

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD ON 19 OCTOBER 2006, IN FLINT HOUSE

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| Present | D.J.White (Chairman) M.J.Bayley D.J. Brydon D Swinhoe-Standen C.J. White Clerk M.S.Green |
| Apologies | M.J.Raszpla, Mrs M. Seymour |
| 1. Election of Chairman | Cllr D.J.White was re-elected unanimously |
| 2. Parish website | Brian Lock was present for this item and took the Committee through the proposed website. A few suggestions were made and thanks proffered for a very acceptable site. It is hoped to get it working very shortly. |
| 3. Check Of Accounts | The Chairman confirmed that he had carried out all the necessary checks and that the account was in good order. |
| 4. Summary of Accounts as at 30 Sep 06 and of Income & Expenditure | <p>These were discussed and approved. There was further discussion on the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>Capital a/c</i> - The items shown as to be charged to the Capital a/c were agreed, but the cost of the website (£500) and notice boards (£1,000) can be repaid from the current a/c when there are sufficient funds. b) <i>Current a/c</i>- It was noted that the £5,000 grant for the Penn St Village hall had been transferred from the Capital a/c, but was still in the current a/c on 30 Sep. Taking account of this and of agreed transfers to be made into the current a/c from the capital a/c, the balance as at 30 Sep 06 is about £22,000, which is tight, but should be just enough on present forecast of expenditure. c) <i>Penn St field sycamore hedge</i> - It was agreed that a bid for a grant should be made to the Chilterns Conservation Board. d) <i>Parish Office</i> - We are still awaiting a decision by the P&TG Cricket Club and so the £4,000 budgeted expenditure may not be used this year. e) <i>Telecom masts</i> - Any income seems unlikely this year. |
| 5. Burial Grants | The following sums are recommended: Penn £1,000; Penn St £450; W/Hill £250. It was noted that the amounts tried to reflect both the relative size of populations served by each church and the size of their graveyard. |
| 6. Donations | £50 is recommended for both Action4Youth (includes the former Bucks Assoc. of Youth Clubs) and Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust. It was noted that whilst £500 had been contributed to the County Council's accessible footpaths at Forty Green, £250 of this will be reclaimed from the Chilterns Conservation Board. |
| 7. Penn Street Cricket Club land | We have not been able to avoid conveyance costs, and Baily Gibson has been instructed to act on our behalf. The cost is not yet known. It was noted that we will have to offer other land for registration as common land if the Pound is de-registered and this land would meet that need very conveniently. |

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| 8. Penn St field gate | Peter Freeman is to quote for repairing the main gate, putting in a new pedestrian gate and replacing a new bollard. |
| 9. Society of Local Council Clerks | The Clerk, impressed by a recent conference, suggested that membership of the Society would be useful to the Council. This was recommended, subject to the amount of the annual subscription (P.S. £134 pa & £15 joining fee). |
| 10. W/Hill affordable housing | It was agreed that we should write in support of RHT against A2's view that ownership of any house debars an applicant from eligibility for an affordable house. Many young locals have had to move away to buy a house they could afford, but want to move back to Winchmore Hill.. |
| 11. Whielden Lane traffic calming | County Highways have costed their agreed proposals at £36,000 and are awaiting RHT's decision on whether they have sufficient funds. If they haven't, we should bid for top up funds from the Local Area Committee's delegated budget by 1 December. |
| 12. W/Hill play area | Interest in a play area was expressed at our last Council meeting, which was held at W/Hill, and a suitable site would be the garden of the Memorial Hall, which is owned by the Parish Council and let to the Hall trustees. Children's groups already use the garden which is well protected by a hedge and is big enough for a few basic play items. Cllr Bayley will discuss this suggestion with the Hall trustees Chiltern's draft Open Space & Recreation Strategy identified the need for a play area in W/Hill and this could help provide some Big Lottery Funds. There is a seminar on Wed 8 Nov, 6-8.30 pm at the Council Offices in Amersham. |
| 13. Review Financial Regulations | It was agreed that no amendment is needed. |
| 14. Review Annual Risk Assessment | There are some minor amendments needed in the Assessment, but since it would have to be radically reviewed if a new Parish office were established, it was agreed that we should await a final decision on this. |
| 15. Bonfire insurance | We are being required by Zurich Municipal to pay an additional premium of £52.50 to cover our liability for November 5 th bonfires . This was agreed. |
| 16. Annual tree inspection | An inspection has been carried out by Ridgeway Woodlands who have promised a copy of their insurance cover. Some work needs to be done and a quote is awaited. The Bucks County Council Tree Policy might be a useful guide in safety matters. |
| 17. Neighbourhood (Policing) Action Group | Following a consultation meeting, Cllr Bayley has been asked to be a parish representative. This proposal was welcomed by the committee. There is a training session on 14 Nov and inaugural meeting on 1 Nov. |
| 18. County Council getting closer to Communities | Following the September consultation about Local Community Areas, the County Council now wants to update the Local Councils Charter with a protocol about consulting local councils and the devolving the management and delivery of certain services. Chesham Town Council is involved in a pilot scheme. There is to be a meeting at 7-9 pm on Mon 27 Nov at Wycombe Wanderers Conference Centre in High Wycombe and a representative from the parish is requested. |

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| <p>19. Pub licences</p> | <p>Some pub licences were granted by CDC last year with the condition of a yearly meeting with local residents and the Parish Council. This applied to both the Squirrel and Penn Street. It was agreed that we should establish whether other pubs were involved and to write to them all reminding them of the obligation, but saying that we have had no complaints and so a meeting would not seem necessary this year, but asking if they wish to meet us.</p> |
| <p>20. Chairmanship skills</p> | <p>BALC are running a session on Chairmanship skills at 6.30pm on Thurs 2 Nov at Chesham. Cllr M. Morley hopes to go.</p> |
| <p>21. Community Emergency Plan</p> | <p>Cllr Falconer was co-ordinating the parish response to this plan and his resignation has left a gap which still needs to be filled.</p> |