

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PENN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER 2008 IN THE VILLAGE HALL, PENN STREET**

- Present** Cllrs Mrs M. Seymour (Chairman)
D.J.Baker
Mrs C.Barton
M.J.Bayley
A. S. Hardie
M.A.Morley
M. Newth-West
C. Pointon-Taylor
M.J.Raszpla
J.D.Smiley
Clerk M.S.Green
- Apologies** Mr Brian Lock
- Minute No 1
Co-option of
Parish Councillor** The necessary public notices have been displayed and three people have expressed interest in the vacancy, but only one, Mr Brian Lock, lives in Penn Street where there is currently no member and so he was unanimously co-opted.
Business commitments prevented him from attending but CDC's legal adviser has confirmed that he will become a councillor as soon as he has signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
- Minute No 2
Democratic
Quarter Hour** **County Councillor Francis Robinson** announced his intention to retire in June after 30 years service. His official church service as Chairman of the County Council is to be held in Penn Street church on 30 November – where he carved his initials on a pew when a boy at the school in Penn House during the war. The Chairman thanked him for his exemplary and helpful attendance at our Council meetings.
District Councillor David Schofield was welcomed as the Conservative Party's nomination to succeed Cllr Robinson. He has been a Chiltern councillor for nine years.
- Minute No 3
Minutes of
Meeting held on
18 Sep 08** The Minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.
- Minute No 4
Matters Arising
From Minutes** There were none.
- Minute No 5
Reports From
Committees** **1) Clerks/Officers Liaison meeting**
The Clerk reviewed the brief notes attached on the meeting held on 6 Oct 08.
- 2) Highways/Local Area Committee/NAG**
The minutes of the Highways meeting of 29 Oct, were reviewed and the following matters discussed:
Community Gang Report sheet has been submitted. We await confirmation that the tasks have been completed.
Speeding on Elm Road/Church Road (Penn) – The Count on Us survey shows 53,000 vehicles a week of which 80% are above the speed limit and some 500 exceed 50mph. One Vehicle Activated Signs would cost about £7,800 to buy but we could hire a Temporary Speed Indicator Device (TSID), which displays the speed limit, for 2 weeks for £100. *Ask PC Gavin McVeigh what follow-up action they intend to take and, if he agrees, book TSID as soon as possible.*

Ask Chris Schwier whether any traffic calming measures are feasible near the Red Lion. and Penn Church to make the road safer to cross.

Whielden Lane traffic calming & footway - The plans and finance have been agreed to complete the project by the end of this financial year..

Parish Highway projects - Remove the Brindle Lane verge because turning space is needed for trailers. Add the footway from Coppice Farm Road to Curzon Avenue.

Takeover rural verge grass-cutting from County Highways - Get quotes from Tom Barron.

NAG meeting - The Annual meeting on 21 Oct was called off after half-an-hour because of poor attendance.

Gully clearing – a revised list has been issued. Penn clearances from 30 Jan to 10 Feb.

Unnamed lanes - Amend minutes para 9, line 4, to read ‘may ask’ instead of ‘we will be asked’.

3) Finance & General Purpose

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 Sep 08 were discussed and recommendations agreed. There was further discussion on the following items:

Burial grants - Agreed.

Donations - Agreed.

W/Hill play area.- Veolia’s decision on a grant is expected by 24 Jan.

Grass-cutting – Continuation of CTR’s contract for the second year is agreed.

W/Hill track easement - A site meeting with the District Valuer has taken place.

New Parish Office - The recommended use of our capital rather than an expensive loan is agreed.

The Clerk’s pay & allowances for 2008/09 – A new agreement to deal with the extra 15p per week is not needed.

November 5th bonfires - KG allotments cancelled their bonfire & fireworks because of the stringent insurance requirements. W/Hill went ahead without fireworks and without incident after a visit by the fire brigade and negotiations with the insurance company. There is to be a post-mortem with the Chairman of the W/Hill Residents Association to see whether any changes need to be made to the arrangements.

Annual Audit - Mazars have completed their check with no criticism. Notices reporting this have to be displayed on notice boards from 24 Nov to 12 Dec.

Website review - Ask Brian Lock

Members allowances - The recommendations are agreed.

4) Recreation & Open Spaces

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 Nov 08 were discussed and recommendations agreed. There was further discussion on the following items:

Sale of Stony Lane - The following resolution was agreed unanimously:

The Council agrees to the sale of Stony Lane to Mr Stephen Jones for the sum of £17,000 plus the Clerk's costs of £750 and the Council's legal costs with Baily Gibson.

The Council also agrees that it will make no claim to the small area of land, roughly triangular in shape, lying between the north western corner of Roundheads Wood and the Forty Green Road which was once part of the entrance sweep to Stony Lane but has been fenced into Roundheads Wood by Mr Charles Pitcher since the mid 1980s.

Sheep Washing Pond, Knotty Green - The local clearance party was held on 19 Oct 08.

Coppice Farm Road greens - A letter in support of the P&TG Residents Society bid to get the Coppice Farm Road entrance verges registered as Village Green was agreed. *Send letter.*

5) Planning

There have been three meetings with 27 applications. Cllr Hardie gave a brief summary of the six applications on which we had commented.

New Parish Office - We still await a green light from the planners, but meanwhile an initial outline plan has been drawn up by Cllr Bayley and was circulated.

Guinness Trust - The Guinness Trust has asked whether a site of 1 3/4 acres on the north side of Church Road, Penn, opposite Dell Cottage, may be suitable for the provision of affordable housing. The Trust asks whether, if it could be demonstrated that there is a need for affordable housing in Penn, the Trust would have the support of the Parish Council in seeking to address that need. The houses would probably be a mix of shared ownership and subsidised rent and they would not necessarily use all the site. The Guinness Trust is similar to the Rural Housing Trust but with urban as well as rural affordable housing schemes. The proposed site is, like the Whielden Lane site, GB/AONB and so would need an exception from CDC. The Trust has spoken to Michael Veryard at CDC planning and was asked to find out what the Parish Council thought about it. It would be unlikely to go ahead unless we supported it. We have declared ourselves in favour of using small bits of the Green Belt for affordable housing. The difficulty in this case is that the site is right on the edge of the Conservation Area.

Discussion produced very varied views and it was agreed that *the Guinness Trust should be invited to a Planning Committee meeting open to all Members*, to give a presentation and answer questions.

P&TG Football Club - An exchange of letters about a number of issues relating to the Football Club will be **considered by the Planning Committee**.

Charging for pre-application advice - Disquiet was expressed that a brief for the Planning Overview Committee recommending charging for planning advice set out many perceived advantages but did not consider the possibility of difficulties arising when the same officer both advised and recommended a decision on the same application. *Write Ms Carol Castle.*

County Council Waste treatment - No incinerator is now proposed near Beaconsfield although transfer stations may be established.

6) GC2C Amersham Local Community Area

Cllr Bayley and the Clerk reported on a meeting on 17 Nov 08 of the Amersham/Penn/Coleshill/Chesham Bois/Chenies group. It was not found to be relevant to the interests or needs of the Parish Council. There is a meeting on 25 Nov 08 between CDC and the County to which Cllr Bayley and the Clerk have been invited to discuss the merits of these new organisations.

Minute No 6 Adoption of a new Model Publication Scheme

This scheme is an updated version of the one adopted by the Parish Council at meetings on 19 Sep 02 and 21 Nov 02, slightly amended on 20 Jan 05 and is not vastly different. BALC advise adopting it without amendment and this was duly unanimously agreed. The Clerk will draw up a brief list of what and where information is available for publication on the website and notice boards.

Minute No 7 Accounts for Payment

The list of cheques was approved.

**Minute No 8
Date of Next
Meeting**

The next meeting will be held in the Community Hall, Forty Green, at 8 pm on Thursday 15 January 2009.

**Minute No 9
Mrs Lorna
Stoneham**

The Council acknowledged with regret the news that Mrs Lorna Stoneham, a former Chairman of Penn Parish Council and Chiltern District Council, has died aged 93. She was the first woman Chairman of the Parish Council. Mrs Seymour is the second.

**Minute No 10
A.O.B**

There is to be a Carol Service, with wine and mince pies, in the Forty Green Community Hall, led by the Rev. Alison Caw and the Salvation Army, at 7pm on Monday 8 December.