forty Green, Winchmore Hill, Penn Street, and the properties on either side of Hazlemere Road up to Rushmoor Corner.

The parish is divided into two wards: Penn Street & Winchmore Hill Ward with three Councillors; and Penn Ward with eight Councillors. Councillors are asked to take a particular interest in their own area, but are conscious that they also represent the whole parish.

Councillors

Maureen Seymour was re-elected as Chairman and Mike Morley re-elected as Vice-Chairman for 2010/11, and both have been re-elected for the current year. We said a regretful farewell to Susan Allen, who moved out of the parish, and welcome Dan Dixon in her place.

Chiltern District Councillors Alan Dibbo and Sir John Horsbrugh-Porter have retired after representing Penn & Coleshill Parishes in a single District ward for the last 32 and 12 years respectively. We are most grateful for their many years of service to the parish. We welcome Alan Hardie and Graham Harris in their place. David Schofield remains our very active County Councillor covering Penn, Coleshill and Holmer Green.



Council Meetings

The Parish Council meets at 8 pm on the third Thursday of alternate months in different parts of the parish. Forthcoming dates are:

21 Jul 11 - Penn Church Hall

15 Sep 11 - W/Hill Memorial Hall

17 Nov 11- Penn Street Hall

19 Jan 12 - Forty Green Hall

15 Mar 12 - Penn Church Hall

17 May 12 - Knotty Green Cricket Club

All these meetings are open to the public, as are the many Committee meetings with dates posted on the notice boards and website. During the year, we have welcomed several members of the public to the democratic quarter of an hour held at the beginning of each full Council meeting, as well as our County and District Councillors.

Parish Councillors choose to receive no allowances of any kind. The Chairman can receive £220 pa, an amount set by the District Council to cover the costs of her role, but chooses not to do so.

A new Parish Office

The Clerk is the only Parish Council employee and is responsible for day to day administration and for implementing the Council's decisions. Nearly a year ago a Parish Office was built as an attractive extension behind the Penn Church Hall.

Finance

There was a total expenditure of £105,000, nearly £50,000 of which was on capital projects: the new Parish Office, £32,600 (in addition to £25,000 in 2009/10); a new play area for Winchmore Hill, £8,700; Widmer Pond bank repairs, £3,800; Repair of FP 66, £2,600; turf for Knotty Green play area, £1,400. Income was provided by grants of £7,700, rents of £10,500, a transfer from capital of £27,800 and a precept of £50,000. The precept represents a charge to an average household of £21.59 pa. This is less than half the national average and only 1.5 % of the Council Tax. Financial Regulations, following a national model, have been adopted and a risk assessment policy is reviewed annually. Independent auditors check the accounts. Burial grants were given to maintain local churchyards.



Planning

Chiltern District Council is the planning authority and notifies the Parish Council of every application. There were 151 during the year and comments were made by our Planning Committee, which meets every three weeks, on 32 of them. A list of each batch of applications is published on our notice boards and our comments can be seen on our website. On particularly important matters, the local District Councillor is asked to speak at the District's planning meeting and a representative of the Parish Council is also allowed to speak. The District Council's Enforcement Officer is informed if any apparent breach of planning permission is noted or brought to the Parish Council's attention. Planning applications can now be viewed by the public on-line on Chiltern District Council's website.



Commons and Village Greens

Grass-cutting - Our newly-appointed contractor, Continental Landscapes, cuts the grass at least five times during the year. The Recreation Ground at Knotty Green and the area around the War Memorial near Penn Church are cut at least seven times. Various other areas, including around ponds, are strimmed.

Trees – We make an annual check on all our land for dangerous trees. As a result, work was done on trees all over the parish, including on the commons at Penn, Penn Street and Knotty Green, and at Pistles Pond.

Licences – Licences have been established for Penn Street Cricket Club and Winchmore Hill Football Club, which set out the terms under which they can use the commons.



Coppice Farm Road greens – Strong support was given to the Penn & Tylers Green Residents Society application to register as Village Green the two wide grass verges at the entrance to Coppice Farm Road. The initial application was refused but a reapplication is underway.

'PENN PARISH IN PICTU



Pistles Pond – This pond takes its name from a farm called Pissulls, first recorded in 1332. It means Peas Hill i.e. the hill where the wild peas grew



Parish Office – This is the way in to the new Parish Council Office behind Penn Church Hall



Winchmore Hill Common taken from an upstairs window of the Potters Arms



Penn Common – A row of oaks was planted in 1960, each one contributed by a Parish Councillor. A parallel row of limes was planted in 1979 to belatedly mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee. The two rows are too close together and some thinning has been needed



Forty Green – The tiny remnant of the original 4 acre green of Forty Green which now lies in private hands behind the hedge to the right

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Widmer Pond – The water-level bank was badly eroded by ducks and people. It has been rebuilt with a Purbeck stone edge

FP66 runs from Hazlemere Road into Common Wood. A muddy overgrown path has been transformed



Beacon Hill garden plots – There are 6 plots on what was once the site of the parish Pest House



Three parishes, Amersham, Coleshill and Penn, used to meet at this point until an agreement in 1959 redrew the boundaries to put all Winchmore Hill in Penn

Children's Play Areas

We have well-used and varied Play Areas at Knotty Green and Winchmore Hill and small ones at Forty Green and Penn Street. They all have a quarterly safety inspection and repairs are undertaken as necessary.



Ponds

The badly eroded bank of **Widmer Pond** at Penn has been restored using Purbeck stone edging. A fine new seat has been installed by **Penn Street Pond**. There were working parties at **Sheep Washing Pond**, Knotty Green, and at **Widmer Pond**, aided by Chiltern Society conservation volunteers.



There are leaflets available on request to the Clerk about **Penn Street Pond**, **Gatestakes** (outside the gates of Penn House), and **Gawde Water** (in Horsemoor Lane), which outline the history of the ponds and their surrounding areas.

Allotments and garden plots

There are 36 plots or part plots available for tenants at Knotty Green. Greg Hopkins (681492) represents the interests of tenants. An active group of allotment holders does excellent work in maintaining the allotments. There is currently a waiting list and anyone wanting a plot should contact the Parish Clerk.



There are six garden plots at Beacon Hill of varying size, with a water supply. None are vacant at present.

Street Lighting

Street lighting cost £7,380 for the year. Almost all the lights are in Knotty Green with a few in Winchmore Hill and Burrows Close. The maintenance agreement requires Southern Electric to carry out a fortnightly scout to spot repairs needed. Any problems not dealt with inside two weeks should be reported to the Clerk.

Highways

Reporting concerns about the condition of pavements, footpaths, potholes, flooding, fly-tipping, overgrown hedges and verges and damaged or missing signs is a regular task. A delegated Highways budget has allowed resurfacing of the Church Road pavement from The Crown to opposite Penn School. The severe winter caused many problems with potholes and road surfaces and the Parish Council continually strives to obtain action by the County Council. The monthly visits to the parish by a Community Gang, which we task with a variety of highway tasks, were suspended during the winter.



Forty Green Walkway

We are continuing to investigate how to achieve a safe passage for pedestrians between Forty Green and Knotty Green.



Footpaths

Penn has 28 miles of footpaths, which is much more than the 11 mile average for Bucks parishes. Every Parish Councillor walks his group of local footpaths every year and reports any action needed. The Chiltern Way passes through the parish. A good part of FP66 between Curzon Avenue and Common Wood has been cleared and resurfaced with grant aid from the Local Priorities Fund.

Parish Council Website

There is a website at www.pennparish.org.uk. It includes a map of the parish, useful contact details, and programmes, minutes of meetings and items of news. We hope it will become increasingly useful.

Freedom of Information - please contact the Parish Clerk

All records held by the parish are available for public scrutiny. Minutes of the main meetings are available for download from the website.

***We welcome any suggestions for improving our service to parishioners
please contact the Parish Clerk if you need any further information***

POLICE

The whole parish comes under the Chalfont St Peter Police Office Tel: 0845 8505505 (non-emergency number). PC Gavin McVeigh and PCSOs Mark Sansom.

FLYTIPPING, ABANDONED VEHICLES, ROADSIDE LITTER, LITTER BIN COLLECTION

Report to the Waste Management team at Amersham Tel No 732053 or
e-mail to wmanagement@chiltern.gov.uk

HIGHWAY QUERIES AND REPORTS OF POT HOLES etc.

The Service Information Centre on 0845 230 2882; e-mail tfb@buckscc.gov.uk or on line at www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport, which is the online one stop shop for all Transport for Buckinghamshire information.

PENN PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCILLORS

MEMBER	ADDRESS	TEL.No. <i>all prefixed by (01494)</i>
David Baker	37 Eghams Wood Rd, Knotty Green, HP9 1JX	671504
Michael Bayley	Fagnall Cottage, Fagnall Lane, W/Hill, Amersham, HP7 0PQ	725686
Kate Dicker	Brindles, Brindle Lane, Forty Green, HP9 1XT	674697
Dan Dixon	Bank End Lodge, Forty Green, HP9 1XS	680913
Alan Hardie	Apple Tree House, Hogback Wood Road, Knotty Green, HP9 1JR	81359
Brian Lock	Tylers, 1 Amersham Road, Penn Street, HP7 0QW	716541
Mike Morley (Vice-Chairman)	11 Burrows Close, Penn, HP10 8AR	816638
Mike Newth-West	Fagnall Farmhouse, Fagnall Lane, W/Hill Amersham, HP7 0PQ (mob. 07957 432861)	713358
Charles Pointon-Taylor	Penn Cottage, Church Road, Penn, HP10 8NU	812329
Marian Raszpla	Well End, Elm Road, Penn, HP10 8LF	812636
Maureen Seymour (Chairman)	Kilbirnie, Coleshill Lane, Winchmore Hill, HP7 0NP	433070

Councillors can be contacted by e-mail via the Clerk

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

Miles Green	Parish Council Office, Penn Church Hall, Church Road, Penn, HP10 8NY e-mail: clerk@pennparish.org.uk	815458
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CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Alan Hardie	Apple Tree House, 1B Hogback Wood Road, K. Green, HP9 1JR email: alan.hardie23@talktalk.net	681359
Graham Harris	Heathfield, 14 Bois Lane, Amersham HP6 6BP email: gharris50@btinternet.com	433025

COUNTY COUNCILLOR (Penn and Amersham Town)

David Schofield	Deanwood Cottage, Dean Wood Road, Jordans HP9 2UU e-mail: dschofield@buckscc.gov.uk	676440
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