

CHEPPING WYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

AMENITY LAND COMMITTEE

AGENDA

TUESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2009

The meeting will commence at 7.30 pm at the Council Office, Cock Lane, Tylers Green, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, HP10 8DS

Committee Members (2008/09):

Ms K Wood (Chairman)
R Smith (Vice Chairman)
Ms E Belcher
Mrs J Chalmers
Mrs S Digby
I Forbes

Ms J Johnson
C Jordan
M Wilkes
L Willis
M Smith (ex-officio)
D Johncock (ex-officio)

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1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** At the time of the agenda distribution, apologies for absence have been received from I Forbes.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** To receive any declarations of interest by Members pertaining to Agenda Items.
3. **TYLERS GREEN COMMON (agenda pages 2-3)**
4. **KINGSWOOD (agenda pages 4-5)**
5. **GREENS (agenda page 6)**
6. **COMMITTEE BUDGETS (agenda page 7)**
7. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT (agenda page 8)**
8. **DELEGATED ACTION (agenda page 9)**



H R O Jones
Clerk of the Council
28 January 2009

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TYLERS GREEN COMMON

The Council owns this land, which is registered as Village Green and lies within a Conservation Area.

Joint meeting: Chepping Wycombe and Penn Parish Councils – CONSIDERATION

A copy of the notes following the Joint Chepping Wycombe and Penn Parish Council meeting of 25 January 2009 prepared by J Herschel are attached (**APPENDIX A**).

With reference to the comments in the report on the base plinth for the Betty Lay commemorative bench at Widmer Pond, Members are reminded that the Committee has already reached a decision on this matter; namely for a contractor approved by the Council to install the bench along the specifications provided by the Chairman of Council:

- x1 ton of $\frac{3}{4}$ ballast
- x10 (25kg) bags of Portland Cement
- x9 (3') square top path edges
- x4 (25 kg) bags of "Pea Shingle"
- x4 Litres of PVA

Cost: £153.00 (materials cost from Jewsons)

Members are asked to receive the notes following the Joint Chepping Wycombe and Penn Parish Council meeting of 25 January 2009 and to comment on any of the issues contained therein.

Commemorative Trees Update – CONSIDERATION

Members are reminded that on 20 January 2009, Council received representations from a representative of the Special Trees Project and a written request from Hazlemere British Legion to reconsider its decision to retain the oak tree (Tree 10) as part of the Commemorative Trees project on Tylers Green Common.

For ease of reference, a copy of the letter dated 17 December 2008 from Hazlemere British Legion is attached (**APPENDIX B**).

Council agreed that the issue should, as previously recommended by the Committee, be referred to the Amenity Land Committee meeting on 3 February 2009.

Members were also encouraged to take the opportunity of inspecting the tree in question once more following the scrub clearance work having been completed by the 'Community Payback' Probation Service.

It is understood that if the Committee was minded to accept the wishes of the Legion, the cost of the work and replacement with a Lime Tree would be met entirely by the Penn and Tylers Green Residents' Society and/or Hazlemere British Legion.

In addition, it is further understood that by way of compensation, a provisional offer has been made by these bodies to make a log bench from the felled oak and to fund the planting of an oak plantation to commemorate those local servicemen who fell in World War II.

Members are asked to consider any further representations from representatives of the Special Trees Project on whether to retain the Oak Tree (Tree 10) and to advise on a course of action accordingly.

Widmer Pond: Fish 'Health Check'/Removal - INFORMATION

Following a positive "health check" on 7 November 2008, all the Widmer Pond fish were successfully removed by a specialist firm accredited by DEFRA on 21 January 2009. The operation was slightly delayed due to ice on the pond earlier in the year.

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KINGSWOOD

The Council owns this woodland. The land is maintained in conjunction with the Council's Forestry Consultants, Tilhill.

Friends of Kingswood - CONSIDERATION

A copy of the report following the meeting of the Friends of Kingswood Group of 19 November 2008 prepared by I Forbes is attached (APPENDIX C).

Members are asked to receive the notes following the Friends of Kingswood Group of 19 November 2008 and to comment on any of the issues contained therein.

Orienteering Course: volunteer maintenance and improvement work - CONSIDERATION

The Council has received an offer from orienteer users of Kingswood to undertake maintenance and improvement works to the orienteering course as detailed in the following extract from A Jones' e:mail of 13 December 2008:

"I have now been round all the posts. They are all in reasonable condition, except that they are all covered in a green lichen-like stuff. I would be very happy to go round and give them a clean, but I am not sure what with. Please could you ask your forestry people what they recommend to remove it. And it's a job which will probably wait until some warmer weather! The posts could also do with a spot of black paint, to make the writing on them clearer – again, I am happy to take that forward in the Spring.

A couple of other issues:

- Control 1 is in the car park adjacent to your building. Unfortunately a recycling bin is now immediately in front of it, so it is not quite as obvious as it might be, which is unfortunate as it is the first control that people will tackle. I am not sure how the posts were fixed, and therefore how easy it would be to move it, but it would be better if it was immediately adjacent to the path entrance rather than behind the recycling bin. Is there any chance that your council people could move it?*
- Control 27 is now no longer on a path crossing, as the paths have disappeared! There is a small depression nearby, so again would it be possible to move it? If not, as the control is next to a holly bush (unfortunately not shown on the map, but I could always add a green blob) then we change the description accordingly – not an*

ideal solution though because I would feel obliged to add quite a few green blobs in that area to mark all such thickets in the area.

I will then take forward production of a supply of new maps and other bits and pieces."

Members are asked to consider the request from A Jones regarding the orienteering course in Kingswood and to advise accordingly.

AGENDA ITEM 5

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Orchard Green: In 1960 an area on the fringe of the newly constructed Orchard Estate became derelict and untidy. The developer had wanted to build on it but the ownership then passed to a building company who subsequently went into liquidation. The upkeep and responsibility was, therefore, assumed by the Council.

Headley Green: In 1993 the Council leased land beside Knaves Beech Way in the dip beside the road leading from the motorway roundabout in Loudwater. This land was assigned in 1998 to the Parish. In 2001 the responsibility for maintenance of the roadside bank and the land at the end of Berkley Road became the responsibility of the Parish; this made one parcel of land.

The Council owns and manages these Green sites.

GREENS

Orchard Green, Flackwell Heath - CONSIDERATION

The Works, Services and Planning Committee Chairman organised a Public meeting on Saturday 10 January 2009 at Orchard attended also by Flackwell Heath Members.

It has been reported that the consensus view of those Members of the Public who attended the meeting was that no barriers should be installed on site and that two trees should be removed; one tree which was dead and another that was overshadowed.

Members are asked to receive a verbal update report following the meeting and to comment on any future proposed actions, as appropriate.

Headley Green, Loudwater - CONSIDERATION

The Works, Services and Planning Committee Chairman has now proposed a meeting on Saturday 7 February 2009 between 10am and 11 am to encourage local residents to comment on and influence the work that the Council plans to undertake at Hedley Green and the immediate area.

The suggested work is for a supervised group from the Community Payback scheme to clear its boundaries and the paths that lead up onto Knaves Beech Way.

Members are asked to comment on the proposal to hold a public meeting at Hedley Green to ascertain the views of the local community on the maintenance and development of this Amenity Area.

AGENDA ITEM 6

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COMMITTEE BUDGETS

Attached are:

- The finance detailed report (**APPENDIX D**)
- Projected variances from budget 2008/09 (**APPENDIX E**)
- Budget summary sheet (**APPENDIX F**)

The Budget Reports show:

- The 2007/08 budget, actual income and expenditure;
- The 2008/09 actual income and expenditure figures are correct to the end of December 2008. The annual projected is an estimate of income and expenditure for 2008/09 to 31 March 2008; and
- The 2009/10 budget.

2008/09 Budget

	Budget	Projection @ 31/3/09
Expenditure	47,044	48,085
Income	11,936	11,072
Net	35,108	37,013

The projected expenditure for 2008/09 is £1,905 over budget. The variances are set on the variance spreadsheet.

2009/10 Budget

The Budget as set at the Council meeting on 20 January 2009 is:

	2008/09	2009/10
Expenditure	47,044	41,342
Income	11,936	2,137
Net	35,108	39,205

When comparing the 2009/10 Budget and the 2008/09 budget it can be seen there is a difference of £4,097. This is mainly due to the exceptional expenditure and income in each year's Budget.

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ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Approval of Accounts for Payment - CONSIDERATION

The Accounts for Payment are to be circulated at the meeting for the approval of Members.

Members are reminded to declare any personal or personal and-prejudicial interests in any items submitted for payment.

Members of the Press and Public are asked to be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of any Confidential Payments, such as payments to members of the Council Staff.

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DELEGATED ACTION

Delegated Action - INFORMATION

Since the last meeting of Amenity Land Committee the Clerk has authorised and processed the following permits:

- For erection of Christmas Tree from (12 December 2008 – 4 January 2009) and Carol Concert event (22 December 2008) on Tylers Green Front Common to Penn and Tylers Green Residents' Society (17/11/08); and
- For lunch time cross country running club (28 November 2008 – 17 July 2009) to Tylers Green Middle School (27/11/08).

Since the last meeting of Amenity Land Committee the Committee Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk have authorised the following action under delegated powers:

- **AGREED:** Rescind Committee decision of 18 November 2008 for Council Ground Team to undertake work to install Betty Lay Commemorative Bench on Tylers Green Common.

The decision was taken for staff workload reasons.

It was, therefore, agreed that the work would be undertaken by a suitable contractor.