

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PENN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 15 MAY 2008 IN THE CRICKET PAVILION, KNOTTY GREEN**

- Present** Cllrs Mrs M. Seymour (Chairman)
M.J.Bayley
Mrs C.Barton
D.J.Baker
A.S.Hardie
M.A.Morley
M. Newth-West
C. Pointon-Taylor
M.J.Raszpla
D.J.White
Clerk M.S.Green
- Apologies** Cllr J.D.Smiley, Cllr A. Dibbo, PC Gavin McVeigh
- Election of Chairman** Cllr Mrs Seymour was the only nomination and was elected unanimously. She then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman. She offered warm appreciation and thanks on behalf of the Council to Cllr Michael Bayley who has been an active and very effective Chairman for the last 14 years and noted that we were fortunate that he was staying on as a parish councillor.
- Election of vice-Chairman** Cllr Morley was the only nomination and was elected unanimously.
- Democratic Half Hour** **County Cllr Francis Robinson** was congratulated on his recent election as Chairman of the County Council. He reported that the extra money for the repair of roads was beginning to result in some improvements in the parish.
Tom Barron, our new grass-cutting contractor, introduced himself to members.
John Folkard, Secretary of the Cricket Club, was also present and kindly provided refreshments.
Colin Jenkins, our Local Area Highways Technician, contributed to the discussion recorded under the Highways Committee below.
- Committees & Appointments** The list of Committees & Appointments was amended to replace Cllr Bayley by Cllr Mrs Seymour on the Joint and Queensway Committees, to remove any mention of appointing a Curzon School Governor and to show Harold Porter as our Internal Auditor.
- Minute No 976 Minutes of Meeting held on 20 Mar 08** The Minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman
- Minute No 977 Matters Arising From Minutes** It was agreed that all matters would be covered in Committee reports
- Minute No 978 Reports From Committees** **1) Neighbourhood Action Group** – held on 15 Apr 08
Matters of interest are reported in para 4 of the Highway minutes below.
2) Highways – held on 16 Apr 08. The minutes were reviewed and the following matters discussed:
List of Highway trouble spots - Cllr Morley's spread sheet was circulated and Colin Jenkins agreed to update it and e-mail it back on a regular basis.
Flood at foot of Brindle Lane – The gulley should be cleared next week and the

camera will then establish where the blockage is.

W/Hill traffic calming - There has been no progress and Cllr Robinson agreed to ask Mr Moloughney to complete the revised drawings as soon as possible.

3) Local Area Committee - held on 18 Apr 07. The following matters were discussed:

Parish Highway projects - all three projects for the current year (as shown in minute 3 of the Highway minutes) have been approved, amounting to £32,000. There may be more funds available since Nicholas King has agreed to repair the island at Saucy Corner.

4) Clerk/Officers meeting - held on 28 Apr 08. The attached minutes were reviewed and discussed.

5) Finance & General Purposes - held on 1 May 08. The minutes were reviewed and recommendations agreed. There was further discussion on the following items:

Chairman - It was agreed that Cllr White should continue as Chairman until the next meeting in October.

Audit 2007/08 - The Internal Auditor had no criticisms of the account and has signed section 4 of the audit annual return. He has also checked and agreed sections 1 and 2 which were then agreed by the Council and signed by the Chairman and Clerk. A note of dates when the accounts are open for inspection by electors, together with a summary of electors' rights has already been circulated to be displayed on each notice board.

W/Hill Play Area - It is agreed that we will underwrite any shortfall up to a maximum of £6,000, whilst hoping that other funds would be sought and might be forthcoming.

Penn Church wall - It was agreed that we offer £1,000 with a further grant to be reviewed in the light of closer estimates of cost and of a successful sale of land.

Community Speed Watch device - it was agreed that we will contribute £400 to the purchase by Thames Valley Police.

Insurance - It was agreed that we should not cover benches, picnic tables, notice boards, gates and fences. We have to pay the first £250 anyway and have made no such claims for more than 20 years.

6) Planning

There have been two meetings with 33 applications. We have commented on 7 of them of which a brief summary was given. We have enlisted the aid of CPRE, Chiltern Society and Chiltern Conservation Board to try to prevent the demolition of Penn Ridge in the Penn Conservation Area and are arranging meetings with Carol Castle, Head of Planning Services and the Chairman of the Planning Committee.

7) Recreation & Open Spaces - There has been no meeting but the minutes of the last Council meeting on 20 Mar 08 were reviewed. There are several actions outstanding - including:

Beacon Hill plots - There is a long waiting list and discussions have started about increasing the number of plots.

Woodbridge Alley - A local members site meeting is to be arranged.

Minute No 979 Local Area Forums

Cllr Bayley gave a brief explanation of the County's 19 proposed LAFs which will replace the existing 4 Local Community Areas (LACs). Our LAF, which will include social care matters, will comprise Amersham, Penn, Coleshill, Chesham Bois and Chenies, the same area covered by Colin Jenkins for Highways. All the existing

LACs, as well as all the CDC parishes and Beaconsfield Town Council are strongly opposed to the new arrangements as over-complicated and ignoring the existing tried and tested system of parish and district. It was agreed that we should comment on similar lines.

Minute No 980 The list of cheques was approved.
Accounts for
Payment

Minute No 981 The next meeting will be held in Penn Church Hall at 8 pm on Thursday 17 July 2007.
Date of Next
Meeting

Minute No 982 The provisional statement for 2008/09, attached to these minutes, was agreed and will
Clerk's pay & be adjusted as necessary when the NALC recommendations are received later in the
allowances year.

AOB *Parish Office* – There was some discussion of possible places for a Parish Office
should the need arise, such as the Beacon Hill garden plot and Penbury Grove sharing
with a community use.