

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PENN PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON 19 JULY 2007 IN THE PENN CHURCH HALL**

**Present** Cllrs M.J.Bayley (Chairman)  
D.J.Baker  
Mrs C.Barton  
A.S.Hardie  
M.A.Morley  
C.Pointon-Taylor  
Mrs M. Seymour  
D.J.White  
Clerk M.S.Green

**Apologies** Cllrs, M.J.Raszpla, J.D.Smiley  
County Cllr Francis Robinson, P.C. Gavin McVeigh

**Minute No 943  
Democratic  
Quarter Hour**

**Cllr John Warder**, Leader of Chiltern District Council's Cabinet, stayed throughout the meeting. He said that he was particularly anxious to find more land for affordable housing. Fly tipping had decreased considerably over the last year with the use of mobile cameras and 22 convictions so far this year. The landfill charges for disposal of material are set to rise annually and it is anticipated that flytipping will increase.

**Mr Michael Mullineux** of Stratfords, Elm Road, complained strongly about the lack of an adequate response to the many complaints about signage and lighting at Nicholas King's office. Cllr Warder said part of the reason was an acute shortage of trained staff with three out of 25 planning officers having left in the last week to higher paid jobs. In fact, the question of signage was on the agenda of the Planning Committee on 12 July. Cllr Warder will investigate and report back through the Clerk.

**Mr and Mrs Ian Wilkes** of 3 Elm Cottages asked about the Parish Council's view on the Tennis Club application and likely further applications. They also expressed concern about planning aspects of the Football Club and about parking on the verge of Elm Road. They agreed to let the Clerk have the names of the houses concerned.

**Minute No 944  
Minutes of Meeting  
Held on 10 May 07  
Minute No 945  
Matters Arising  
From Minutes  
Minute No 946  
Reports From  
Committees**

The Minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman

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

**Joint Meeting with CWPC** - held on 16 Jul 07.

The draft minutes were considered and recommendations agreed with the exception of the following comment to be passed on to CWPC:

*Minimum level marker for Widmer Pond* - This is when the lining appears above the water near the Ken Stevens pump.

*Pistles Pond* - We already have a strip of land from Penn School to allow a passage around the pond. Any extra would bring the responsibility for very large trees, one of which blew down two months ago and damaged both the fence and a house.

*Boundary markers* - they are marking an ecclesiastical not a civil parish boundary.

*Seats* - we agreed to fund half the cost of the concrete pad in front of one seat.

*Management plan for the common* - We also agreed that the Open Spaces committee should review the CWPC management plan for the common.

**Officers & Clerks meeting** - held on 16 Jul 07

The Clerk gave a brief report covering:

*Review of Polling districts and Polling stations* - The present arrangements are

reasonable but future election could be held on Sundays which would probably prevent the use of Church Halls. Penn Street hall and Forty Green hall are both possible venues should they be needed.

*Highway maintenance* - Grammar schools were blamed for diverting funds from highway maintenance. It was unanimously agreed that our roads are in a disastrous state. It was agreed that the council should write to both Chris Schwier and Cllr Robinson expressing our concerns in the lack of progress on many highway issues and the lack of feedback from our Highways Area Technician.

*Planning on line* - It was agreed that overall it was working well although there were matters of detail to be sorted out.

**Local Area Committee** - held on 18 Jul 07. Cllr Bayley was unable to attend the meeting. Two reports were included in the LAC agenda relating to 'Towards a green infrastructure for Bucks' and 'Revised guidelines for the environmental management of roads in the Chilterns'. These will be circulated to the Highways Committee to consider any comment we should make.

**Planning** - There have been three meetings with 28 applications of which we have commented on six. These were briefly reviewed. There was further discussion on:

*The Royal Standard* - All members received a letter from the landlord about a proposed development of 12 letting rooms. Cllr Smiley has spoken to him and no further action is needed until an application is received.

*Chiltern Landscape Design Awards* - We should submit the newly-laid Knotty Green allotment hedge and former Penn Street sycamore hedge.

*Penbury Grove* - The public exhibition attracted about 80 visitors of whom only one was strongly opposed to the project.

**Highways** - Matters arising since the last meeting on 11 April 07 were:

*Unnamed Lanes* - We have had strong support from both Highways and Chiltern District Council with several constructive suggestions which need to be considered. It was agreed that the Highways Committee, consulting local members as necessary, should take the project forward.

*Common Wood Lane verge* - Community Service offenders supervised by the Probation service have agreed to clear and level the verge now widened by Mr Clancy of Yonder Lodge.

*Potters Cross Pond catchpit* - We are awaiting the agreement of Highways to using the Community service team to dig out the catchpit.

*60 hour legal limit for litter clearance* - Cllr Warder will check if this is the case.

*Penn Street verge* - Check if it is on a regular highways cutting schedule

*Penn Street Pond gullies* - There has been no action despite promises. Speak to Chris Schwier and Cllr Robinson.

**Recreation & Open Spaces** - An up-dated version of the minutes of 12 Mar 07 was considered and the following points were discussed:

*Allotment site meeting* - A measure of agreement was reached over the complaints about the use of the access track and the gate is not to be widened unless trouble flares up again.

*Second litter bin at KG recreation ground* - It was agreed that we should pay for a new bin (£150) to be placed near the picnic tables which will then be cleared weekly at CDC's expense.

*Second dog litter bin at Seeleys Rd end of Recreation ground* - It was agreed that we would provide a second bin and pay for the emptying.

*Oak tree by Sheep Washing Pond* - Mrs Westmacott from 68 Seeleys Road has asked if we would take down the oak tree by the pond which is growing too close to the larger oak in her garden. It would cost £340 and she would share

the cost. The Friends are strongly opposed to the idea and after discussion it was agreed that it should stay. The tree's condition will be noted in our annual tree safety survey.

*The Pound* - The annual rent has been increased by 14% (the RPI increase in the last five years) wef 1 May 07, for a further five years, from £6,000 to £6,850.

*A list of outstanding tasks*, as at 18 July, is attached to these minutes.

*Penn War Memorial green* - Mr Twining has removed the edges to the stone pathway and the new owner of Stone Cottage has cleaned the bench and plinth with a high pressure water jet. Cllr Pointon-Taylor has nailed down some loose slats and the result is a very fine-looking bench. A plaque on the back says that it was 'Made by the Hughes Bolckow Shipbreaking Company Ltd, Blyth, Northumberland, from teak taken from S.S. Atlantis'. The grass behind the seat is poor but it was agreed to take no action.

*Woodbridge Alley* - There has been no communication from Mr Burnett and it was agreed that we should now apply for a possessory title.

*Widmer Pond* - A clearance session with the Chiltern Society has been agreed for Sat 27 Oct 07 at 10am.

*Gawde Water* - A clearance session with the Chiltern Society has been agreed for Sat 24 Nov 07 at 10am

*Red Lion, Penn* - The landlord has put two picnic tables and pub advertisements on the kerbed ovals of common land in front of the pub and has been asked to remove them. He maintains that passers-by, not just clients of the pub, find it a good place to sit. It was agreed that the pub's furniture must be moved but that a seat of some kind, perhaps a bench, should be put there by the Parish Council. Enquiry to be made to see if any body wishes to fund it.

*KG allotments* - A complaint has been received from a neighbour about allotment smoke. Appropriate advice has been put on the notice board.

*Youth Offending Service* - could be an alternative source of labour for ponds and other work. They deal with youngsters up to the age of 17 and are always looking for suitable tasks.

**Finance & general Purposes** - Matters arising since the last meeting on 26 April 07 were as follows:

*Cater Allen account* - It was agreed that the Council should close their two Lloyds Bank accounts and open an account with the bank. The following members would be signatories: Cllrs M.J.Bayley (Chairman), D.J.White, D.J.Baker, M.A.Morley, M.Raszpla, Mrs M. Seymour.

*Annual Report 2006/07* - All copies are now out for distribution.

*Revised Code of Conduct* - Cllr Mrs Barton has been to one of the training sessions with Harvey Patterson and sees no urgent need for other members to go. We will try to get an e-mail summary of the main points of advice.

*Police suggestion boxes* - There is nowhere suitable to house these boxes.

*Councillor training* - Cllrs Baker and Hardie have put down their names for a September course run by BALC.

*County Council Independent Education Appeal panels* - Volunteers are sought.

*No Smoking notices* - Both W/Hill bus shelters are enclosed enough to require notices which have been purchased.

*Police e-mail* - The Clerk has been added to the KIN Ringmaster e-mail distribution list for police information – apparently it is the same one used for Neighbourhood Watch.

The list of cheques was approved.

**Minute No 947**  
**Accounts for**  
**Payment**  
**Minute No 948**  
**Date of Next**  
**Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at 8 pm on Thursday 20 September 2007 in the Winchmore Hill Memorial Hall. The usual venues for the November and January meetings will be swapped over in the expectation that the Penn Street

**Minute No 949**  
**AOB**

hall will be finished in time for the January meeting.  
Cllr Morley will take charge whilst some members of the council are on holiday.