

HUGHENDEN PARISH COUNCIL – SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Offices on Tuesday 29th September 2009 commencing at 8pm

UNCONFIRMED

Present: Cllr D L Davies (Chairman) Cllr J E Rogers
Cllr P H Crawshaw Cllr L J Smith
Cllr M E Ewart Cllr J A Whitehouse
Cllr D G Jarman Clerk: Mrs L M Turner
Cllr H L McCarthy Clerical Assistant: Mrs E L Marsden
Cllr A M Konieczny

There were no members of the public present.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Cllr Guy.
2. **Declarations of Members' Interests in Items on the Agenda.**
None.
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 23rd June 2008.**
09S36 – These were **RESOLVED** as a true record of that meeting and signed by the Chairman.
4. **Matters Arising.**
There were no matters arising.
5. **Items regarding Garden of Rest.**
09S37 – Update on routine maintenance. The Clerk informed members that the clearance work at the back of the burial area should be completed by the end of the week. Cllr Davies informed members that the garden of rest was the only graveyard to achieve full marks in this category in the village of the year competition and the Council should be duly pleased. The Clerk confirmed that she had passed on this information to the contractors.
6. **Items regarding Playgrounds.**
09S38 – Report on maintenance issues and safety inspections. The Clerical Assistant informed members that the quarterly inspections had just been done again and these showed that the safety surface at North Dean had failed the inspection. It was **NOTED** that the Village Hall committee will be approached to ensure their views are taken into account. With regard to the slide at Widmer End, Emma informed members that this issue is still with the village hall committee to follow up under a warranty claim.
09S39 – Update on play areas at Great Kingshill. The Clerk informed members of the response to the consultation and the comments received at the Residents Association AGM. She gave information on the proposed slight changes to the orientation of the equipment and it was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to full Council that these amendments be adopted. The Clerk confirmed that WDC have confirmed that planning permission is not required as the work comes under Part 12 of Schedule 2 of the Town & Country Planning (Permitted Development) Order 1995, in the furtherance of a service provided for the benefit of parishioners and it was then **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to full Council not to proceed with a planning application. The Clerk confirmed that she was also asking for professional responses from WDC's Open Spaces Officer and Environmental Services regarding conformation to guidelines with regard to siting. It was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to full Council that the current ball wall and goal post would need to be removed as well as the pile of cut grass. It was further **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to full Council that a staggered fence be put in the entrance to the footpath, in response to safety questions raised in the consultation. The Clerk mentioned a letter from Mr & Mrs Stewart and this was read to the members. It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Clerk acknowledge the letter. Cllr Ewart asked that the Council express its appreciation of the amount of work done by staff in connection with the GK play areas and this was **NOTED**.
09S40 – Consideration of problems with safety surface at Widmer End play area. Cllr Davies and the Clerk gave further information subsequent to a meeting with representatives of the village hall committee. After some discussion it was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to full Council that the Council pay for the seat to be moved and the alterations to the boundary for the cushionfall and the ramp by the entrance gate and the Village Hall Committee would be responsible for the provision of any further ramps that they require.

7. **Items regarding Allotments.**

09S41 – Update on jobs outstanding and report on availability. The Clerk gave information that the waiting lists are coming down but there are people waiting for most of the garden areas. It was **NOTED** that the stones from Primrose Hill would be placed at Windmill Lane and the garden of rest back meadow during the autumn/winter.

09S42 – Notification of results of allotment competition. The Clerk gave details of the winners in the allotment competition and it was **NOTED** that the overall winner, Mr Wilson from the Walters Ash site, would be invited to the October Council meeting to be presented with the allotment cup for the year. It was also **NOTED** that the category for 'Best Overall Newcomer' was won by Mrs Christmas from the Hughenden Valley site. She will also be invited to attend the Council meeting for presentation of the cup. Notices of all winners will be placed at each allotment garden.

09S43 – Problems with dog fouling on allotment areas and request for dog bin at Walters Ash allotments. Cllr Whitehouse informed members of the problems being experienced, particularly at Walters Ash, and the Clerk gave information on the notices being erected in these areas. After some discussion it was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to full Council that a dog bin be placed at the Naphill Common entrance and that more metal notices be obtained for erection in areas where there are similar problems.

09S44 - Consideration of quotation for clearance of plot at Louches Lane allotments. The Clerk gave information on the extent of the work required on this plot and it was **RESOLVED** that she should obtain another quotation to be brought to the next available Council meeting.

8. **Other Matters.**

09S45 – Consideration of producing circular walk leaflets for walks within the Parish. Cllr Whitehouse spoke on this matter and it was **NOTED** that Chilterns AONB and the Chiltern Society have a series of circular walks. The Clerk was asked to obtain further information on legal responsibility and availability of walks already published within the Parish and report back to a future meeting for further consideration.

09S46 – Consideration of responsibility for hardstanding by cricket pavilion at Great Kingshill. This matter was considered in some detail and it was then **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to full Council that the Clerk respond to the Cricket Club informing them that the lease appears to indicate that the responsibility for that area is with Bucks County Council and suggest that they contact them for further information.

09S47 – Consideration of insurance for planting of bulbs within Parish. It was **AGREED** that the Council's insurance does not cover volunteers and **NOTED** that the bulbs were supplied to the wards for the members to allocate/plant and that if the Residents Association were unable to assist in future, other methods must be found. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk obtain sufficient bulbs for the wards to be available at the October Council meeting.

09S48 – Report from Chiltern Woodlands Project on tree management within the Parish. Cllr Davies reported that he and the Clerk had met with John Morris from CWP and surveyed Cockshoot Wood and Little Burnham plantation. The report from John Morris indicated that the management provided in the last two to three years had been correct and he agreed with the current contractor that there should now be some thinning out, in order to protect the integrity of the remaining trees. It was then **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to full Council that he meet with the Parish Council's tree contractor and identify the trees to be removed and it was **NOTED** that he may be able to assist with obtaining grant funding for some of the work required. The fee for this would be at the rate of £40 per hour and could take between 4 to 8 hours. John is also able to prepare a 5 - 10 year plan for both sites at a cost of approximately £500, and it was then **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to full Council that this be done.

09S49 – Vincents meadow – difficulties regarding use of land while sheep are present. The Clerk gave some information on this matter and after some discussion it was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to full Council that a stile be put in by the gate so that this can be used when the gate is locked and a sign be erected to indicate that dogs may go in the meadow as long as they are on a lead, even while the sheep are present.

09S50 – Consideration of work required on fencing at Primrose hill amenity area. Cllr Davies reported that there are some gaps appearing again at Primrose Hill amenity area boundary with the houses on Brackley Road. After some discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk obtain three quotes for this work and bring to a subsequent Council meeting for consideration. It was **NOTED** that all the houses should be written to again to remind them that there is no access to Council land from their properties and that the fencing will be re-instated over the next few months.

9. **Urgent Items by Permission of the Chairman.**

09S51 – Information on grant for climbing wall for use within Parish. The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had been notified that it had been successful in its bid for a grant from the County Council for the youth provision. The grant awarded is the full £1000 and this must be used for the climbing wall. As the cost had been reduced it meant that it could be hired again for two more venues within the Parish, prior to the end of the financial year. To this end it was RESOLVED to **RECOMMEND** to full Council that the wall be booked for Great Kingshill, in the office car park and Naphill Village Hall car park in the February half term, with an emphasis on getting the teenage parishioners to come along and use the facility.

10. **Date of the Next Meeting.**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 15th December 2009.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.57pm.

Signed

Date