

**MINUTE OF
BRENT PELHAM & MEESDEN PARISH COUNCIL
THURSDAY 13 JANUARY 2011
VENUE: MEESDEN PARISH ROOMS**

INCLUDED:

Mr Trevor Hughes	Chairman
Major Barclay	Councillor (Vice Chair)
Mr W Dimsdale	Councillor
Mrs Sarah Wootton-Ramsay	Councillor
Mrs Kate Hinch	Councillor
Mr C Hamilton	Clerk

Minute

Action

10/051 Apologies for Absence

Mr Livings

10/052 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 30-SEP-2010 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.

10/053 Matters Arising

Details of the East Herts fault reporting website to be included in the Newsletter

Clerk

Core Strategy meeting – Unfortunately the Chairman was unable to attend

10/054 1 Meesden Green

Thomas Day has quoted on erection of the posts. The quote was for £300. Another quote had been obtained from Ben Cannon. This quote was for £40 travel time and £40/hour. It is expected to cost no more than £120 for the work. This quotation was accepted. Major Barclay will supply the posts. Clerk to pace out the boundary to estimate the number required.

Clerk

10/055 Planning (Applications)

The Old Vicarage, BP Garage replacement	Approved by Planning Authority
6 The Causeway, Extension	Rejected by Planning Authority
The Basics of Planning	To be attended by Chairman, two councillors and clerk

10/056 Highways

The Chairman is to contact Raj Goutam, Highways, to organise another walk-around the villages to discuss the state of the roads.

The current state of the carriageways was discussed. Potholes are now prevalent and appalling. Both the Chairman and Mr Crookes have experienced burst tyres as a consequence of the large potholes and put in claims. Anyone suffering similar experiences is recommended to put in claims.

Chairman

10/057 Risk Assessment

The Clerk circulated the risk assessment sheets to the meeting.

10/058 Finance

Accounts – The Clerk presented the accounts to the council for the year to date. These showed a current account balance of £123.57 and a reserve account balance of £555.83.

Precept – Having submitted an estimate of £2,200, the Clerk had received notification of the costs of a contested election in May. This is estimated to be the sum of £481.00. Should the election go uncontested, the estimated cost to be reallocated can only be estimated on the 2007 figures for contested/uncontested of £437/£60.58. As it is not possible to second guess whether a contested election will occur, the Clerk suggested that an increase of £200 would be prudent. If the election is contested, the Clerk estimated that other costs may be deferred to counter the ~£481. Mr Dimsdale proposed that a precept of £2,400 be submitted on behalf of the council. This motion was seconded by Mrs Wootton-Ramsay and passed by unanimous vote.

Motion Passed

That a precept of £2,400 be submitted. The Precept Upon Billing Authority was duly made out in this sum and signed by councillors and Clerk as RFO.

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

Cut of Meesden Green	£120 for hire and delivery of the power
Clerk's expenses	The clerk presented expenses in the sum of £175. This sum was higher than last year due to the large amount of correspondence generated in relation to the incursions on the green and the costs of land registry documents. The Clerk stated that, due to the pressure on remaining funds, he would defer reimbursement until the first precept payment of 2011 was received

Election Costs for
2007

The Clerk stated that East Herts District Council had submitted a bill for £60.58 for election expenses from 2007 that have not previously been billed. This bill had been submitted on immediate payment terms. The Clerk stated that he had been in touch with Jeff Hughes at EHDC (head of Democratic and Legal Support Services) and told him that payment could not be entertained during this financial year, and could only be made after the first precept payment was received. Mr Hughes had written to agree these payment terms.

Donations to
PCC/Village Halls

In view of the limited funds, the Clerk suggested that donations could not be sustained this year. The Clerk was asked to write setting out the position to the treasurers of the PCC's and village halls.

Mr Dimsdale proposed that the proposals be adopted. This motion was seconded by Mrs Wootton-Ramsay and passed by unanimous vote

Motion Passed

That payment for hire of the power scythe and clerk's expenses be approved. Clerk's expense reimbursement to be deferred until new precept received and the EHDC payment be similarly deferred.

Clerk

10/059 AOB

None

10/060 Date of Next Meetings

The next Parish Council meetings are to be held on:

Thursday 14 Apr 2011 @ 19:30 in Brent Pelham Village Hall

Thursday 21 Jul 2011 @ 19:30 in Meesden Parish Rooms

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