

PIRTON PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of Pirton Parish Council was held on
Thursday 13th September 2007
at Pirton Village Hall.

Present:

Mrs Diane Bailey
Mr Michael Goddard
Mrs Rosemary Hamilton McLeod
Mrs Margaret Johnson
Mr Rodney Marshall
Mrs Jennifer Smart (Clerk)
Mr James Vaughan
Mrs Pamela Waters (vice-Chairman)

Apologies for Absence:

Mr Steven Kitchener (holiday)
Mr David Saunders (Chairman) (holiday)

Also present:

Mrs McConnellogue – representing Pirton Playgroup

126.07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Mrs Waters signed the Declarations of Interest book recording her interest as a close neighbour in a planning application for 1 Coleman's Close and Mr Goddard recorded his interest as a close neighbour in a planning application for Tudor Cottage.

127.07 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th August 2007 were confirmed and signed, although it should be noted that Mr Kitchiner was going to place some barley straw in the pond, not simply barley.

128.07 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

After being welcomed by the vice-Chairman, Mrs McConnellogue explained that she was attending the meeting to inform the Parish Council of the Playgroup's plans for the future. The Playgroup committee has for some time been searching for alternative premises to the Village Hall due to the large number of children now attending playgroup, and had intended to place a facility such as a Portacabin in the school grounds. However, the head teacher of the school has suggested a joint venture between school and playgroup to construct a permanent building to provide every aspect of pre-school education for children aged between three and five. As this would fulfil a Government pledge, it is likely that funding will be available. The new facility would be part of mainstream education and would, it is anticipated, incorporate lunch clubs and after school activities.

129.07 OUTSTANDING ITEMS

Coleman's Close – Section 106

The clerk reported that there has at last been some progress towards the handover of Middle Green to the Parish Council. Hertfordshire Highways have now formally adopted Coleman's Close, which should enable the Parish Council's Solicitor to complete the handover.

Grants

The clerk had received a letter from NHDC inviting applications for funding for grants to support innovative play ideas. After discussion, the clerk was asked to find out whether the re-marking of the MUGA would be considered suitable for such a grant, and also to obtain quotes for the re-marking for as many different sports as possible.

Parish Amenity Capital Improvement Fund

Nothing new to report

Grant Funding Awards – 2007/8

Nothing to report

130.07 FINANCE

Bank accounts as at 10th September 2007:

Business Premium Account	£15,822.93
Community Account	<u>£1,533.62</u>
	£17,356.55
Contingency Account	<u>£10,536.18</u>
	£27,892.73

Monies received since last meeting:

Donation from Village Hall	£5,485.30
Recovered VAT	£899.59

It was proposed by Mr Goddard and seconded by Mrs Johnson that payments totalling **£1,287.16** as detailed on the monthly Finance Statement be made in full.

131.07 REQUESTS FOR FUNDING

There were no requests for funding.

132.07 VILLAGE OF YEAR PRIZE

As Mr Kitchiner was not at the meeting, it was not known whether any quotes had been received for improved lighting outside the Village Hall.

The Parish Council had been contacted by CPRE, who asked Councillors to select the type of tree they would like as their prize, which should be planted on the 27th October, and also offered a free Oak tree. It was suggested and agreed that the advice of Mr Kitchiner, the Tree Warden, would be sought, although it was thought that Middle Green might be a suitable place to plant the trees.

133.07 BANKING

The clerk reported that when Barclays had been informed that the Parish Council was planning to move its business from Barclays in order to be able to have a larger

number of signatories, Barclays had stated that they would allow five signatories to the account without imposing bank charges. After discussion, it was agreed to leave the account with Barclays for the time being to see if five signatories would prove sufficient. After further discussion, it was agreed that Mrs Bailey and Mr Marshall would be the two new signatories.

134.07 **PLANNING**

Applications

1 Coleman's Close – 07/01831/1HH

Full Permission Householder : Two rear dormer windows to facilitate conversion of loft to provide additional bedroom

The majority of Councillors objected to this application as they felt the planned dormer windows were too large, and as they would be set very high in the roof, they would dominate nearby houses.

Tudor Cottage, Great Green – 07/01702/1HH

Full Permission Householder : Replacement detached garage/workshop/store following demolition of existing

The majority of Councillors also objected to this application, as they believed the planned garage was of excessive height and would appear very intrusive as well as blocking light from the neighbouring property.

5 St Mary's Close – 07/01975/1TPO

Removal of Leyland Cypress tree

Decisions

Tithe Barn, Rectory Manor, Shillington Road – 07/01412/1

Full Planning Permission : Change of use from B1 to the storage, repair and sale of architectural salvage and antiques – withdrawn

35 Royal Oak Lane – 07/01356/1HH

Full Permission Householder : Front dormer window – conditional permission

35 Royal Oak Lane - 07/01358/1HH

Full Permission Householder : Single storey rear extension. Rear dormer window – conditional permission

135.07 **HIGHWAYS**

Land leading to St Mary's Church – nothing new to report

The broken street signs and low Give Way sign in Royal Oak Lane had not yet been replaced, and the clerk had still not received a response to the suggestion of parking bays in Crabtree Lane.

136.07 **INSURANCE**

The clerk was still waiting to hear from the Allianz Cornhill whether the claim for the cricket nets would be met.

Councillors were extremely concerned to hear that the clerk had still not received a reply from the organisers of the Bonfire Night and Firework Display to letters sent to them concerning insurance for that event. A further letter would be sent explaining that although the Parish Council would be happy to help by allowing its insurance to cover the event, it could only do so if the organisers were an official sub-committee of the Parish Council, and that all the requirements of the Allianz Cornhill had to be met and had to be seen to be met. The clerk was asked to point out that if no adequate insurance cover was in place, the Parish Council, as owners of the Recreation Ground, would not be able to give its consent to the event taking place there.

137.07 TENDERS FOR WORK IN THE VILLAGE

The clerk had circulated a draft letter to be sent to various contractors for grass cutting in the village, and maintenance work in the Recreation Ground. The clerk was asked to send the letters out, after making a few minor alterations.

138.07 POSSIBLE CREATION OF PARISH PLAN

Not all Councillors had seen the completed Plans from various other Parishes, supplied by Mr Dzapata, but those who had had found them interesting and it was agreed that this subject should be one of the items discussed at the Councillors' meeting on the 18th October.

139.07 GENERAL PARISH MATTERS

Dog Waste Bins – it was reported that the bin on the Recreation Ground often overflows, but it was not known whether this is because the contractors have missed emptying it sometimes or because one bin is not enough. The clerk was asked to find out how often the bins are emptied and for confirmation that they are all emptied every time they should be. It was suggested and agreed that the provision of a further one or two bins be considered at the budget meeting in November.

Postcards – Mr Goddard reported that he had now received permission from the owners of all the houses to be featured on the new cards to use the photographs. 250 cards each of the four different houses would cost £169, and the owners of one of the houses would like to buy 100 of the cards featuring their house for £50. It was proposed by Mr Vaughan, seconded by Mrs Johnson and unanimously agreed that Mr Goddard should place the order for the cards.

Tithe Barn – As the clerk has still not heard from the Conservation Officer, it was suggested that Mrs Strong be contacted for any help and advice she could give.

Maypole – the Pumpkin Club had asked whether the Parish Council's Public Liability insurance could cover use of the Maypole. However, the Allianz Cornhill had made it absolutely clear that the only activities that they would insure were those for which the Parish Council was solely responsible, and the members of the Pumpkin Club wished to manage Maypole events themselves. Councillors do not feel they can allow the Maypole to be sited on their land without adequate Public Liability insurance in force.

Church clock – it was agreed that a three year contract might well be worth entering into, although the clerk was asked to re-examine the figures. However, electrification of the winding mechanism does not seem to be worth carrying out, as

it would be very expensive and as Mr Newbery is prepared to carry on winding the clock, and knows of someone who would be willing to take over from him if necessary.

Middle Green bench – it was reported that the installation of the new bench would be completed very soon.

Waste and Recycling Briefing – the clerk reported that the Village Hall had been booked for this briefing on the 20th September.

140.07 **CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence requiring discussion had been received during the previous month.

141.07 **REPORTS**

Recreation Ground and Sports & Social Club

It had been noticed that several piles of soil waste had been dumped behind the Clubhouse. It was thought that the soil had come from pond clearance work at the Old Vicarage, and Councillors were concerned that the nearby ditch was now blocked. The clerk was asked to write to the new owners to ask them to ensure that the piles of soil are removed.

The clerk was also asked to obtain quotes for the re-marking of the MUGA for other sports as well as tennis.

Access road

The clerk was still awaiting a reply from the Property Officer at the Legal and Democratic Services Department of NHDC.

Play Area

Quotes are being obtained for replacement metal gates.

Bury Trust

A meeting was planned for Sunday 23rd September on the Bury.

142.07 **VILLAGE UPDATES**

Environment - North Herts Landfill

No report as Mr Kitchiner was not present.

Pirton School

Mrs Waters had resigned as School Governor and in future Mrs Johnson would report to the Parish Council on matters concerning the school.

Village Hall

The management committee are bringing out a brochure advertising the Village Hall, which they hope to print and distribute in the near future.

Youth Matters

Since the July meeting of the Parish Council when the running of the Youth Club was discussed, Councillors have been informed that they were mistaken in thinking that the leaders do not have CRB checks, and have been assured that both the Youth Club leaders do in fact have current appropriate CRB checks. It was reported

that more volunteers are needed to help run the club if it is to continue, and that the Parish Council would place a notice in the next Parish Magazine to that effect.

Parish Paths Partnership

A meeting has been arranged for the 27th September, with a representative from CMS as well as a number of volunteers. It is hoped that funding for future projects will be discussed and a working party organised to install the plaques to display the Village Footpath Map and Guide.

Tree Warden and PEAP

It was proposed by Mr Kitchener, seconded by Mrs Bailey and resolved that PEAP become an official sub-committee of the Parish Council, and that they be given the power to spend money up to the limit of their designated budget. The current members of the PEAP sub-committee are Diane Bailey (Chairman), Rob Shaw (Secretary), Sophia Braybrooke, Doug Crawley, Steve Kitchiner, John Lauder, Tony and Jenny Smart, Rob Smith, Peter Williams,

Neighbourhood Watch

There have been three reported incidents over the last month.

Rands Trust

Mr Goddard mentioned that the information in the recent Parish Magazine had not been entirely correct, but that applications for grants from suitable applicants are welcome.

143.07 ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION

Blue Circulation Box:-

LCR – Journal of the National Association of Local Councils - September

Clerks and Councils Direct - September

Yearbook and Fieldwork from CPRE - September

Hertfordshire Highways Information Bulletin – August

Crime Figures - August and July

PSSC meeting minutes – 11 June

Email from CPRE – 5 September

Email from Planning re 35 Royal Oak Lane

2006/7 Annual Review of Chilterns Conservation Board

Chiltern News – September

The Clerk – September

NHDC Members' Information – weeks ending 10, 17, 24, 31 August

and 7 September

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Council Meeting will be on **Thursday October 11th 2007**
at 7.45pm in the Village Hall.