

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PENN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2007 IN THE COMMUNITY HALL, FORTY GREEN**

- Present** Cllrs M.J.Bayley (Chairman)
D.J.Baker
Mrs C.Barton
D.J.Brydon
M.J.Raszpla
Mrs M. Seymour
J.D.Smiley
D.A.Swinhoe-Standen
C.J. White
D.J.White
Clerk M.S.Green
- Apologies** Cllr M.A.Morley
- Minute No 926**
Democratic
Quarter Hour **Chris Schwier** introduced our new Local Area Technician, **Colin Jenkins**, who covers the Amersham area. A number of specific highway problems were discussed and will be the subject of a follow-up e-mail. Members were asked to use Highways on Call for making reports or to pass them through the Clerk, who will make direct contact with Chris Schwier or Colin Jenkins.
County Councillor Francis Robinson reported that at the 11th hour, the County Council had agreed to support all the District Councils in opting for enhanced two tier working rather than bidding for a unitary county authority.
- Minute No 927** The Minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman
- Minutes of Meeting**
held on 16 Nov 06
- Minute No 928** It was agreed that all matters would be covered in Committee reports
- Matters Arising**
From Minutes
- Minute No 929**
Reports From
Committees
- 1) Neighbourhood (Policing) Action Group**
The Chairman reported that speeding was the theme of the first meetings and speed checks will be carried out locally to which we may be invited. Children will also be involved through the use of SID and through a poster competition on the consequences of speeding which they themselves have created. The winning posters will be available for local display
- 2) Finance & General Purposes**
The minutes of the meeting held on 11 Jan 07 were discussed and recommendations agreed. There was further discussion on the following items:
Grass-cutting contract - A second quote had been obtained from Manor Estates, but it was still higher than Peter Freeman's revised quote and so a year's contract with Peter Freeman was agreed.
Fraudulent cheque - The £1,500 has been refunded to our account.
Precept for 2007/08 - A precept of £44,500 was agreed.
Community Emergency Plan - Cllr Baker agreed to have a look at the plan to see what was involved as co-ordinator.
Internal Auditor - It was agreed that Mr Harold Porter should be invited to audit this year's accounts.
Lloyds Bank - Lloyds are offering an interest rate on a current a/c that might match that received on our SLB current a/c. It was agreed that a decision on whether to make the

change could be taken by the Clerk and the Chairman of this committee.

E-mail communication - Not all members had received copies of the minutes before the meeting because of E-mail difficulties and it was agreed that we must devise a system that confirms receipt.

3) Planning

There have been three meetings with 27 applications. We have commented on 3, of which a brief summary was given. There was discussion of the following matters:

Hutchison 3 G telecom mast - Their planning application has been delayed. It will be a full application involving public consultation because the proposed mast is over 15m.

Nicholas King floodlights - A reply has been received from Gill Gowing repeating that floodlights are not subject to any planning control, but pointing out that individuals are allowed by Section 82 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to take their own action via the Magistrates Courts. We should also report the problem to the Chiltern Conservation Board.

Electronic planning - Paper copies of plans will no longer be supplied after 1 March 07. A meeting of towns and parishes with Carol Castle has been requested.

A letter has been received from Cheryl Gillam MP, enclosing a very belated reply from the Department for Communities and Local Government to our letter of September 2006. They do seem to recognise the practical difficulties involved at parish level.

P&TG Football Club - We have not yet received a substantive reply to our complaint to Carol Castle on 18 Dec 06 that residents are still awaiting a considered response relating to outstanding planning enforcement matters.

Pavement opposite Fram - Highways have agreed the design proposed for the additional length of pavement on the other side of the main road required by Fram's recent planning consent.

4) Highways/Local Area Committee

Parish Highway projects 07/08

Whielden Lane footway/traffic calming - The County's Local Area delegated budget does now include our bid for £30,000. There has been an exchange of strong views with RHT about their offer of only £5,000 towards the £36,000 needed for this project,

Pavement between Knotty Green garage and Drews Park - £15,000 has been included.

Grass triangle at Saucy Corner - Unlikely to be considered for 07/08 as its needs further investigation.

Fagnall Lane common land - Chase a response from the Penn Estate about dumping garden rubbish.

Penn Street pond gullies - Chris Schwier assured us that the clearance of the blocked gullies has been ordered, but depends on other priorities.

Penn Street school field sycamore trees - the trees have been removed and the new hedge has been planted very satisfactorily. We should ensure that the newly exposed verge and hedge is put on a regular maintenance schedule.

Unnamed Lanes - The names suggested in the Clerk's paper of 18 Jan 07 were reviewed and agreed with the exception of Holespur Lane which was amended to Holtspur Lane. It was agreed that the public, the County Highways Authority and the District Council, should now be consulted via our notice boards, website, local newsletters and local press.

5) Recreation & Open Spaces

Woodbridge Alley - Following the Court hearing on 2 January, which was reported in a separate note, we have been assigned a 30 minute Case Management Conference at the Reading County Court on 26 March 2007. It will be in chambers in front of a District Judge and is an administrative meeting to prepare for the trial itself. We have since heard from Mr Burnett's solicitors that they have not been instructed by him and received a letter from Mr Burnett dated 17 January, which infers that he is considering withdrawing. He asks for 'a copy of the legal opinion your claim is based on'. It was agreed that we should reply on the lines suggested in a draft by the Clerk, together with any documents that we intend to send to the Court, as suggested by Cllr C.White.

It would appear that fencing is not an indispensable requirement for a possessory title and it may be that a report of our court proceedings will encourage a more favourable response from Land Registry than we received for Pistles Pond in 2000. It was agreed that we should make application for a possessory title.

Planting shrubs at the back of the KG pavilion - This will start shortly. The Friends are paying for it.

NERC Act 2006 - It was noted that the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 creates a duty for a parish council to conserve biodiversity (i.e. wild plants, animals and their habitats). This will be considered at the next Open Spaces meeting.

Dog litter bins - It was agreed that the present bin should be moved to the Red Lion entrance and the need for a second bin reviewed in the future.

KG pond- is full for the first time for some years.

Gawde Water - There was a successful work party with the Chiltern Society on 13 January.

Potters Cross Pond - There is a working party on Saturday 19 February.

New notice boards - The Sandelswood End and KG Recreation Ground boards are in place so far. There is some concern about the effectiveness of the surface covering.

Peter Freeman's tasks - A list of current tasks will be circulated and updated on a regular basis.

6) Joint meeting with CWPC

A meeting was held on 9 November, and the minutes have now been circulated.

However, the agreement on a No Fishing sign and on the provision of a key to the water tap have since been overturned by CWPC and the Chairman will be meeting his opposite number to see where the problem lies.

Minute No 930

Elections on 3 May 07

Three members of the Council will be retiring. Cllr C. White will not be at the March meeting, and the Chairman offered grateful thanks to him for 30 years service, ten of which were as Chairman. A farewell gathering at lunchtime on Saturday 21 April, at the Chairman's house, was agreed. Details to be circulated later.

It was noted that if an election is required in May it will cost the Parish Council some £1,500.

Minute No 931 Accounts for Payment

The list of cheques was approved.

Minute No 932 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in the Penn Church Hall at 8 pm on Thursday 15 March 2007, preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting, starting at 8pm.