

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PENN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 15 JULY 2010 IN THE PENN CHURCH HALL**

Present

Cllrs Mrs M.Seymour(Chairman)
D.J.Baker
M.J.Bayley
A.S.Hardie,
M.A.Morley
C.Pointon-Taylor
M.J.Raszpla

Clerk M.S.Green

Apologies

Cllrs Mrs S.Allen, Mrs K. Dicker, B.Lock, M.Newth-West

**Minute No 74
Democratic
Quarter Hour**

Cllr David Schofield said that he had been made a spokesman on Education for the County Council and was involved with discussions on catchment areas for the Beaconsfield schools and on the government's new concept of Academy schools. He noted the request for road repair to be carried out whilst Penn Bottom was closed for a new gas main.

Mr Dan Dixon was present to talk about the Forty Green Walkway and took part in the discussions recorded below.

**Minute No 75
Minutes of Meeting
Held on 20 May 10**

The Minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman

**Minute No 76
Matters Arising
From Minutes**

It was agreed that all the matters would be covered in Committee reports

**Minute No 77
Reports From
Committees**

1) Town & Parish Clerks Liaison meeting – A meeting was held on 7 Jun 10. A summary of points of interest was sent out by e-mail on 1 Jul 10. It was noted that we no longer get any paper copies of documents from CDC.

2) Local Area Forum - A meeting was held on 7 Jul 10. A copy of the document summarising LAF's priorities has already been circulated and it was noted that any application for LAF funds would benefit by being able to claim that it met one or more of these priorities.

3) Highways - The minutes of the last meeting on 14 Jul 10 were reviewed:

Penn Street walk to school path – The agreement with the County and the accompanying map need to be amended to take account of our ownership of the church field.

Forty Green walkway - Disappointment was expressed that the Highway Authority is not willing to take ownership of the land or the completed walkway and will play no part in its maintenance. Mr Dan Dixon's proposal to set up a Forty Green Walkway Trust to raise funds and manage the delivery of the project was welcomed as evidence of a strong local initiative and interest. However, a good deal more information will be needed before formal support for the project can be considered. This includes:

- A) A considered estimate of how many people are likely to use it.
Obtaining planning permission, whether outline or a certificate of lawfulness.

- B) The cost of public liability and insurance cover.
- C) An estimate of repair & maintenance costs , including regular inspections.
- D) Satisfying ourselves, after boreholes have been dug that the geology of the ground is stable
- E) We would not take ownership of the land overall and need to get legal advice as to whether we can own the walkway without owning the land or whether we would have to own just the narrow strip containing the walkway.
- F) We would require a written confirmation from the Highway Authority that we would not be held responsible for any expenditure resulting from falling trees or landslip of the embankment.
- G) We need confirmation from Highways that the alternative of making the road one way with a path at the side is not feasible because the road is too narrow, the traffic would be faster and the cost too high. Also that widening the road and strengthening the side would be far too expensive.
- H) Sufficient funds being raised

Outstanding highways tasks – There is concern about the number of defects we have reported on which no action has been taken. Members are asked to list all action required on the signs, gullies etc in their area, noting where they have already been reported.

4) Planning - There have been three meetings with 27 applications of which we objected to three. These were briefly reviewed and included the new application for retention of car parking for the Penn Street Works.

5) Finance & General Purposes - Matters arising since the last meeting on 13 May 10 were as follows:

W/Hill Play Area - The official opening took place on 22 May and all bills have been paid.

Audit Return - The auditors asked for a good deal more detail because the cost of the parish office had raised our expenditure up to a new level.

Annual Report 2009/10 - Copies are now out and being distributed. Those for Knotty Green, Forty Green and other parts of Penn will go out with the Penn Church newsletter.

Annual Risk Assessment - Now the new parish office is open we need to meet soon to agree on protective measures.

Community Cohesion Plan -This is CDC's summary of the plan to encourage positive development in the district and Members are invited to read it through.

Closure of Seeleys House day Centre & Respite Unit - Beaconsfield Town Council are holding a meeting on 3 August and Cllr Hardie will report on its conclusions.

6) Recreation & Open Spaces - There had been no recent meeting, but the minutes of the last Council meeting on 20 May 10 were reviewed and the following point noted:

Tree work - The work on Penn common has started today. There have been complaints from Elm Road residents about the increasingly dense barrier presented by the double row of trees. Pistles Pond trees will be done in three weeks.

Widmer Pond - A quote should be obtained from Agripower to restore the side walk of the pond. It would be good to encourage local involvement.

Anti-social behaviour - Trouble with local youths fishing, littering, lighting a bonfire after midnight by Widmer Pond has been reported. The police will be asked to watch for it and anyone concerned should be asked to report their concerns to a police surgery in the P&TG Village Hall.

Cars on Elm Road verge - cars are parking on the verge. A letter to all adjoining residents is to be delivered and the Penn Estate will be asked to advise their tenants

Leaves on Elm Road verge - If leaves are left to rot on the verge in the autumn we will get them removed.

Potters Cross Pond - Removal of silt in the pond has been promised by Mark Averill of Highways under routine maintenance.

KG pond gate – In view of the repeated vandalism of the gate, it has been replaced by a two bar wooden fence which will prevent small children running on to the pier. The recent Inspector's report showed a Medium-High risk and recommended parental supervision at all times. We should write pointing out that we have already replaced the gate with a fence and have two warning notices – what else can we do?

KG Play Area bark renewal - The Inspector called for the bark to be replaced at a cost of £2,244. We should investigate longer-term solutions using safagrass and rubber strips.

KG Cricket Club - to be asked whether they will consider a barrier at their entrance to prevent small children running straight out into the road. There is already a chicane at the Recreation ground entrance.

KG allotments - A working party has been organised.

Japanese Knotweed has been confirmed in the Penn Street school field and Peter Freeman to be asked to resume spraying and to investigate an injecting technique.

Ragwort - there is reported ragwort at the side of Widmer Pond.

W/Hill litter bin - The plastic top is broken.

W/Hill wooden bus shelter - Tom Barron has cut all around the shelter, but we need to establish whether the land is owned by the Penn Estate or is highway verge.

**Minute No 78
Parish Office**

The office is now functioning and looks very good with only a few practical matters waiting to be finished off. These include the outside ramp and it was agreed that we should resist any significant lengthening on grounds of both cost and common-sense since there are already two Fire exits from the Church Hall. The Clerk will purchase various domestic items. Outside notices are needed. The telephone number on the list of meetings on the notice boards needs to be changed.

A special vote of thanks was passed to Brian & Heather Lock for their invaluable help with ordering and installing all the equipment needed.

**Minute No 79
Penn Street
Cricket Club
Licence**

The draft Licence, already approved by the Club, was agreed. A similar agreement will be drawn up for W/Hill Football Club.

**Minute No 80
Accounts for
Payment**

The list of cheques was approved.

**Minute No 81
Date of Next
Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at 8 pm on Thursday 16 September 2010 in the Winchmore Hill Memorial Hall.

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