

**MINUTE OF
BRENT PELHAM & MEESDEN PARISH COUNCIL
THURSDAY 12 JANUARY 2012
VENUE: MEESDEN PARISH ROOMS**

PRESENT:

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

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

Minute

Action

11/035 Apologies for Absence

Councillor Livings

District Councillor Cheswright also tendered her apologies for not attending the meeting

11/036 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 13 October 2011 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. A copy of these minutes will be posted on the pelhams.net website for the general public.

11/037 Matters Arising

Trees requiring removal/cut back – The Clerk reported that he had attempted to contact the arboriculturist but without success as the company seemed to have ceased operating. He had contacted Malcolm Amey at EHDC, who has now confirmed in writing that none of the trees near Farthings on the green have a preservation order.

Mark Williams has previously volunteered to cut down the trees on behalf of the parish council but it is unclear whether he has suitable insurance. Councillor Livings is to speak to Mr Williams to establish whether he has the appropriate insurance. In the meantime the Clerk is to contact Mark Franklin, local tree surgeon to obtain a quotation.

Clerk

11/038 Planning (Applications)

Land at Rectory Farm	Permission refused
Rebuilding of Rectory Farm	Permission granted
The Old Vicarage (BP)	Permission granted
Mill House (Meesden)	Permission refused
Pelham House (BP)	Unopposed

The "Plan your Place" seminar is to be attended by Councillors Hinch and Wootton-Ramsay

11/039 Highways

The Chairman commented that no action had been forthcoming from Highways (Raj Goutam) on Kennel Hill. Councillor Hinch and Clerk to both write setting out the need for action to be taken.

Councillor Hinch
Clerk

11/040 Finance

Accounts – The Clerk presented the accounts to the council for the year to date. These showed a current account balance of £76.90 and a reserve account balance of £1746.25, resulting in a total of £1,823.15. After expenditure on tree remediation and clerk's expenses, this would leave a balance of approximately £1,000 at year end. Based on the expected need for capital expenditure, it was felt that it was prudent to increase the contingency.

Precept – The Clerk reminded the meeting of the precept estimate for 2012/2013 of £2,400, holding the precept at the same level as last year. The decision was upheld and the Chairman and Councillors Wootton-Ramsay and Dimsdale signed the Precept on Billing Authority Form.

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

HAPTC	The indicated subscription for 2012/2013 has been announced by HAPTC as £172.85. This is a modest increase on last year's £169.88. Payment does not fall due until June but the amount was presented for approval in principal
Clerk's expenses	The Clerk presented his invoice for expenses. This was based on a reduction in year on estimate of costs to £150 but to this needed to be added costs incurred with Land Registry obtaining plans related to various parts on Meesden village during the year. The total amounted tendered for reimbursement was £229.80.

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

Motion Passed
That payment be made for the above item.

Clerk

11/041 Meesden Green

Drainage Issues

Discussion with Councillor Dimsdale confirmed that the sewage facility was not the responsibility of the parish council and that any replacement costs would fall to the householders.

11/042 Parish Noticeboards

The Chairman reported that he had applied for funding under the Jane Pitman locality fund. A decision is expected soon.

11/043 Brent Pelham War Memorial

Councillor Hinch brought to the attention of the meeting, the deterioration of the war memorial, in particular the lettering which had come away. She had obtained a provisional quotation for the repairs in the sum of £150+VAT. Agreement to the work was proposed by Councillor Dimsdale and seconded by Councillor Wootton-Ramsay. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Motion Passed

That work be commissioned to perform the repairs to the memorial.

Councillor
Hinch

11/044 AOB

Minutes – The Chairman asked that minutes of meetings be sent to Councillors Rose Cheswright and Jane Pitman.

11/045 Date of Next Meetings

The next Parish Council meetings are to be held on:

Thursday 19 APR 2012 @ 19:30 in Brent Pelham Village Hall

Thursday 5 JUL 2012 @ 19:30 in Meesden Parish Rooms