

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PENN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 16 JULY 2009 IN THE PENN CHURCH HALL**

- Present** Cllrs Mrs M. Seymour(Chairman)
D.J.Baker
B. Lock
M.A.Morley
C.Pointon-Taylor
M.J.Raszpla
J.D.Smiley
Clerk M.S.Green
- Apologies** Cllrs M.J.Bayley, A.S.Hardie, M.Newth-West
- Minute No 30
Democratic
Quarter Hour** **Cllr David Schofield** was congratulated on his recent election to the County Council in which he had won 69% of the vote, the highest in the county. He emphasised the importance the county paid to working with parishes. He is on the Rights of Way committee and mentioned a Simply Walks project. He will stay as a Chiltern District Councillor for the next two years at least.
Mr John Bettinson of Church Road, Penn had come to discuss two current planning issues in Church road – Wayside and Winters Garage and his views were noted for next week’s Planning committee.
- Minute No 31
Minutes of Meeting
Held on 21 May 09** The Minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman
- Minute No 32
Matters Arising
From Minutes** It was agreed that all the matters would be covered in Committee reports
- Minute No 33
Reports From
Committees** **Planning** - Cllr Hardie had sent a note summarising the committee’s work. There have been two meetings with 17 applications of which we have commented on six. These were briefly reviewed and there was further discussion by the Planning Committee on:
Land adj to Woodbridge Cottage - this application was withdrawn because the type of business use was not defined.
Land adj to Elm Tree Cottages, W/Hill – this application has been refused.
Parish Office - our application was submitted on 7 July.
- Highways** - The minutes of the last meeting on 17 June 09 were reviewed:
Penn Street walk to school path – Highways have suggested a specification, two quotes have been received and a third is awaited from Clive Winslow. Likely cost of £3-4,000, of which school has raised £1,500. It is already on the our project list for LAF for 2010/11 and was noted as another candidate for LAF’s extra £8,000 community fund.
Forty Green walkway - Highways have decided the verge is not their land, and nor does it belong to the properties above. It is therefore no-man’s land. We still await a Highways technical assessment, meanwhile we will make a bid to LAF for £2,000 for a detailed design study. Dan Dixon is to make a bid for funds from a new Home Office pilot scheme, Community Cashback Funding Scheme, which uses money recovered from convicted criminals.
Footpaths - There are queries on FP 66 to Common Wood and on the two new FP lengths offered by the Penn Estate, but Alison Perry has just moved to Hants County Council, and her successor, Corrine Waldron is on holiday.
Community Gang - we are still not getting feedback on what has been done. The next Gang starts on 27 July, the following one on 24 August, after our

Highways meeting on 12 August.

Penn Surgery - Ken Moloughney will investigate a white line hammerhead to deter parking at the entrance.

TSID - a request has been made for School Lane, Penn Street and for Church Road, Penn - for October.

Road naming - David Stowe has promised to get all our new and missing name plates put up. Holtspur Lane may well stay so-called because CDC's legal advisers are not keen about changing the name immediately after such a recent decision had been made by the District Council.

Road marking on Elm Road & Church Road, Penn - Cllr Raszpla requested that this issue be debated again. He urged that the heavy painted heavy yellow stripes near the Red Lion and the Crown were inappropriate for a Conservation Area and should be removed immediately rather than allowed to wear away.

It was agreed that this should be discussed again by the Highways Committee.

NAG meetings - One was held on 16 June with poor attendance. There was also a meeting covering W/Hill on 25 June at Coleshill.

Queensway - The minutes are attached of the first meeting for many years, held on 29 Jun 09, to discuss WDC's proposal to use the land for up to 200 allotment plots. Cllr Morley briefly reviewed its main points.

Recreation & Open Spaces - There had been no meeting and the following points were discussed:

Knotty Green allotments - All plots are taken. A recent tidy-up has left them looking in impeccable order. A congratulatory note to be sent to Greg Hopkins from the Council.

Knotty Green Recreation Ground -

Friends of Knotty Green - Closing funds have not yet been received.

Dog litter - Additional notices have been put up and another is on order. Ask the CDC dog warden to patrol.

Notice board - has now been fitted with cork

Wicksteed Inspections - Site meetings with Tom Barron review the Inspectors recommendations and take action accordingly. The pond gate needs to be bolted.

Coppice Farm Road - P&TGRS's application for Village Green status for the verges is progressing but has been opposed by WDC officers.

W/Hill bonfire - W/Hill Res Assoc. has asked for the Parish Council to put a note in the local newsletter announcing that there will be no bonfire this year.

Parking on the grass verge of Elm Road common - Contact the one or two residents responsible.

High voltage cable at Penn Street - The site has been turfed and restored to normal.

Finance & General Purposes - Matters arising since the last meeting on 14 May 09 were as follows:

Audit Return - The auditors have confirmed by telephone that they have approved our account..

Annual Report 2008/09 - Copies are now out in Penn Street and parts of Penn. W/Hill copies are ready for distribution. Those for Knotty Green, Forty Green and other parts of Penn will go out with the next Penn Church newsletter.

W/Hill easement - Contracts will be exchanged on 23 July. Our legal costs assume £230 for 7 ½ hours and total £1,725. These were agreed. The balance of the £50,000 payment will be sent to us and it was agreed that, subject to any further advice from David White, it should be invested in an SLB 2.9% 9-month bond. It will be part of the Charity a/c with the use of the capital restricted, but with the interest used for the current a/c.

Financial services compensation scheme - BALC has advised that they think Parish Councils have the same protection for invested funds as individuals.
W/Hill Play Area - Sufficient funds have been obtained for a somewhat reduced project. The hedge has been cut right back and released more land. A revised plan is awaited and will be put on our website and notice board. Any subsequent objections from local residents will be taken into account. A low hedge in place of a wooden fence might be the answer to some concerns.
Penn churchyard wall - Repair work will start soon. We have offered £1,000.
Child Protection Policy - NALC have confirmed that we have no requirement to ensure CRB checks and policies are in place by users of our land.
Community Cashback Funding Scheme - We have been notified of a Home Office pilot scheme to put ill-gotten gains to benefit community based projects which relate to tackling antisocial or criminal behaviour locally.
Community Resilience is the County's name for Emergency Planning and is to be raised through Local Area Forums.

**Minute No 34
Co-option**

The intention to co-opt was advertised on our notice boards as required and Chiltern's Deputy Returning Officer has confirmed that since no request for an election has been made, we can therefore co-opt to fill our vacancy. The Council unanimously agreed a resolution to co-opt Mrs Susan Allen (of Magnolia Lodge, Forty Green Road). She could not be present at the meeting and will not become a Councillor until she has signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**Minute No 35
Accounts for
Payment**

The list of cheques was approved.

**Minute No 36
Date of Next
Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at 8 pm on Thursday 17 September 2009 in the Winchmore Hill Memorial Hall.

**Minute No 37
AOB**

It was noted that PCSO John Webb had moved away and that a note of thanks had been sent to him.