

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PENN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2008 IN THE CURZON SCHOOL, PENN STREET**

- Present** Cllrs M.J.Bayley (Chairman)
D.J.Baker
Mrs C.Barton
A.S.Hardie
M.A.Morley
C.Pointon-Taylor
D.J.White
Clerk M.S.Green
- Apologies** Cllrs M.J.Raszpla, Mrs M. Seymour, J.D.Smiley
- Minute No 964 Democratic Quarter Hour** **PC Gavin McVeigh and PCSO John Webb** were present. *The robbery of the safe and historic documents* from the Penn Church Hall and the inadequate and confused police response was discussed at length. It was agreed we should write to a senior police officer about it.
Speeding - A new device measuring traffic speed, flow and time was explained. We may be asked to contribute to some cost. There are also 2 new SIDs which we can borrow. A police-operated speed box which reads and records number plates is being considered through the NAG.
Police suggestion boxes and surgeries - They would like to set these up in local village halls around the parish. A police website on which the public can enter ideas and concerns was suggested.
Mr David Bourne had come to present the case for a further grant for the new Penn Street Village Hall.
County Councillor Francis Robinson took part in the later debate about the proposed Beaconsfield incinerator.
Mr Mike Newth-West was also present.
- Minute No 965 Minutes of Meeting held on 15 Nov 07** The Minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman
- Minute No 966 Matters Arising From Minutes** It was agreed that all matters would be covered in Committee reports
- Minute No 967 Reports From Committees** **1) Finance & General Purposes**
The minutes of the meeting held on 10 Jan 08 were discussed and recommendations agreed. There was further discussion on the following items:
Precept for 2007/08 - A precept of £46,800 was agreed. This assumes a transfer of £2,300 at the end of this year from the current to the capital a/c to repay some of the many charges on the capital a/c in 2006/07.
Penn Street Village Hall - A letter from the Chairman of the Penn Street Village Hall requesting a grant of a further £2,500 was considered and agreed. This is in addition to the £10,000 which has already been given.
Grass-cutting contract - Two quotes for a 3-year term were considered, one from Peter Freeman and second from Manor Estates. They were very close. The contract with Peter Freeman was agreed.
Internal Auditor - Mr Harold Porter has agreed to audit this year's accounts.
Traffic speed measuring device - This will be a current a/c item not capital as we had assumed.
Insurance cover - The outline terms offered by Came & Company were considered very attractive and will be accepted if their detailed quote lives up to

their promises.

Stolen safe - Both local papers have been alerted and run articles. All three local District Council fly-tipping managers have alerted their workforce. PC McVeigh will pass a list of the stolen documents to dealers in old documents.

New deal for Bucks - Amersham Town Council are investigating the possibility of clusters of local parishes banding together to devolve some services from County & District and have invited us to discuss possibilities. This was agreed.

Street Lighting Maintenance Contract - The maintenance contract with Southern Electric for 2008/2009 will cost £3,215, covering 149 street lights. The contract is to replace any lamps which fail, free of charge in 5 working days (with the exception of vandalism or third-party damage), fortnightly scouting of all lights, cleaning of lamps every 2 years, electrical testing of lamps every 6 years. This was agreed.

Rechargeable repairs are billed by Southern Electric for any repairs carried out that require components other than lamps to be fitted or such tasks as realigning leaning columns, refitting column doors, etc.

2) Joint meeting with CWPC

A meeting was held on 15 Jan 08. Cllr Bayley summarised the main points of interest. Minutes are being written by Cllr Forbes of CWPC and will be circulated as soon as they are received.

3) Planning

There have been two meetings with 23 applications. We have commented on five, of which a brief summary was given. There was discussion of the following matters:

Beaconsfield Incinerator - There was a lengthy discussion in which Cllr Robinson took part. Objectors, including Beaconsfield Town Council and apparently Chiltern District Council, oppose both its siting, which will encourage heavy traffic from across the county, and fear widespread air pollution from its chimney. It was noted that the Times headline story for that day reported the increasing concern about traffic congestion outside the major urban areas. On the other hand, the UK's use of landfill for 74% of waste has to be addressed somehow. An active local organisation, Bucks Residents against Incinerators (BRAINS), has been set up. A consultation document from County has not yet been published and is expected in March, at which stage the Parish Council will decide its view. Meanwhile, it was agreed to alert residents via our web site to the situation but not to make reference to BRAINS.

Penn Ridge - The application to demolish this pre-First War house on Church Road, Penn has been recommended by CDC officers for approval on the grounds that its removal will enhance the Conservation Area. We have made strong objection and will be opposing demolition at the Chiltern Planning meeting next week.

Stratford's Cottage, Church Road, Penn - A swimming pool has been dug in the front garden without getting the proper permissions from the County archaeologist and without a separate planning permission. We should write to CDC asking for an explanation.

Chiltern Buildings Design Awards - We should submit the Penn Street Village Hall.

4) Highways/Local Area Committee

Highway maintenance - The Chairman and Clerk are to have a site meeting with the Local Area Technician to visit the many trouble spots in the parish. It was agreed that the new system is not working properly.

Parish Highway Projects for 2008/09 - All our five bids are on the list for next year, but have not yet been costed.

Unnamed Roads - We are awaiting agreement from South Bucks DC and Wycombe DC .

Transport Symposium, 20 Feb 08 - Cllr Hardie will be going.

Kissing gates, Chiltern Way, W/Hill - Two gates are to be installed, one paid by the Chiltern Conservation Board and the other cost (£250) probably shared between the Parish Council and the Residents Association.

Royal Standard tourist sign - Highways refused our request to consider taking away this sign, which advertises the Royal Standard right outside the Red Lion, Knotty Green. However Cllr Francis is still pursuing the matter.

NAG - There is to be a meeting next week. It was noted that Cllr Baker had joined the group.

Penn Street triangle signpost - No progress and Mr Moloughney is to be chased.

Street light by Forty Green Garage - The second column has now been removed , but the light is still not working.

5) Recreation & Open Spaces

W/Hill Play Area - The chairman is meeting with a group of residents to come up with proposals for play equipment on an area on the common or in the garden of the Memorial Hall. These will be costed and taken to the Winchmore Hill Residents Association AGM in April for their views.

Dog bin for W/ Hill common - The Football Club which uses the common has complained about dog mess. The Residents Association will be asked if they favour a dog bin.

Ploughed FPS - several FPS have been ploughed over and not restored.

Minute No 968 Accounts for Payment

The list of cheques was approved.

Minute No 969 Co-option of a Parish Councillor

Mr Mike Newth-West has volunteered to join the Parish Council and his co-option was proposed by Cllr Bayley, seconded by Cllr Morley and agreed unanimously. Since Mr Newth-West had already left the meeting, the Clerk was authorised to obtain his Declaration of Acceptance of Office as soon as possible.

Minute No 970 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in the Penn Church Hall at 8 pm on Thursday 20 March 2008, preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting, starting at 8pm.