

# HUGHENDEN PARISH COUNCIL – SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the **SERVICES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Offices  
on Tuesday 24th June commencing at 8pm

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## UNCONFIRMED

**Present:**

Cllr D L Davies (Chairman)	Cllr L O'Malley
Cllr P H Crawshaw	Cllr J E Rogers
Cllr M E Ewart	Cllr L J Smith
Cllr I N Guy	Cllr J A Whitehouse
Cllr D G Jarman	Clerk: Mrs L M Turner
Cllr A M Konieczny	Clerical Assistant – Mrs E Marsden
Cllr H L McCarthy	

There were no members of the public present.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** None.
2. **Election of Chairman.**  
**08S28** – The Chairman of the Council, Cllr Rogers, took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He then asked for any nominations and Cllr Ewart nominated Cllr Davies to be Chairman of the Services Committee. This was seconded by Cllr McCarthy and there were no other nominations. It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Cllr Davies be Chairman of the Services Committee for the coming year. Cllr Davies then took the Chair and stated that he finds it a pleasure to be Services Chairman although the job can sometimes be arduous. Cllr Rogers stated that the other members were aware of the amount of work undertaken by Cllr Davies and were grateful for it.
3. **Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda.**  
None.
4. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 25th March 2008**  
**08S29** – These minutes were **RESOLVED** as a true record of that meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.
5. **Matters Arising.**  
There were no matters arising.
6. **Items regarding Garden of Rest.**  
**08S30**– Consideration of night time security. Cllr Davies and the Clerk gave information on this matter stating that there had been problems, although they appear to be in abeyance. After some discussion, it was **AGREED** to monitor the situation and bring back to a future meeting, if required.  
**08S31** – Consideration of work required on boundary with Vista Farm. Cllr Davies and the Clerk gave information to members on this matter and it was **NOTED** that the newly planted hedge is now growing well. After some further discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Davies approach the householder to ensure the work required is discussed in detail. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would confirm the boundary responsibility by consideration of the deeds of the property.
7. **Items regarding Playgrounds.**  
**08S32** – Consideration of safety surface maintenance at Naphill play area. The Clerical Assistant advised members of the work required on the surface under the toddler swings and springer. After some discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to full Council that the safety surface be replaced, if possible, at the same time as the new piece of equipment is being installed.  
**08S33** – Consideration of refurbishment of play area at Great Kingshill and re-siting of seat. This item was discussed in some detail, with regard to the provision of new and up-dated play equipment. It was **RESOLVED** to set up a working party consisting of Cllrs Davies, Gould, Jarman, Ewart and Rogers with the Clerk and Clerical Assistant to investigate options. With regard to the re-siting of the seat in the play area, the Clerk and Chairman gave information on this matter and, after some discussion, it was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** not to move the seat and also to let the roadside hedge grow taller.

**08S34** – Update on safety inspections. The Clerical Assistant had provided a report and stated that, in general, the annual RoSPA report showed that the play areas within the Parish are significantly better than last year. The safety and general maintenance aspects were being dealt with and Cllr Davies thanked Emma for her hard work in this regard. The Clerk informed members that the quarterly inspections were proving very useful. The agreement to provide these inspections expires over the summer and its continuation will need to be considered at the full Council meeting in July.

**08S35** – Consideration of difficulties with drainage under swings at Widmer End play area. Emma and the Chairman gave information on this issue and Cllr McCarthy gave some of the history of the problems. After some discussion it was **RESOLVED** that Cllrs Davies and McCarthy with the Clerical Assistant meeting with representatives of the village hall to try and find a solution to the problem. Cllr McCarthy stated that there have been similar problems on Grange Road and BCC Highways may be working on this problem. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would liaise with them to obtain further information.

**08S36** – Consideration of placing bin at North Dean play area. The Clerical Assistant informed members that one of the aspects brought up by the play inspections was the lack of a bin at North Dean. After some discussion, it was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to the village hall to ask if they would like a bin and, if so, to contact WDC to see if one could be provided.

8. **Items regarding Allotments.**

**08S37** – Update on jobs outstanding. The Clerk informed members that only the clearance work on Hughenden Valley and North Dean allotments remain, other than normal ongoing maintenance and this was **NOTED**. Cllr Rogers asked that the post for plot 6 be placed in the correct position at North Dean and Cllr McCarthy asked if the ‘ruts’ could again be filled in at Windmill Lane allotments. He also asked for a permanent sign asking people to shut the gate could be provided and the Clerk informed him that the temporary one had been replaced and a permanent one was ordered. The Chairman mentioned that there have been some difficulties where new plots have been taken from ‘grass’. After some discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to full Council that when a new plot is taken from scratch, the tenant be offered the opportunity for the plot to be rotavated prior to starting the tenancy.

**08S38** – Consideration of date and members to judge allotment competition. It was **AGREED** that the allotment competition judges would be Cllrs Davies, O’Malley, Whitehouse and McCarthy and this would take place on Thursday 24th July 2008, meeting at the office car park at 9am.

**08S39** – Request for extra tap at North Dean allotments. Cllr Rogers gave information on this issue and after some discussion it was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to full Council that a further tap be placed, if possible, in conjunction with the clearance work.

9. **Items for Strategic Plan.**

**08S40** – Update on creation of a Youth Council within the Parish. It was **NOTED** that this issue is being dealt with through the Youth working party and it would therefore not be discussed in this Committee.

10. **Other Matters.**

**08S41** – Widmer fields update. Cllr McCarthy spoke to this matter and informed members that, as the area is now in the Green Belt, it has no development potential, other than for leisure, without buildings. As such the owning company may be open to an approach to purchase the land at a reasonable cost. After a lengthy discussion it was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to full Council that this Council make enquiries with the land owners about its possible sale.

**08S42** – Consideration of costs for replacement barrier at office car park. The Clerk had prepared a report giving costs for replacing the barrier. However, after some discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk investigate costs to renovate and repair the existing barrier and bring this information to the next available full Council meeting.

**08S43** – Consideration of planting flowers in verges within the Parish. Cllr Konieczny spoke on this item, subsequent to a biodiversity meeting, to plant indigenous species in the hedgerows that are not regularly cut around the Parish. There was some discussion and it was **AGREED** that the Clerk would initially contact BCC to investigate the possibilities in this issue.

**08S44** – Chilterns Conservation Board – notes of grants available to celebrate 40th anniversary. The Clerk gave information on the criteria for grants available to Parishes and it was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to full Council that a grant for information notice-boards be investigated for Vincent’s Meadow (replacement) and Cockshoot Wood.

**08S45** – Consideration of clearance work and re-seeding of area at Four Ashes field. Cllr Davies and Cllr McCarthy gave information on this item and it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Davies would meet with a prospective contractor on site to discuss full clearance of the area and re-seeding in the autumn.

**08S46** – Consideration of changing stiles to kissing gates around the Parish by Chiltern Society/BCC. Cllr Davies informed members of the current scheme, which is working well. It was **AGREED** that members would inform the Clerk of any specific stiles recommended to be changed, so that she could approach BCC for them to be replaced.

**08S47** – Suggestions for future projects – Cllr McCarthy asked for the replanting of a number of trees on the wide verges along Brimmers Hill in Widmer End. After some discussion it was **AGREED** that the Clerk would investigate the possibilities with BCC and WDC.

11. **Urgent Matters by Permission of the Chairman.**

**08S48** – The Clerk asked for direction regarding refurbishment of seats within the village hall play areas. It was **RESOLVED** that where these have been pointed out as needing refurbishment on the play inspection report, the Village Hall Committee should be informed and asked to take action.

12. **Date of the Next Meeting.**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 30th September 2008.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.10pm.

Signed .....

Date .....