

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PENN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2006 IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, WINCHMORE HILL**

- Present** Cllrs M.J.Bayley (Chairman)
D.J.Baker
Mrs C.Barton
D.J.Brydon
M.A.Morley
M.J.Raszpla
Mrs M. Seymour
J.D.Smiley
D.A.Swinhoe-Standen
C.J. White
D.J.White
Clerk M.S.Green
- Apologies** None
- Minute No 912 Democratic Quarter Hour** **Terry Perry**, Secretary of the W/Hill Residents Association, suggested that the public should be able to raise questions at the end rather than at the beginning of a meeting, but was reassured that the Chairman could invite a knowledgeable visitor to contribute during the meeting. Litter at Gawdewater is an issue that needs monitoring. **Howard Nowlan**, Chairman of the W/Hill Residents Association, raised the issue of the use of Fagnall Lane by heavy lorries, perhaps as a result of misguided satellite navigation systems. A weight restriction notice similar to the one on Horsemoor Lane might be the answer.
- County Councillor Francis Robinson** reported the latest developments on the traffic calming scheme in Whielden, which are reported below.
- Alan Hardie**, from Knotty Green, was welcomed as an observer interested in standing as a parish councillor
- Minute No 913 Minutes of Meeting held on 20 Jul 06** The Minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman
- Minute No 914 Matters Arising From Minutes** It was agreed that all the matters would be covered in Committee reports
- Minute No 915 Reports From Committees** 1) **Recreation & Open Spaces**
- There has been no meeting, but the following items were discussed based on the last minutes of 13 Jul 06;
- a) **Knotty Green allotments** - the hedge has been cut and the water meters repaired.
- b) **Knotty Green Cricket and Recreation Ground – Vandalism.** John Folkard’s regular reports were discussed at a recent police meeting. Any evidence of alcohol such as empty bottles should be reported to PC McVeigh to build up a case for notifying it as a non-alcoholic area. *Litter* has been a serious trouble over the summer with overflowing bins. It was agreed that the burnt litter bin at the Red Lion end should not be replaced, but a second litter bin should be placed near the entrance to the recreation ground. *Broken rails* on fences by the pond and the road side need repair. *Noise and overlooking* from the pond have provoked complaints by a neighbour in Seeleys Road and Cllr Baker and Debbie Marsden will be discussing the problems with her. *Play equipment* – a horse’s head and a safety rail need repair. *No Parking signs* – two more are due to be delivered. *Red tarmac path* – two 25 kilo tubs of Instamac’s cold lay red macadam have been ordered for £46. *Park seat* – a second anchor has been

added. *Road barrier* at the entrance – The rail would only cost about £190 and we should ask the Local Area Committee to put it in preferably under their ordinary budget, but if not from the budget delegated for parishes.

c) **The Pound** – the landlord of the Crown should be encouraged to trim the new beech hedge.

d) **W/Hill common underground heat pumps** – Amersham Town Council, BALC and The Open Spaces Society were all consulted and none have come across this request before. There is no Government guidance and the consensus was that if we wished to go ahead it should be in the same way as an easement. It was agreed that we should reply to the Nelson Close applicant asking for further details but pointing out that vertical or air heat exchangers would avoid some of the problems of a widespread horizontal spread of pipes. The lowering of temperature could damage the grass and service pipes abound along the edge of the common.

e) **Penn Street School field bollard** – Secom have accepted £70 for their visit in lieu of £180. The faulty telescopic bollard has now been removed and it was agreed that a surface mounted bollard would replace it. Quotes for a small pedestrian gate for the school and for the repair of the main gate will be obtained.

f) **Queensway** – The timetable has slipped and a WDC meeting will decide in November whether to refurbish the present Handy Cross site or move to two other possible sites, both of which would mean that Queensway would be needed for an athletics ground. They don't accept the ransom strip argument.

g) **Brindle Lane Common** – residents have been notified that the land has been registered as village green. It has not been added to our maintenance schedule because local volunteers have been asked to continue their good work.

h) **Woodbridge Alley** – Mr Burnett is selling the house and garden and it is assumed that he will no longer have any claim to the alley and the hedge can be removed.

i) **Potters Cross/Thames Water verge** – We await the agreed highways improvement work and CWPC's work on their track.

j) **Penn Street Pond** – Agripower have now flattened the material taken from the pond and a cheque for £2,155 is due. Highways have not yet cleared all the gulleys.

k) **Sheep Washing pond** – It is still completely dry and we need to discuss options for a water supply.

l) **Pistles Pond** – CWPC's notice is still in place. CPRE are not interested in repairing the memorial seat and we should do so.

m) **P&TG Conservation Area Appraisal** - Public consultation should start in late September.

n) **Conservation Area for W/Hill** – funds are available to reappraise existing areas, but not to establish new ones. We are on CDC's list for future action.

o) **Joint Meeting with CWPC** – a date is awaited.

p) **Penn Street Cricket Club land** – Lady Mary Gaye has offered the land free to the Parish Council. It was agreed that we should gratefully accept the gift, but heavy expenditure on solicitor's fees for a conveyance should be avoided if possible by requesting a letter from Lady Mary Gaye formally passing the land over to us and then keeping it on file.

q) **CDC's Open Space and Recreation Strategy action plan** – It was agreed at a meeting with the Clerk that there were only two identifiable shortfalls in our provision of facilities – play areas in P&TG and in W/Hill. Both depended on identification of a suitable location and sufficient local initiative to generate the

high level of funds needed.

2) Highways/Local Area Committee

There has been no meeting, but Cllr Bayley reported on the following items:

a) **Local Area Committee** – we should write expressing our concern about the slow response to our requests. We should also list our bid for highway projects for 07/08, which so far are: an island at Saucy Corner, pavement repair and the pedestrian barrier for KG Rec. Ground. The next meeting is in mid-October.

Church Road, Tylers Green – Ken Moloughney will write to declare that he has no more suggestions to make.

Speeding - PC Webb has been doing SID tests around the parish and written warning letters to offenders about speeding, use of telephones etc. He will let us have the results. Speed checks are planned soon for the B474 opposite Penn Church when offenders will be issued with fixed penalty notices.

Carousel bus service – Some bus drivers have refused to drive scheduled buses through W/Hill and Penn Street. A letter has been sent to Carousel.

Forty Green disabled access FP - The longer route is also to be opened and we are providing both a cheque for £250 and obtaining a further £250 for a gate from the Chiltern Conservation Board.

Parsonage (White House) Lane is to be closed for three days for repair from 24 October.

3) Finance & General Purpose

There has been no meeting, since 2 May 06, but the following items were discussed:

a) **Government Stock** - This has matured and the £33,354 has been invested in SLB's 12 month Fixed Rate Bond at 4.8% gross, maturing on 5 Jun 07. This will pay annual interest of £1,600.

b) **Annual Audit** - The auditor's report gave us an all clear..

c) **Parish Council Office**- Following site meetings, we are awaiting replies from both the P&TG Cricket Club and the Penn Estate.

d) **W/Hill Memorial tablet** - The licence agreement has been signed and the Parish Council is now responsible for maintenance. The Cliveden Conservation Workshop was the best of two quotes for repair and cleaning for £1,670. We have applied for a 50% grant from the War memorial Trust Small Grant Scheme and will have to pay the balance of £835 from the capital a/c. This was agreed.

e) **Penn St field sycamores** - We already have Jamie Dyer's quote of £2,780 for felling and grinding the stumps and Philip Hallam has now quoted £1,240 for a mixed hedge and stock fence. This totals about £4,000. The Chiltern Cons Board has said that they are unlikely to offer us a grant. Further discussion is needed.

f) **Parish website** – A meeting has been arranged next week with Brian Lock to discuss background material needed for the website.

g) **Annual Reports** - have all been delivered.

h) **Penn St Village Hall** - Building will be starting soon and they will tell us when our £5,000 grant is needed.

i) **Penn War memorial** - Excellently cleaned and repaired. English Heritage's grant of £501 has not yet been claimed.

j) **Knotty Green allotment hedge.** Total cost will be £1,250, less a grant of £500 from the County's Community Fund and a possible grant of £500 from the Don Millar Fund.

k) **Notice Boards** – Four new boards are needed. A quote of about £200 each has been received from Peter Freeman. Agreed in principle with some work needed on design and locations, but no expenditure until after the half year financial review. New plastic Penn Parish Council nameplates will also be needed.

4) Planning

There had been three meetings with 21 applications. We had commented on 8, of which a brief summary was given.

Corkers Wood Farm – There is particular concern about this application which is an agricultural notification for a very large barn in the AONB near Forty Green on a 5 hectare site, for which no public consultation is necessary under current law. We are following this up with Carol Castle.

P&TG Football Club - The application had been comprehensively refused by CDC.

Telephone masts on Knotty Green triangle – The Council was reminded that many sites had been examined in Knotty Green and the triangle was the least obtrusive and furthest away from houses that had been identified. *T-Mobile's* application to convert an existing street light is already in and has to be decided within the statutory 4 weeks or will be allowed by default. They still require our permission to use the site. *Hutchison 3 G's* draft application for a 16m high imitation wood telegraph pole was reviewed and it was agreed that we should advise them that they must re-site the cabinets in a less prominent position before putting in an application. A newly arrived owner in Farm Close had telephoned with objections to any mast.

The Annual Chilterns AONB Planning Conference is to be held on 4 October at Fawley Court.

5) Affordable Housing

Cllrs Robinson and Bayley reported on a recent meeting between Highways and the Rural Housing Trust at which a traffic calming scheme costing £37,500 was agreed in principle and involved saddles and chicanes with the need for one or two street lights. We have verified the local connection of applicants and most of the houses will be going to very local people. An open day is to be held by the Rural Housing trust on Wednesday 1 Nov at times to be decided.

6) Police neighbourhood meetings

Neighbourhood Action Group - The Amersham police team hosted a local meeting for Penn & Coleshill, on 14 September, at which priorities were established as speeding, vandalism and flytipping. The role of the Neighbourhood Action Group was explained and volunteers were requested. It will deal with any concerns of the public such as anti-social behaviour, litter, speeding, graffiti etc. It will have its own website. *Police Community Support Officers* - Another meeting chaired by the Thames Valley Assistant Chief Constable focussed on the increasingly important role of PCSOs of which there will eventually be nearly 700. We will keep our present arrangement of sharing a

centrally funded PCSO and if we are satisfied that he meets our needs we need go no further. However, where a town or parish wants extra provision, the council can buy in a full time or part-time PCSO , by paying half the cost of £31,000 or by sharing with any neighbouring parish regardless of which District they are in.

Minute No 916
Accounts for
Payment

The list of cheques was approved.

Minute No 917
Date of Next
Meeting

The next meeting will be held in Penn Street at 8 pm on Thursday 16 November 2006. Cllr Mrs Seymour will check if the Curzon School is available

Minute No 918
AOB

There is a Carol Service with wine and mince pies, in the Forty Green Community Hall, led by the Rev. Mike Bisset and the Salvation Army, at 7pm on Monday 11 December.