

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
AND OF THE PENN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 19 MARCH 2009 IN THE PENN CHURCH HALL**

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

Apologies Cllr M.Newth-West,

Annual Parish Meeting **County Councillor Francis Robinson** and **District Councillor David Schofield** were present and contributed their views on various matters.
Mrs Susan Allen and **Mr Nigel Warboys** declared themselves to be possible candidates for Parish Council vacancies.
The Chairman announced that a report of the Council's activities during the past year would be published in the Annual Report for 2008/09 which will be sent to all parishioners in May.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minute No 16 The Minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman
Minutes of
Meeting held on
15 Jan 09

Minute No 17 There were none.
Matters Arising
From Minutes

Minute No 18 **1) Joint meeting with CWPC**
Reports From A draft report of a Joint Committee site meeting at Widmer Pond on 25 Jan 09 was
Committees reviewed and it was agreed that local Members should meet and make
recommendations for the overall programme of work needed on the pond.

2) Local Area Committee - A comprehensive report on the last meeting of this committee, held on 4 Feb 09, was considered and agreed. This committee has now been replaced by four Local Area Forums (LAFs), and Penn is grouped with Amersham, Coleshill, Chesham Bois and Chenies. The first meeting will be on 28 April.
Chiltern does not have the capacity to support four new committees and has asked whether we support the reintroduction of the Chiltern Forum, restricted to elected bodies. It was agreed that we would support the Chiltern Forum, but thought that the new LAFs should first be given time to see if they were effective.

3) Planning - There have been three meetings with 28 applications. We have commented on 5 of them of which a brief summary was given. Wayside, Church Road, Penn, raised particularly strong objections on the grounds of over-development and loss of character in the Conservation Area. There have also been two seminars run by Chiltern - on the new Permitted Development Rights and on their affect on enforcement. It was agreed that we should argue strongly that enforcement requests by Parish Councils should be given priority on the understanding that we had first given careful consideration to the merits of the complaint. Cllr Schofield will also support this request.

4) Highways

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 Feb 09 were considered and the recommendations agreed. There was particular discussion of the following matters:

Forty Green walkway - Strong support for the concept was expressed, subject to feasibility and costing.

Penn Estate FPs - It was noted that the Penn Estate had proposed designating two new public footpaths, one at Church Knoll on the Chiltern Way and the other off Penn Bottom near Common Wood Lane.

Penn Surgery parking - The Surgery has agreed the idea of bollards along the front and acknowledges the importance of getting staff to park away from the Surgery.

Speeding - We have responded to the current Speed Limit Review by asking for 30mph all the way along Whielden Lane. The traffic calming scheme there is nearly finished. Speed checks were carried out on Church Road, Penn on 17 Mar 09.

Devolved powers from County Council - The Highway Committee are asked to consider whether there are any powers which we would like devolved. If there are, then we would need to apply to be an 'approved' council.

Hogback Wood Lane - South Bucks Council have now suggested Tomahawk Lane or Warrior Lane instead of Holtspur Lane. These suggestions received no support. Holespur Lane, the original spelling on the 1855 Inclosure map, was suggested, but Hogback Wood Lane won the day and will be proposed.

5) Recreation & Open Spaces

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 Mar 09 were considered and its recommendations agreed. The following matters were further discussed:

Beacon Hill garden plots - The boundary between the new bungalow and the garden plots lies along the edge of the oak beams, thus putting the new hedge on Parish Council land. Mr Dorehill has agreed to an exchange of letters setting this out. The view of the committee that a request for a senior citizen reduction of rent was not justified received unanimous support.

W/Hill Play Area - The finance agreement for a grant of £10,000 from Veolia Environmental Trust was signed by the chairman. A grant of £8,500 from Awards for All is being sought together with a grant for £1000 from Buckinghamshire Community Foundation to meet the cost of a revised play area scheme.

Widmer Pond close season - A notice has been put up banning fishing from 15 March to 15 June.

Tasks for Tom Barron - The following tasks were noted and agreed: Grass seed W/Hill bonfire site; paint W/Hill bus shelter; remove cut tree from Beacon Hill garden plot; put cork on notice boards. Clean up Potters Cross triangle.

6) Finance & General Purposes

There had not been a meeting, but the following matters were discussed:

SLB Fixed Rate Bond - The £33,354 capital is in the 5.9% bond which expires on 20 March 09. Since the capital will be used to build the new Parish Office it was agreed that only £20,000 should be locked into the successor SLB Fixed Rate Bond at 3%, maturing on 10 Dec 09. The remaining £13,354 is to be in an SLB 2% 10 day notice account.

Annual report 2008/09 - Suggestions to the Clerk please. An idea for the future could be the provision of the annual report by e-mail, although there would then be a problem in avoiding delivering paper copies to those on e-mail.

Parish website - more information and photographs are needed. It was noted that the Freedom of Information Act requires us to put up more information.

W/Hill common easement - Advice from Harvey Patterson, Chiltern's Legal Adviser, has been passed to the applicant, but no response has yet been received. It was noted with regret that Harvey Patterson will soon be moving to a similar post in Kent much closer to where he lives.

CWPC Annual meeting - An invitation to attend this meeting on 22 April has been received.

7) NAG

Our NAG partners are quite different from those of the LAF and its usefulness is not yet established. Cllr Schofield said that the Chief Constable was very keen on councillors taking part in NAGs. Cllr Robinson thought that direct liaison between parishes and police was more effective.

It was noted that Penn & Tylers Green is suffering a marked crime wave and that the P&TGRS is calling for a meeting from both sides of the border.

Minute No 19 Parish Council Office

There have been site meetings and quotes from two local architects. Bob Berry has been appointed and is preparing preliminary designs for discussion.

A management sub-committee was agreed consisting of the Chairmen of the Committees, i.e. Cllrs Bayley, Hardie, Raszpla and Morley with Cllr Mrs Seymour ex officio. This sub-committee is authorised to agree a design and to submit a planning application. Other members will be kept advised on progress and will be consulted where possible. The timetable, agreed with Bob Berry, assumes completion at the end of October.

Minute No 20 Vacancies for Parish Councillors

Cllr Mrs Barton gave notice that she intends to resign immediately after the May Council meeting. Cllr Smiley is considering his position. A public notice advertising a vacancy can only be put up after a resignation. If, after 14 working days, ten electors do not give notice to the returning Officer that they are claiming an election, the Parish Council can fill the vacancy by co-option.

Minute No 21 Programme of meetings 2009/10

The draft programme was considered and agreed. It was noted that the programme tailored for each notice board will be published as soon as dates for Highways/Local Community groups are available.

Minute No 22 Accounts for Payment

The list of cheques was approved.

Minute No 23 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting of the new Council held in the Cricket Pavilion, Knotty Green at 8 pm on Thursday 21 May 2009. Nominations for Chairman and vice-Chairman are required by Standing Orders at least 7 days beforehand.

Minute No 24 A.O.B.

There was none.