

**MINUTE OF
BRENT PELHAM & MEESDEN PARISH COUNCIL
THURSDAY 5 JULY 2012
VENUE: MEESDEN PARISH ROOMS**

PRESENT:

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

3 members of the public were present at the meeting and District Councillor Cheswright was in attendance.

Minute

Action

12/014 Apologies for Absence

Councillors Livings and Wootton-Ramsay

12/015 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 19 April 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.

12/016 Matters Arising

Covered by agenda.

12/017 Proposed use of Meesden Phonebox

Mr Ken Newstead was invited to set out his proposal for the use of Meesden Phonebox as a location to keep and Automatic External Defibrillator. This fully automatic device would provide a capability to “kick start” a heart in the situation where a person has had a heart attack and their heart has stopped. The person who operates the defibrillator would follow instructions dictated by the machine. Mr Newstead stated the importance of the vital initial minutes in getting a person’s heart restarted as soon as possible to improve their chance of survival.

BT are working with suppliers of these products, and offer to provide electricity to the phonebox to keep the device’s battery charged and maintained at an appropriate temperature. The device would be housed in a vandal proof enclosure with a key-code that person’s within the village would know, or could be provided on request by the ambulance service. Training would be given to anyone who wanted to attend.

Costs of such devices were in the £1,750 to £2,000 ballpark. Mr Newstead indicated that Lottery funding could be available and stand a good chance of success to provide a grant. Whether the grant would be for a large proportion of the costs can only be derived by submitting a grant application. The grant would not cover VAT. It might also be possible to achieve the shortfall in funding by fund raising or contributions from local people/business. Maintenance activities would require someone to check the machine on a weekly basis (for warning indicator). Battery replacement (£95+VAT) would be required every 4 years or on use. A lottery grant application would need to be submitted by a representative body e.g. the parish council.

It was pointed out that the village phonebox to receive the equipment should be debated as the facility should be available to the whole parish, and with much of the costs to the parish council arising from Meesden Green, that it would be appropriate for the equipment to be installed in the Brent Pelham phonebox. This could be decided based on getting the volunteers to maintain the equipment if it were located in Brent Pelham.

Action: Ken Newstead to generate a note setting out the proposal to identify support within the parish (a requirement to support any lottery application) and circulate to villagers via email. Stephen Beach to supply Meesden email addresses and Councillor Hinch will provide email addresses for Brent Pelham to which Mr Newstead would circulate the proposal to gain an indication of support.

12/018 Planning (Applications)

The application to develop Land at Rectory Farm as an organic egg production unit

Planning has indicated that an appeal has been lodged. Previous objectors may need to re-register their objections to the appeal tribunal. Notice of the appeal has still to be circulated.

Extension to Pelham House, Pump Hill, Brent Pelham

Unopposed

Mill House, Meesden

Appeal dismissed

12/019 Highways

The Chairman commented that no action had been forthcoming from Highways (Raj Goutam) on Kennel Hill. Whilst on the forthcoming works plan, there was no visibility of timeline. Councillor Hinch had written to Raj Goutam with no positive response. District Councillor Cheswright stated that funding and lack of action was common across the villages in the district. This was due to the recent bad winters and the resulting poor state of repair. She suggested inviting County Councillor Jane Pitman to go on walkabout at a time when Highways attend. Chairman to write to Jane Pitman.

Chairman

12/020 Finance

Accounts – The Clerk presented the accounts to the council. These showed a current account balance of £106.39 and a reserve account balance of £2,947.36, resulting in a total of £3,053.75.

Audit Submission – The Clerk reported that the notices had been posted for the statutory periods with no requests for inspection. The audit papers had been submitted to BDO on schedule.

Proposals for Payment – The Clerk presented the following request for payment:

Jetting Meesden Drain fronting Jubilee Cottages & other houses	Jetting was undertaken to the drain from Puddles Barn to Farthings to address the silting up of the drain. This cost £306.00.
Tree Remediation fronting Farthings, Meesden Green	The quotation for removal of 3 trees that presented a subsidence risk to Farthings and for removal of the broken branch overhanging the green came to a total of £948.00.

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

Motion Passed

Clerk

That payments be made for the above items.

12/021 Meesden Green Repairs & Maintenance

The continued cost of maintaining the drain fronting the houses in Meesden was a cause for concern. As there is no clear boundary line, guidance indicates that the middle of the watercourse forms that boundary and consequently, the householders should bear 50% of the cost of maintenance, especially as they receive the real benefit of the drain. Chairman to write to Simon Drinkwater asking for guidance on policy and how the council might levy charges on the householders.

Chairman

12/022 Annual Parish Meeting

Only one member of the public had turned up for the annual parish meeting. This was a very poor turnout considering that the meeting had been advertised in parish newsletter, website and noticeboards. Various suggestions were made as to how to improve visibility of the council and the parish meeting. These included:

- Including the council website address in the bottom of emails sent
- Including more in the parish newsletter to encourage attendance at council meetings as it's people's opportunity to influence local thinking
- Include a pointer on the old Pelhams website to the new council website

It became apparent that some confusion existed on which website was the council website. Clerk to include in newsletter and send URL to District Councillor Cheswright and the members of the public present at the meeting.

Clerk

12/023 Code of Conduct

The Clerk reported that a new code of conduct was now in force. Clerk to circulate papers to the councillors to register their interests.

Clerk

12/024 AOB

Good Neighbours Scheme – Mr Gridley had written to thank the parish council for the contribution to the running costs.

Neighbourhood Plan – It was still unclear when councils should start to develop their Neighbourhood Plan. District Councillor Cheswright encouraged the PC to act quickly so that preparation activity could commence to be in a position to act quickly and prevent any opportunistic

development. District Councillor Cheswright suggested contacting John Careford and Claire Symme for advice on how to approach the plan.

Chairman

The Clerk reported that it was intended to ask for volunteers at the recent Annual Parish Meeting but with only one attendee that was impractical. Email addresses to be accumulated from Brent Pelham to go with the Meesden list to send out an email to ask for volunteers to provide local input.

Councillor Hinch

12/025 **Date of Next Meetings**

The next Parish Council meetings are to be held on:

Thursday 18 OCT 2012 @ 19:30 in Brent Pelham Village Hall

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