

**MINUTE OF
BRENT PELHAM & MEESDEN PARISH COUNCIL
THURSDAY 4 OCTOBER 2012
VENUE: BRENT PELHAM VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT:

Mr Trevor Hughes	Chairman
Major Ted Barclay	Councillor (Vice Chair)
Mrs Hinch	Councillor
Mrs Wootton-Ramsay	Councillor
Mr Colin Hamilton	Clerk

2 members of the public were present at the meeting.

Minute Action

12/026 Apologies for Absence

Councillors Livings and Dimsdale

12/027 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 5 July 2012 have previously been circulated for electronic review and approval by the councillors. No objections had been raised and the Chairman duly signed the paper version.

12/028 Matters Arising

The Clerk explained that the code of conduct papers had not been circulated as revised guidance had been provided by NALC. The revised guidance would be circulated by the Clerk.

Clerk

12/029 Meesden Councillor Representation

The Chairman stated that Councillor Livings had tendered his resignation sighting difficulties in attending meetings and being able to play his full part due to working away during the week. The Chairman indicated that it would be necessary to co-opt a new councillor to represent Meesden. Mr Stephen Murphy (in attendance) had volunteered himself for the position. The Chairman stated that whilst happy to accept Mr Murphy for the post, he felt that the position should be advertised to show transparency in its selection process. It was suggested that to expedite matters, a flyer could be posted through the properties within the village announcing Mr Livings departure and the vacancy. Clerk to provide and circulate the note.

Clerk

12/030 Planning (Applications)

Borley Green Cottage, Brent Pelham – First floor extension and new pitched roofs

Reviewed and no objections offered

Amenity Woodland appeal

No news

12/031 Highways

The Chairman indicated that Highways had now been contracted out to an external contractor, Ringways. Raj Goutam had been made redundant. With the loss of continuity on the road surface dressing, work had not commenced on schedule. The Chairman will contact County Councillor Jane Pitman and the local papers, if necessary if no progress was achieved.

Chairman

12/032 Finance

Accounts – The Clerk presented the accounts to the council. These showed a current account balance of £31.89 and a reserve account balance of £2,247.36, resulting in a total of £2,279.25.

Audit Submission – The Clerk reported that the external auditors had returned the audit with no comment, so a successful audit conclusion

Proposals for Payment – None

The Clerk stated that in previous years, where a surplus was in existence at year end, contributions were made to the village halls and PCC's. This action had been suspended in recent years due to the significant commitments arising from legal costs, drainage, tree felling. It was decided to put consideration of a donation on the agenda for the next meeting.

The Chairman proposed that payments be made. This motion was seconded by Councillor Dimsdale and passed by unanimous vote

Precept for 2013/14

The Clerk raised the topic of next year's precept. As the estimate and final request fall due before the next meeting, he asked that the council consider what amount it wished to request for precept. After discussion, Councillor Barclay proposed that a zero increase on 2012/13 be put forward in the sum of £2,400. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Hinch and passed by unanimous vote.

Decision Taken

The precept requested to be in the sum of £2,400.

12/033 Proposed use of Meesden Phonebox

The Chairman stated that he has the lottery application form for funding of the defibrillator, which he will submit shortly.

Mr Newstead indicated that he expected that any shortfall between lottery funding and cost to be made up by local donations. This might be from local citizens or possibly from local companies that could be approached.

Councillor Wootton-Ramsay has been in touch with the Red Cross regarding putting on first aid training. A lot of people in the area are interested in attending. The Red Cross also indicated that they can give training on the defibrillator.

Costs for running the phonebox/apparatus were discussed. BT have committed to maintaining the electricity supply to the phonebox if used for the purpose of housing a defibrillator, however, there was some conjecture over whether an electricity supply still existed. Clerk to check.

Clerk

12/034 **Meesden Green Repairs & Maintenance**

The cut of Meesden Green is planned for Saturday 13-OCT.

The Chairman and Councillor Dimsdale attended the Open Spaces seminar. The Chairman highlighted the advice given to keep a photographic record to identify incursions.

The Clerk was asked to contact Land Registry with a view to rectifying the omitted parcel of land front Elm Cottages.

Clerk

12/035 **Council Noticeboard**

The Chairman reported that the noticeboard for Meesden was finished and would be set on 6-OCT

12/036 **AOB**

Clerk's Resignation – The Clerk tendered his resignation, stating that he had fulfilled the role for 16 years and felt that a new Clerk should be sought to introduce new enthusiasm. It was suggested that the flyer put out for the replacement of Councillor Livings should also cover the Clerk's position and be circulated to Brent Pelham & Meesden.

Route of public footpath – Mr Newstead stated that he was looking to straighten the fence bounding his property and the public footpath and asked who he could clear this with. The Clerk stated that he would supply contact details for the Rights of Way contact at District Council.

Clerk

12/037 **Date of Next Meetings**

The next Parish Council meetings are to be held on:

Thursday 17 JAN 2013 @ 19:30 in Meesden Parish Rooms

Thursday 18 APR 2013 @ 19:30 in Brent Pelham Village Hall