

**MINUTE OF
BRENT PELHAM & MEESDEN PARISH COUNCIL
THURSDAY 21 JULY 2011
VENUE: MEESDEN PARISH ROOMS**

INCLUDED:

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

Also present:

District Councillor Cheswright and one member of the public (Geoff Tansley) were also present at the meeting

Minute Action

11/013 Apologies for Absence

Mr Gordon Livings

11/014 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meetings of 14 APR 2011 and 12 MAY 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. Minutes have been posted on the pelhams.net website for the general public.

11/015 Matters Arising

Posting of fault reporting line details in the Newsletter is outstanding. Clerk

11/016 Planning (Applications)

6 The Causeway

The larger of the two plans submitted for the extension to this property has been rejected, whilst the smaller development has been approved

Pump Hill Cottage
Re-thatch roof reinstating flush ridge

This is the first application that has been distributed by electronic circulation and response provided by e-mail. No objections have been raised for the application

11/017 Highways

Carriageway problems continue to exist at Kennels Hill and Violets Lane, together with the need for gully jetting at Alma Cottage. The Chairman is to write to Raj Goutam requesting action. Chairman

11/018 Finance

Accounts – The Clerk presented the accounts to the council for the year to date. These showed a current account balance of £213.20 and a reserve account balance of £546.25.

Audit Submission – Has been despatched to the auditors, BDO

Proposals for Payment – The Clerk presented the following demands on the councils remaining funds. These include:

Ordnance Survey	The sum of £65.70 has been invoiced for the license to reproduce Ordnance Survey/Land Registry plans. In light of the on-going issues regarding the boundary of Meesden Green, renewal of the license is justified.
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The Chairman proposed that the proposal for payment be adopted. This motion was seconded by Mr Dimsdale and passed by unanimous vote

Motion Passed
That payments be made for the above item. Clerk

11/019 Meesden Green

Drainage Issues

Mr Williams (6 Elm Cottages) has responded to EHDC (Andrew Stevenson letter), stating that in his opinion the fall of the ditch is in the opposite direction to his property. At the time of this meeting, it was understood that no response to this correspondence had been received.

Discussion revolved around the standard of infill that householders had used on the culvert that formerly existed. Mrs Hinch stated that she had identified a document on Riparian Rights that existed on the internet. This indicates that, unless otherwise clearly indicated the boundary, and thereby responsibilities, for watercourses fell on the middle line.

11/020 Tree Felling in Woodland

The Chairman briefed the meeting on the recent events regarding the recent sale and felling of trees at the plot of land next to Rectory Farm (known in the Cheffins sale brochure as Lot 11 – Amenity Woodland).

This has caused considerable concern in local area due to haste with which the trees have been removed, the decimation of natural environment and concerns regarding the intended use of the cleared area. Residents had been in touch with EHDC Planning Department, Forestry Commission, Enforcement Officers, Woodland Trust and the local press. Officials from a number of these organisations had attended site, and it would appear that restraints on the extent of tree felling without license have been exceeded. A report from the Forestry Commission is awaited. The new property owner has also attempted to mark out a boundary to the property in excess of the plot sold by Cheffins.

Discussions with the person on site, a Mr Khan, have so far failed to elicit a consistent response as to the intended use of the property. There is a suspicion that the new owner wants to use the land to submit a planning application to build a house on the land. Consultation with EHDC planning has established that until such time as an application is submitted, they can take no action.

Clerk and Councillor Wootton-Ramsay to follow up on sources of information that may clarify the boundary of the land.

Clerk/Mrs
Wootton-
Ramsay

11/021 Parish Noticeboards

Councillor Hinch commented on the poor state of the noticeboards in the parish and the repeated posting by commercial and out of parish organisations. It was generally felt that local postings that could be of value to local residents should be allowed remain for a period but non-local/commercial postings would be removed. Councillor Dimsdale will ask Giles Brackley to quote for a new/repair to the existing noticeboard in Meesden which is in a poor state of repair.

Mr Dimsdale

11/022 AOB

Newsletter Posting – The Clerk was asked to submit the date of upcoming meetings in the parish newsletter. Also supply a link to the website for reference to minutes

Clerk

Meeting Agenda – to be posted on Pelhams website

Clerk

Farthings – The Chairman reminded the meeting of the need to take action on the trees on the green fronting Farthings (Meesden) as indicated in the subsidence report produced for the property. A decision on when to take action would be deferred till later in the budgetary year, taking into account other trees that would require attention.

District Councillor Cheswright raised a number of points of interest to the Parish Council:

East Herts Rural Parish Conference – councillors were recommended to attend, if possible, as the conference would be covering issues particularly related to rural councils and offered an opportunity to meet councillors from similar councils. This event takes place on 15-SEP at Datchworth.

Police speed checks – PCSO's are able to do these. The council should approach the local PCSO's if they wish to request a speed check.

Highways – Mrs Cheswright suggested that if the council were unhappy with response/progress, they should invite County Councillor Jane Pitman to examine the state of the roads.

Locality Budget – Mrs Cheswright pointed out that a locality budget existed under the sponsorship of the County Councillor for small items of equipment. It might be possible to apply for funding for the noticeboard replacement. An application form can be found on the County Council website.

LDF Review – It was pointed out that under the LDF, a review of local sites was being undertaken to determine sites that are desirable and undesirable for development.

11/011 Date of Next Meetings

The next Parish Council meetings are to be held on:

Thursday 9 SEP 2011 @ 19:30 in Brent Pelham Village Hall (only to be used if events relating to flooding or tree felling dictate immediate action)

Thursday 13 OCT 2011 @ 19:30 in Brent Pelham Village Hall

Thursday 12 JAN 2012 @ 19:30 in Meesden Parish Rooms