

5. Open Forum

The following points were raised by members of the public:

Correspondence – interesting for public to see this.

Clerk to produce extra copies.

Clerk

Neighbourhood Watch – good to see this as an Agenda item. A NW representative at January's meeting would be beneficial. The potential advantage of CCTV at the school was raised.

Cllr Brookhouse gave an update on local crimes, highlighting that it is difficult to raise awareness without scaremongering. The signs and stickers originally erected in the village are still in place. Northants Police would stress we live in a relatively crime-free area and that resources need to be moved into Brackley and Northampton. Cllr Spendlove commented on the feelings of victims and highlighted the benefits of getting to know your neighbours, especially the elderly who are most vulnerable.

Recycling Site – is the Environment Agency aware of Parish Councils concerns? Public would be grateful if they were. Transport movements are causing rutting.

Cllr Burns informed the public that he and Cllr Brookhouse had visited the site after a complaint was received regarding the smell. There is an email contact on the message board of the website to allow the public to correspond with the site owners. A planning application regarding expansion is likely to be submitted in the near future; Cllr Burns will call a full public meeting at that time. Cllr Brookhouse commented that the application would go through the NCC rather than SNC and that the County Councillor has invited the Planning Committee to visit two sites where similar operations are already in place.

Cllr Watson – welcomed by the public.

Amenity Consultation – was the recent meeting a necessary expense, given a questionnaire was carried out two years ago?

Cllr Moody confirmed the cost as approx £15; no Council funding had been made for the Parish Plan.

Strimmer purchase – is this a necessary expense?

Cllr Moody confirmed all points would be covered later in the meeting.

Precept for next financial year – will it be lower due to savings made this year?

Cllr Burns confirmed the full budget proposal would be made at the next Council Meeting in January.

Water leak opposite Anglian Water Plant – ongoing issue.

Clerk to write to Anglian Water requesting a completion date for the job.

Clerk

6. Finance

a) To receive the financial statement

Cash & Investments	
Current Account (in transit between Yorkshire Bank and Co-op)	13358.89
To Be Presented	14.38
Deposit Account (Yorkshire)	8,222.94

Nottingham Bond	500.00
Total	22096.21

b) Annual Return 2005/6

Clerk confirmed final documentation from BDO Stoy Hayward had been received. The Notice of the Conclusion of Audit had been duly displayed. Cllr Earl proposed, seconded by Cllr England, that the Annual Return be approved and accepted by the Council. All in favour. The content of the Issues Arising Report was noted by the Council. Cllr Earl proposed, seconded by Cllr England that as the report contained points identical to those in the Internal Auditor's Report (from which the Finance Committee had already drawn up an action plan – point 2 of Minutes of Finance Meeting held on 2nd August 2006), no further action was necessary. All in favour.

c) Bills for Payment

Accounts Payable		Cheque
Reading Room – premises hire	48.00	500001
BDO Stoy Hayward – Annual Return audit	141.00	500002
C & E Grass Cutting (final invoice)	261.00	500003
Clerk's Wages (Sept and October)	337.38	500004
Clerk's expenses	3.78	500004
Total	791.16	

Clerk queried whether the tender period for the grass cutting (currently April to September) should be extended. Cllr Earl proposed, seconded by Cllr Burns that the cutting period be extended by one calendar month to include October. Tenders to be sought ready for the January meeting.

Clerk

d) Payments Received

Accounts Received	
Dividend – Nottingham Bond	9.38
Allotment key deposit – receipt no A/001 Mr and Mrs Bradford	5.00
Total	14.38

e) Report on New Bank Account

The Clerk confirmed that the Yorkshire current account has been closed, the Coop account opened and that the monies are in transition between the two accounts.

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| f) | <p>Action regarding Yorkshire deposit account
Cllr Moody proposed, seconded by Cllr Earl, that we move all deposit funds from the Yorkshire into our new Coop account, giving Council the option to open further deposit accounts in the future. All in favour.</p> | |
| g) | <p>VoY prize money
Various suggestions were mooted; it was decided to carry forward this item to January's agenda.</p> <p>Cllr Bearman proposed, seconded by Cllr Earl, that Council accept the financial statement as a whole as a true and accurate record. All in favour.</p> | Clerk |
| 7. | <p>Correspondence</p> <p>Listed separately: Appendix A.</p> <p>Cllr Moody commented on the poor scheduling timing (4 – 8pm) of the forthcoming Local Govt White Paper Conference and enquired if anyone was able to attend. There is a possibility of Cllr Burns being able to.</p> | |
| 8. | <p>Brackley/Towcester Parking Consultation</p> <p>Council reviewed the information and noted the contents were rather vague. Cllr Spendlove proposed, seconded by Cllr Earl, that Clerk respond with a general letter of support general the continuation of free parking in the town as it is vital both to shoppers and for small businesses. 5 in favour, 2 abstained.</p> | Clerk |
| 9. | <p>Proposed Tree Preservation Order – Church Street</p> <p><i>Cllrs Moody and Bearman declared an interest in the proposal.</i></p> <p>Clerk noted that a petition signed by 77 people in support of the TPO had been received from Jane Keys. Cllr Brookhouse felt there was no need for action as there were planning approval constrictions on the development which had been applied after the contractors had started work. Cllr Spendlove commented that a TPO conveyed an expression of public attitude towards the trees and proposed Council support the application. Cllr Moody seconded the proposal. 3 votes in favour and 2 against, 2 abstentions – proposal carried.</p> | Clerk |
| 10. | <p>Update from PPMG on Village Amenity Consultation</p> <p>Cllr Moody updated Council on the well-attended consultation meeting and confirmed that the report would be submitted to the Sports Club in January in time for the meeting with SNC. He emphasised the importance of having an impartial co-ordinator for the scheme and confirmed to Cllr Brookhouse that the Group's involvement with the project would cease with the submission of the report.</p> | |
| 11. | <p>Proposal to purchase a strimmer for the Parish</p> <p>Cllr Moody outlined the potential usefulness to Parish Groups of a strimmer which he had proposed the Council could purchase on the understanding that a donation for the net cost be received from HYHO. However, after advice from Cllr Earl regarding potential onerous Health and Safety issues, the proposal was withdrawn.</p> | |
| 12 | <p>Feedback from Training Courses</p> | |

<p>a)</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>a)</p> <p>b)</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p>	<p>Code of Conduct- attendee Cllr Moody Cllr Moody emphasised how beneficial he felt the course had been and highlighted the following key areas which need to be borne in mind constantly by Councillors: <i>Register of interests</i> – must contain home address (regardless of ownership), membership of all organisations and village groups. <i>Declaring interests</i>- must be properly recorded in the Minutes, difference between personal and prejudicial was clarified. <i>“Councillors at all times”</i> – need to bear this in mind in potentially informal situations, ensuring that it is made clear whether you are responding in a personal capacity or not.</p> <p>Cllr Moody highlighted two forthcoming changes: The removal of the “whistleblower” clause Prejudicial interest – Councillors will be permitted to remain in the room to make representations and must then withdraw.</p> <p>Clerk’s Surgery – attendee Clerk Clerk commented that she felt the course had been beneficial but as it was only an evening session, only key points had been discussed.</p> <p>Update on Recycling Site No further update – all comments made under 5.Open Forum.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Watch No further update – all comments made under 5.Open Forum.</p> <p>School Playground Update</p> <p>Lease Agreement Clerk read out the letter sent to Philip Brawn regarding Heads of Terms; unfortunately no lease agreement had yet been received so no further considerations were possible. Clerk to carry forward to next meeting’s Agenda.</p> <p>Outstanding Repairs/Improvements Cllr Bearman, seconded by Cllr Earl, proposed that all repair classed as “medium” risk in the RoPSA report be carried out. All in favour.</p> <p>Land Registry – Jenner’s Piece Clerk informed the meeting that she was collecting evidence to submit to a solicitor in order for a statutory declaration to be formulated.</p> <p>Planning Applications S/2006/1194/P - Station House, Station Road, Helmdon - Two storey extension to rear - Supported <i>(All Councillors at the planning meeting had declared a personal interest in this application)</i> S/2006/1297/P - Land at Church Street Helmdon - Detached dwelling alteration to application S/2004/520/P - Design & Access statement - no objections but the following comments: The council are concerned with regard to the number of springs on the site. These springs supply a number of ponds on adjacent land and we would like to bring to the authority attention that the quality and volume of water is maintained to the satisfaction of the environment agency. The materials used in building the development be of stone or type to fit in with the surrounding area. S/2006/1296/PR Two detached dwellings (details pursuant to S/2004/1246/PO) Land Off Church Street – no objections but comments identical to those above regarding springs and materials.</p>	<p>All Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
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18 Allotments Update

- a) Cllr Watson volunteered to become a member of the allotments committee. Clerk to forward details of the paperwork and her recent communications to Cllr Watson. Allotments Committee to consider how to best to run the procedure regarding involvement of the Clerk and report back to the next meeting.

**Clerk
Allmts
Cttee**

Clerk reported that three vacant plots were being taken over; only plots 7 and 7A remain unlet.

19 Risk Assessments

Cllr Earl commented that once new wood for the picnic table arrived, he would replace it. He queried why the inspection of shackebolts was not the responsibility of the RoSPA – Clerk to confirm responsibility.

Clerk

Cllr Bearman proposed, seconded by Cllr Brookhouse, that the content of the risk assessments be accepted by Council. All in favour; Cllr Burns signed off the risk assessments.

20 Parish Paths – Information Board

Cllr Spendlove proposed, seconded by Cllr Moody that the size of the board be A1 rather than A0. All in favour.

Clerk

21 Notice Boards and Benches Update

Clerk reported that Bernie Wadeson anticipated carrying out the work w/c 27/11/06.

22 Litter Bins

Cllr Burns has a spare litter bin which can be utilised. Clerk to contact SNC – Dept of Environment.

Clerk

23 Councillor's Questions

Cllr Moody commented on the length of the meeting due to the amount of subjects to be covered and noted than meeting 9 times per year (monthly excluding Dec, Aug and April) may be beneficial. Cllr Spendlove highlighted the cost implications of implementing this.

Cllr Earl informed the meeting the Poppy Appeal raised £250.35, less than last year. He highlighted the broken barrier at the junction of Gravel Path with Station Road. Clerk volunteered to contact NCC Highways Dept.

Clerk

The meeting closed at 9:55 p.m.

**The date of the next meeting is
Wednesday 24th January 2007**