

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12 MARCH 2009

Committee	<p>Cllrs M.A.Morley - Chairman Mrs C.Barton B.Lock M.J.Raszpla, Mrs M.Seymour C. Pointon-Taylor D. Baker</p> <p>Clerk M.S.Green</p>
Apologies	<p>Cllrs M.J.Bayley, J.Smiley</p>
1) COMMONS, GREENS AND ALLOTMENTS	<p><i>Knotty Green allotments</i> - All plots are taken. Rents have been increased to £20.</p> <p><i>Knotty Green Cricket Club</i> - No recent reports of vandalism.</p> <p><i>Knotty Green Recreation Ground</i> <i>Friends of Knotty Green</i> are being wound up by Clare Moseley and any funds will be transferred to the Parish Council.</p> <p><i>Informal rota of residents</i> is still keeping a regular eye out for any damage and litter.</p> <p><i>Dog mess</i> - Greg Hopkins has reported a problem of dog litter and asked that all dogs are banned from the area. Local members however thought it was unusual to find dog litter so did not agree there was a serious problem and noted that dog litter bins were well used. It was also noted that as common land it would not be feasible to make a complete ban. However, it was agreed that dogs must be on a lead and we should review the notices to ensure there were sufficient warnings with a threat of fines.</p> <p><i>Playdale</i> are trying to improve the swing of the swings. The cost of up to £300 is likely to be met from Friends' funds.</p> <p><i>Notice board</i> - Tom Barron to be asked to fit with cork.</p> <p><i>KG Wicksteed Inspections</i> - Tom Barron has carried out all outstanding tasks except:</p> <p><i>Log Section</i> – Cllr Pointon-Taylor has some suitable logs</p> <p><i>Beacon Hill Garden Plots</i> The boundary hedge has been re-planted by Mr Dorehill, owner of the neighbouring bungalow, but it is now on our land and so in our ownership. Water to a tank will be connected shortly thanks to the generosity of Mr Dorehill. We must pay for a separate meter . A request for an OAP concessionary rent was considered, but not agreed. It was noted that the garden plot is not an allotment and that the Parish Council is required to make proper use of its assets.</p>

	<p><i>Penn Street & Forty Green Play Areas</i> <i>Wicksteed inspections</i> - the 4-monthly inspections always repeat several recommendations with a non-mandatory priority such as the need for a notice, a litter bin and (Penn Street only) for a fence around it. These have been discussed in the past and it has been agreed that no action should be taken.</p> <p><i>The Pound</i> - Lease rent has been renewed for next five years wef Jul 07 (increase of 14%). <i>De-registering the Pound as common land is the next step</i></p> <p><i>Trees</i> <i>Annual Parish tree inspection</i> - Our public liability insurance requires an annual check by a qualified tree surgeon for any trees likely to be a danger to the public. The inspection has been completed by Pete Whipp and he has been tasked with the very few jobs arising from it. <i>Check progress.</i> <i>Hollow horse chestnut, Elm Road - To be crown lightened next week for quote of £180.</i></p> <p><i>Grass-cutting</i> Nothing to report.</p> <p><i>W/Hiil Play Area</i> - The total project budget has been reduced to £24,999.with grants from Veolia for £10,000, Parish Council £4,452, the Residents Association, £2,000; Application is shortly to be made to Awards for All for the balance of £8,500.</p> <p><i>W/Hiil Bonfire</i> – Our insurance company will no longer insure any bonfire that is not 100m from the nearest house, but have suggested another firm that will do so for £315. <i>A meeting with the Residents Association is to be held in April to discuss future arrangements</i></p> <p><i>Parking on the grass verge of Elm Road common</i> – <i>It was agreed that we should demonstrate ownership by making visible repairs of damaged areas, pointing it out to the owner of the cars responsible.</i></p> <p><i>Trees on Penn Common</i> - The closely planted parallel lines of oaks (12 planted in 1960 by Penn Parish Cllrs) and small-leaved limes (12 planted in 1979 to mark the Queen’s Silver Jubilee in 1977) are presenting an increasing barrier to both view and sunlight. <i>Take advice from Pete Whipp.</i></p> <p><i>Coppice Farm Road Village Green application</i> - The application by the P&TGRS is still being considered by County.</p>
<p>2) OTHER LAND</p>	<p><i>Penn Street school field</i> - The school has asked for our agreement to put in a path along the inside of our hedge to enable parents and children to walk to school from the church car park. It was noted that we bought the field for the use of the school and there was no objection to the very sensible proposal for a path. Highways are to advise on materials and cost, but our advice is to put in the same type of natural and cheap path which has been very successful in Common Wood. <i>Suggest the Don Millar fund for a grant.</i></p>

	<p>Queensway - WDC have been investigating putting an athletics track on Queensway, but do not yet have any detailed proposals to be considered by the Queensway Committee. <i>Monitor progress.</i></p> <p>Woodbridge Alley – <i>Contact Old English Developments to get overgrown hedges around the neighbouring garden, cut back.</i></p> <p>Potters Cross <i>Ask Tom Barron to rake grass and sweep gullies clear of leaves.</i></p>
<p>3) WOODS</p>	<p>Common Wood - The Clerk and local member, Cllr Morley, met Alison Perry (Rights of Way Officer) on FP 66 between Penn Road and the wood entrance to review its state and to see if it could be improved for disabled access. <i>Chase Alison Perry's report.</i></p> <p>Penn Wood – On Sat 4 July, there is to be a celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Woodland Trust's acquisition of the wood</p>
<p>4) PONDS</p>	<p>Widmer Pond - <i>Clearance party</i> - took place with the Chiltern Society on 29 Nov 08. <i>Fishing – the close season notice is due on 15 March until 15 June</i> <i>Renovation – Local members to meet and discuss</i> <i>BT telegraph pole - dangerous steel cables need removing</i> <i>Boundary stones</i> - A sarsen stone marking the boundary between Penn and Chepping Wycombe has been put in the ground by the pond. Also an inscribed stone marking the boundary of St Margaret's Consolidated Chapelry which had migrated to Nursery Lane, Tylers Green.</p> <p>Potters Cross Pond - Silt and Oil traps have now been cleared at last and we have requested that they be cleared every year. <i>The drainage ditch is awaiting clearance.</i> The pond needs to be cleared of silt and the same sucking vehicle would seem the best way of doing so. <i>Investigate cost of sucking vehicle. Remove green plastic seat.</i></p> <p>Penn Street Pond - The cleared pond is now full.</p> <p>Gawde Water - Chiltern Society clearance date due on Sat 14 Feb was cancelled because of bad weather. The Penn Estate no longer have an 'amphibian' tractor to clear the reeds.</p> <p>Wash Pond – No work party needed at present.</p> <p>Sheep Washing Pond, Knotty Green - Debbie Marsden organised a local clearance party on 19 Oct 08. There are two ducks on the pond.</p> <p>Pistles Pond Nothing to report</p>

<p>5) OTHER MATTERS</p>	<p><i>Don Millar Memorial Fund</i></p> <p>The Chiltern society has a fund to support and encourage local conservation projects endorsed by the Parish Council, such as ponds, hedges, trees, footpaths, hire of equipment, notice boards etc.</p> <p><i>Joint Meeting with CWPC</i></p> <p>The last meeting was on 25 Jan 09. No minutes as yet????</p> <p><i>B474 hedges</i> – We have encouraged the Penn Estate to lay hedges between Penn Court and Penn Ridge. Also leading up to the Crown from opposite Gatemoor. <i>Give Penn Estate the name of our hedge-layer</i></p> <p><i>High voltage cable, Penn Street</i> - The 132,00 volt cable running along the edge or Penn Street common is leaking from the protective oil surround, but the leak was located at first dig. <i>Check ground is re-turfed after it has settled down.</i></p>
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