

PIRTON PARISH COUNCIL

The **Annual Parish Meeting** of
Pirton Parish Council was held on
Thursday 8th May 2008 at Pirton Village Hall.

Present:

Mrs D Bailey
Mrs R Hamilton McLeod
Mrs M Johnson
Mr S Kitchiner
Mr R Marshall
Mr D Saunders (Chairman)
Mr J Vaughan
Mrs P Waters (vice-Chairman)
Mrs J Smart (Clerk)

Also Present:

Mr G Halsey
PC Matt Jenkins
Mr O Lister
Mrs S Pritchard-Barrett
Mrs C Strong (District Councillor)
Mr J Wilde
PCSO N Williams

Apologies for absence:

Mr N Brook (County Councillor)
Mr M Goddard

MINUTES OF THE 2007 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

These were agreed to be a true record and were duly signed.

CHAIRMANS REPORT

Chairman Mr D Saunders had prepared a report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs J Smart, Responsible Financial Officer to the Parish Council, had prepared and circulated a report relating to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2008, which is attached to these minutes, together with a copy of the Income and Expenditure account.

POLICE REPORT

PC Jenkins had hoped to be able to report a year free of domestic burglary in Pirton, and was disappointed that two had been reported that very day. Between 1st April 2007 and 31st March 2008, there had been 38 recorded crimes in Pirton, as against 50 the previous year, which represents a reduction of 25% and is a significant drop, in line with the downward trend in Hertfordshire, where there had been a dramatic drop in criminal damage and violent crime. St Mary's Church had been a frequent target for vandalism and the whole village had been affected by the theft of BT Exchange cables

on two occasions. In an effort to prevent such thefts, BT were installing padlocked metal casings over the manhole covers. Thefts from barns and sheds had also been very common over the last year. There had been 9509 crimes in the whole of North Hertfordshire, and crime in Pirton remains at a low level. PC Jenkins again stressed the importance of residents reporting every crime to the Police, and for witnesses to be prepared to speak out and identify offenders.

Mr Saunders thanked PC Jenkins and PCSO Williams for attending the meeting before they left.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Mrs Strong gave apologies for absence from her fellow Ward Councillors Miller and Barnard, reminding the Parish Council that all three of them now represent the combined Hitchwood, Offa and Hoo Ward, and that in future there would be elections for District Council every year. Mrs Strong would again be in the Cabinet with the portfolio of Policy and Green matters. Mrs Strong then gave her report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN OF NEW CLUBHOUSE COMMITTEE

Mr Lister reported that he and the rest of the committee had spent time over the last 15 months looking for grants, and had had to modify their aspirations as most funding is football related, but restricted by the number of pitches, while other grants would not be as large as had been hoped. Quotes had been sought from three architects and the Committee expected to apply for Planning Permission shortly to add changing rooms and to improve the bar area. The Parish Council fighting fund would be used towards those costs, and funding from Biffa would be used towards a feasibility study. Progress has been slow as the committee had unfortunately been without two of the committee members for some considerable time. It was thought likely that two new changing rooms would be added to the existing ones, with showers, toilets and facilities for referees. Mr Lister was asked if it would be possible to make further additions later, and replied that it would, so money spent now would not be wasted. The cost of this work was expected to be about £250,000. Mr Lister was asked what was likely to be the impact on activities at the Recreation Ground, and replied that there would be some, but less than if the Clubhouse were demolished and replaced.



PIRTON PARISH COUNCIL

Financial Statement – April 2007 to March 2008

An income and Expenditure Account for the 2007/2008 financial year is attached. Amounts in some of the headings are broken down in detail on the reverse and represent the day-to-day running costs of the Council, including village maintenance and ongoing responsibilities.

Towards the end of each year the Council holds a Budget Meeting to review the following year's finances. The Council keeps a close check on expenditure at its monthly meetings and controls the budget carefully. In November of 2006, the Parish Council agreed an increase of 3% in its precept for the year 2007 to 2008, which would enable grants to be made to various local organisations who had requested financial assistance, as well as allowing money to be added to a 'fighting fund' towards the replacement of the sports pavilion and to cover the increased costs of village maintenance. This year, the Parish Council was pleased to be able to make grants to the Youth Club, Joycare, the Church, both for grass-cutting and the Upper Room Project, to the Brownie and Rainbow Packs, the Toddler Group and the History Group.

Unfortunately, the Parish Council's grant application for funding towards the cost of the Street Cleaner's wages was not successful. Other Parishes in the area were also refused grants for this purpose, as NHDC now consider street cleansing to be covered by their contractors. Pirton was again successful in the Village of the Year competition, this year in the Environment Section, winning £100 which will be put towards improved lighting outside the Village Hall.

An unforeseen expense at the end of 2007 and beginning of 2008 was the cost of the Parish Council's opposition to the potential Gypsy Site in Pirton, expense which continues to this date..

PIRTON PARISH COUNCIL - 2007/2008 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	2007/8	2006/7	
Balance b/f		30347	29089
<u>Income</u>			
Precept	23500	22813	
Grants	440	8907	
VAT recovered	2420	2816	
Bank Interest	437	275	
Allotment rental	10	10	
Postcards	50	30	
Orange rent	1874	1875	
Parish Paths grant	1000	0	
Donations	5570	798	
Insurance Claims	0	213	
Sub-committees	1757	83	
		<u>37058</u>	<u>37820</u>
		67405	66909
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Clerk's Salary & Office Expenses (1)	6877	7030	
Chairman's & Councillors' Expenses (2)	276	341	
Bank Charges	93	0	
Repayment of underspend to NHDC	273	0	
Postcard printing	199	0	
Village Maintenance (3)	17098	8725	
Insurance	2806	2637	
Audits	485	347	
Subscriptions and Donations (4)	1143	661	
PWLB - loan on The Bury	693	693	
Opposition to Gypsy Site	881	0	
Projects: Village Hall	0	500	
Neighbourhood Watch	15	15	
PSSC/Recreation Ground (5)	1716	10723	
St Mary's Upper Room	500	500	
St Mary's grasscutting	850	850	
Youth Club	250	500	
Bench	699	0	
Joycare	500	500	
PSSC Grant/Donation	398	500	
Church Music Centre	0	100	
Brownies/Rainbbows	250	450	
Over 60s	0	150	
Pirton Songsters	0	80	
History Group	60	0	
Pirton Toddler Group	150	0	
		<u>36212</u>	<u>35302</u>
BALANCE c/d 2006/07		31193	31607
less outstanding costs b/f 2006/07			
b/f 2006/7	3557	5455	
Parish Paths	875	1115	
PEAP	176	83	
Projects	1201	1950	
Clerk's gratuity	1045	0	
Pavilion Replacement	1400	0	
Summer Fair sub-com	1200	0	
	9454	8603	
		<u>21739</u>	<u>23004</u>
less Reserve Accounts		10662	9879
Working Capital		11077	13125