

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PENN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 21 JANUARY 2010 IN THE CHURCH HALL, PENN**

- Present** Cllrs Mrs M. Seymour (Chairman)
Mrs S.E.Allen
D.J.Baker
M.J.Bayley
Mrs Kate Dicker
A.S.Hardie
B.Lock
M.A.Morley
M. Newth-West
C.Pointon-Taylor
M.J.Raszpla
- Clerk M.S.Green
- Apologies** There were none
- Minute No 53
Democratic
Quarter Hour** **County & District Cllr David Schofield** reported on major efforts to deal with the potholes caused by the month of ice and snow. Considerable concern was expressed about the apparent fragility of the road surface and the speed with which repairs broke up. Cllr Schofield will look into this and will also report on the rules for insurance claims for cars damaged by potholes. He also drew attention to Chiltern District Council's Core Strategy on which comments will be requested.
- Minute No 54
Co-option** Mrs Kate Dicker was co-opted, signed the declaration of Acceptance of Office and was welcomed to the Parish Council. [She subsequently opted to join the Planning and the Highways Committees].
- Minute No 55
Minutes of
Meeting held on
19 Nov 09** The Minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman
- Minute No 56
Matters Arising
From Minutes** It was agreed that all matters would be covered in Committee reports
- Minute No 57
Reports From
Committees** **1) Meeting with BALC**
The County Council place a priority on working closely with parish and town councils and have commissioned BALC to visit parishes to discover their views. BALC's new executive, Lesley Blue, came for a meeting on 16 Dec 09 with Cllr Mrs Seymour, Cllr Bayley and the Clerk. We were the first parish in the county to be visited.
- 2) Finance & General Purposes**
The minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2010 were discussed and recommendations agreed. There was further discussion on the following items:
Checks of accounts - Cllr Razpla confirmed that the checks had been carried out and the accounts were in order.
Capital Fund - It was agreed that £4,000 should be included in the precept for 2010/11 in order to build up our capital which will be much depleted after building the Parish Office.
Investment of remaining capital – It was agreed that since there are likely to be

calls on our remaining capital next year for the Walkway project and for Widmer Pond, we could not lock it away in a fixed term bond and so would add it to our SLB 10 Day account.

Precept for 2010/11 - A precept of £50,000 was agreed. This represents a 6.8% increase over the current year's 46,800.

Internal Auditor - Mr Harold Porter is to be invited again to audit this year's accounts.

Insurance of the KG pavilion - We cover the pavilion for rebuilding cost, but not the contents. The Cricket Club think the present valuation of £94,925 is sufficient.

KG Rec ground – Playdale have quoted £965 for replacing the shrunken wet Pour edges (55m long, 10cm wide) around several of the play equipments. This compares with Wicksteed's quote of nearly £3,000. It was agreed that laydale's quote is accepted.

Leisure Logs have reduced their labour charges by £52 to £545, but have not replied to our request for a copy of their policy document on warranties. Further strong response is required, at Chairman level.

Parish Office - It was noted that building started 2 weeks later than the planned 4 January, but is going well. The need for internal shutters rather than external bars and a telephone alarm was agreed.

Coombe Hill Monument Appeal - An appeal for this Boer War monument near Wendover is seeking £50,000 for repairs. No contribution was proposed because there are no Penn names (except for the Chairman's great uncle, who lived in a part of W/Hill which was then in Coleshill, but is now in Penn).

Buckingham Palace garden party - Cllr Bayley was nominated.

3) Local Area Forum/Highways

A summary of a LAF meeting held on 20 Jan 10 was given.

Community Gangs - All manpower is being used for the next few months to deal with repairs to the winter-ravaged roads and so there will be no gangs to do other work for some months and so no regular list of tasks is required.

Grit bins - Salt is in very short supply and the grit bin policy will be reviewed.

Delegated budget schemes - Resurfacing the footway, Coppice Farm Road to Curzon Avenue – due this current year, has been delayed by the bad weather. Schemes for next year (Footway along Church Road to the Crown; Forty Green walkway; Potters Cross Pond) have not yet been assessed.

LAF priorities - Comment from Members is requested on the LAF priorities set out in pp.27 to 40 of their report which will be circulated separately.

Forty Green walkway - The invoice should be submitted to Highways by the end of March, even if the work is not completed

Pothole survey - Cllr Schofield will drive around the parish with Colin Jenkins. Otherwise, serious potholes should always be reported to the Clerk.

Potters Cross ditch - A machine cleared half the rear ditch and then stopped without completing the task. Colin Jenkins to be informed.

Highways Committee - The meeting due next week on 27 Jan 10 will not take place.

4) Joint Meeting

Cllr Morley summarised the main points from a meeting with CWPC held on 20 Jan 10. Minutes of the meeting are being prepared by CWPC and will be circulated separately as soon as they arrive. A copy will be attached to these minutes. Action noted was:

Proposed athletics track at Sir William Ramsay School - we should add our voice to objections to its location on grounds of traffic, parking, noise and light pollution.

Coppice Farm Road greens - Cllr Schofield agreed to press County for a

decision.

Church road closure - Cllr Schofield will investigate. A site meeting with Peter Cartwright was suggested.

Replace stiles on FPs - CWPC are anxious to establish circular walks with gates replaced with stiles where possible. The FP map which defines each Member's particular area of FP responsibility will be recirculated.

Children's play area - CWPC are looking for a suitable site near the common.

5) Recreation & Open Spaces

There had not been a meeting, but a few developments were highlighted:

Widmer Pond - The clearance with the help of Chiltern Society volunteers has twice been postponed by bad weather and has now been fixed for 20 March.

B474 hedge-laying - We await advice from the Penn Estate.

W/Hill Play Area - the path is largely completed, but the main clearance awaits suitable weather for turfing.

KG Pond gate - This has been vandalised for the umpteenth time and a metal replacement was agreed.

Penn Street dogs - are creating a problem on the school field and path and elsewhere. It was agreed that a courteous note should be delivered to local houses.

6) Planning

There have been two meetings with comments on three batches of plans. There were 30 applications. We have commented on four of which a brief summary was given. There was discussion of the following matters:

Planning refusals in Hogback Wood Road – Cllr Hardie expressed his concern at apparently unjustified and inconsistent refusals in this area and Cllr Schofield agreed to accompany him on a walk around to assess the problem.

Hillside, Brindle Lane - We have written to Chiltern concerned at the decision not to take any further action despite an admitted breach of planning control by the building of an extension without permission.

Barn near Bottom Farm, Beacon Hill - Our request for an enforcement officer to investigate a large barn being built without planning permission resulted in an early visit and follow-up action.

Chiltern Buildings Design Awards - Nominations are requested.

Minute No 58 Accounts for Payment

The list of cheques was approved.

Minute No 59 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in the Penn Church Hall on Thursday 18 March 2010, preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting, starting at 8pm.

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