

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PENN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2009 IN THE COMMUNITY HALL, FORTY GREEN**

- Present** Cllrs M.A.Morley (Chairman)
D.J.Baker
Mrs C.Barton
M.J.Bayley
A.S.Hardie
B.Lock
C.Pointon-Taylor
M.J.Raszpla
J.D.Smiley
Clerk M.S.Green
- Apologies** Cllrs M. Newth-West, Mrs M. Seymour,
- Minute No 11
Democratic
Quarter Hour** Cllr **Brian Lock** was welcomed to his first Parish Council meeting.
County Chairman Francis Robinson forecast a rise of 3.9% in the County share of Council Tax. There would be some staff losses, but not many. Potholes were becoming a problem again.
District Cllr David Schofield also forecast a rise in the District's Council Tax of 3.9%. He agreed to report our concerns that it was now taking months to get a considered response on any planning matter.
- Minute No 12
Minutes of
Meeting held on
20 Nov 08** The Minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman
- Minute No 13
Matters Arising
From Minutes** It was agreed that all matters would be covered in Committee reports
- Minute No 14
Reports From
Committees** **1) Highways/Local Area Committee**
The minutes of the meeting held on 17 Dec 08 were discussed and recommendations agreed. There was further discussion of the following items:
Committee meetings - It was agreed to hold them on Tuesdays rather than Wednesdays and that Cllr Baker could stand in if Cllr Hardie was away.
The Community Gang has been working in the parish this week.
Penn Surgery car parking - There has been an exchange of letters about parking on Elm Road. The most likely cause would seem to be staff use of the majority of the Surgery's parking spaces.
Whielden Lane traffic calming should be completed in the next few weeks.
Neighbourhood Action Group - The next meeting is on 20 Jan 09. Poor attendance makes it of doubtful value. Property break-ins are becoming a matter of local concern and are suggested as a priority for NAG.
Temporary Speed Indicator Devices - The request for two TSIDs for use on Church Rd (Penn) and Forty Green Road has not yet been made.
Oil & silt trap at Potters Cross - Various explanations for inaction have been offered, but nothing has yet been done. It is full of black silt for which a quote of £2,000 to remove has been received. Highways to be asked to spell out what action is to be taken and when.
County Highways devolved tasks - We have not yet discussed this with Chris Schwier, but David Brown made it clear that only verges where there is a safety concern can be funded by County Highways so we would have to pay for any others ourselves
Bus services - There has no news about a more permanent service through

Penn Street and Winchmore Hill.

2) 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 2009/10 - A precept of £46,800 was agreed. This assumes a further transfer of £4,589 before the end of this financial year from the current to the capital a/c to repay some of the many charges on the capital a/c in 2006/07. It also allows a projected surplus of some £7,330 which is felt to be a wise precaution in view of the likely heavy capital expenditure on a new Parish Office..

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

Sale of Stony Lane - The sale was completed today, 15 January, and a cheque for £17,750, which includes Clerk's costs of £750, has been received.

W/Hill track easement - We await legal advice from CDC on what sum should be charged for the easement.

Knotty Green allotments - The increase in rents to £20 after over 25 years was agreed to be entirely justified.

Nov 5th bonfire - will be considered under Open Spaces.

Website review - Cllr Lock circulated a summary which showed some 80 visitors monthly to the site, mostly looking at planning matters. Members are asked to send in anything likely to be of general interest.

Meetings schedule for 2009/10 – will be published shortly.

3) Planning

There have been two meetings with 19 applications. We have commented on five, of which a brief summary was given. There was discussion of the following matters:

New website-friendly format for planning lists - was noted with approval. It was agreed that the notice should go on the notice boards before our planning meetings and so without our comments.

Guinness Trust - There has been no further contact about affordable houses.

Payment for planning advice - Cllr Schofield passed on our views but CDC do not see any problem.

Delay in response from planners - Two recent replies to planning queries have referred to 'over 700 complaints...may take some months', and a September enquiry about a parish office was finally answered in January. Cllr Schofield asked for further details and undertook to follow up our concerns.

P&TG Sports & Social Club - The Club agreed to look again at the location of a cooling unit on top of the verandah roof..

Fallon Barn - The Inspector has unexpectedly allowed an appeal for conversion to a house. This is a disappointing decision.

Chiltern Buildings Design Awards - Cllr Bayley will investigate if the Glory Farm Barn conversion would be a candidate.

4) Recreation & Open Spaces

There had not been a meeting since 12 Nov 08, before the last Council meeting, but a few developments were highlighted

Beacon Hill garden plots - We need to check on the promised water supply from the neighbouring bungalow and also the hedge planting between bungalow and garden plots.

W/Hill bonfire - The W/Hill Residents Association Committee has unexpectedly refused to endorse the arrangements agreed between their

Chairman and local members. It was agreed that we should take legal advice from Harvey Patterson before having a meeting with the committee.

Elm Road grass verge - damage has been done to the verge of the common by cars parking outside houses on it and both prevention and repair need to be investigated.

Widmer Pond - A successful clearance with the help of Chiltern Society volunteers took place on 29 November.

Gawde Water - A clearance is arranged for Sat 14 February.

B474 hedge-laying - Check on position with Cllr Newth-West.

High voltage cable, Penn Street - The fencing has been removed and the ground looks level.

**Minute No 15
Accounts for
Payment**

The list of cheques was approved.

**Minute No 16
Date of Next
Meeting**

The next meeting will be held in the Penn Church Hall on Thursday 19 March 2009, preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting, starting at 8pm.