

HELMDON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Helmdon Parish Council held on Wednesday 23rd January 2008 in the Reading Room, Church Street, Helmdon at 7:30pm

Present: Councillors Barnes, Burns, Coatsworth, Duncombe, England, Thorne, Turner, Crouch, Stothard
Parish Clerk: Liz Hart

Seven members of the public were present. PCSO Suzanne Bourne and another representative of Brackley Rural Safer Community Team

		Action
1	Apologies None.	
2	Approval and Signature of the Minutes for the Ordinary Meeting held on 28th November 2007 Cllr England proposed, seconded by Cllr Barnes that the minutes of 28 th November be approved. All were in favour and Cllr Burns duly signed the minutes.	
3	Matters Arising from the Minutes of 28th November 2007	
19	Reading Room - Cllr England informed the meeting that Caroline King has been in touch with the Charity Commission; they had confirmed that there is only one scheme and this supersedes any other Schemes. The only reference to the Parish Council is as Custodian Trustees. The search for the Deeds is continuing.	
4	Wicket's Mead Bridge - the Clerk updated the meeting; the electricity company has confirmed that they are satisfied that there is sufficient access to the site should repairs be necessary.	
16	Remedial Work to the Footpath at the bottom of Shortlands Close Cllr Burns had spoken with Groves who showed no inclination to remedy the situation. The Clerk will approach NCC instead	
4	Open Forum Wicket's Mead Bridge – ongoing concerns were raised regarding Eon's access route to the network. Finance – support was voiced for the renewal of the donation to Brackley Cottage Hospital. Quarterly donations were felt to be a good idea. Playground area – Cllr Burns responded to a query regarding why the Council is wishing to lease the whole paying field rather than simply the Playground Area itself; the whole has always been leased by the Parish Council for the general enjoyment of all. The issue of fencing has been put forward for discussion. Permissive footpath - the Footpaths Group have been allowed to clear the permissive path from Jeffs Coachs through to Astwell. It was commented that hopefully the Public will not use the field itself. Flooding Issues – the Clerk informed the meeting that she had been in touch with the Environment Agency and that clearing the debris is the responsibility of the landowners.	

5 Briefing from the Police on the Village Consultation in December 2007

PCSO Suzanne Bourne gave feedback on the consultation which was an open invitation to Helmdon and surrounding villages to allow local issues to be highlighted. Despite leaflet drops and local advertising on websites, attendance had been disappointing with only two attendees from Helmdon and four from other villages. The issues raised were parking, speeding and dog fouling/litter/antisocial behaviour. Parking issues at the Primary School had been raised and other issues had been addressed by the issuing of parking cards as warnings. Regarding speeding, advisory letters had been issued to drivers following sessions with speed guns in Helmdon and Weston. The third issue raised was subject to change. Any issues raised regarding pavements had been entered on to Street Doctor. The police will be attending the Annual Parish Meetings to distribute feedback forms Neighbourhood Watch Alerts – the Clerk requested that she receive these as a request had been made to have them displayed in the notice boards. PSCO Bourne agreed to ask PC Dearsley to follow up and report back to the Clerk an issue with a badger sets and a local hunt which had been reported to the Police. Regarding speed guns, she confirmed that there was a waiting list for those parishes wishing to take part in Community Speedwatch. Cllr Burns thanked the Police for attending the meeting.

Finance

6 a) Financial Statement

Cllr England proposed, seconded by Cllr Stothard that the statement be approved. All in favour.

Cash & Investments	
Current Account (Coop)	20,722.51
Nottingham Bond	500.00
Total	21,222.51

b) Bills for Payment

Cllr England proposed, seconded by Cllr Duncombe that all bills be paid. All in favour

Accounts Payable	NET	VAT	GROSS	Cheque
Eon	94.51	4.73	99.24	500050
Helmdon.com	100.00	0.00	100.00	500051
ABB Lighting	99.18	17.36	166.54	500052
Brackley Cottage Hospital (4/4)	250.00	0.00	250.00	500053 +500055
Clerk's Wages (November & December plus 11 hours backpay)	458.85	0.00	458.85	500054
Clerk's Expenses (toner, stamps, phone)	20.72	2.93	23.65	500054
Total	1023.26	25.02	1098.28	

c) Payments received

The following were presented:

Interest Dec/Jan	71.69
------------------	-------

d) To consider grass cutting tenders for 2008/9

The Clerk had received two tenders and notice that a third company did not wish to submit a tender this year. Cllr Barnes proposed, seconded by Cllr Turner that the tender for £790 be accepted. All were in favour. Clerk informed the meeting that this was from C + E who won the tender the previous year.

e) To agree budget for 2008/9

Cllr Stothard introduced the budget proposal which had been put forward by the Finance Committee.

Cllr Stothard proposed, seconded by Cllr England that a budget of **£11,227** be adopted. All were in favour.

It was noted that this included a budget proviso of £948 to cover the cost of the Clerk's training for the CiLCA course (with £200 to be obtained from a bursary and Wappenham Parish Council contribution covering £150 of the cost)

f) To agree precept for 2008/9

Cllr Barnes proposed, seconded by Cllr Thorne that a precept of **£10, 279** be requested from SNC, thus bearing the cost of the clerk's training from reserves and expected interest. All were in favour.

7 Correspondence

See Appendix A – no further comments.

8 To consider response to NCC Budget Consultation

Cllrs will respond on an individual basis.

9 Blackpits Recycling Monitoring Group Report

The Clerk had circulated details of the NCC permission for the latest planning application.

10 School Playground update

Cllr Burns informed the meeting that Helmdon Primary School had unfortunately not been kept up to date by NCC with the negotiations between NCC and the Parish Council but that this had now been addressed; Cllr Turner was to attend a Governor's meeting the following day.

Cllr Turner proposed, seconded by Cllr England that arrangements for the provision of the new equipment should go forward. All were in favour.

11 To receive the decisions of the Planning committee on applications since 28th November

No planning applications had been received for consultation since the last meeting.

12 Proposed amendments to Standing Orders regarding timing of May meeting

Cllr Coatsworth proposed, seconded by Cllr Duncombe that standing orders need to be brought into line with the LGA 1972 regarding the timings of the AGMs in election years. All

	were in favour and the Clerk will bring proposed changes to the next meeting.	Clerk
13	Helmdon Talkabout – vacancies of editor and advertising editor Cllr Burns congratulated Wilf Forgham and Richard Wray for their tremendous effort in producing such a worthy document; it was felt to be a hard act to follow. It was hoped that a leaflet drop and advertising on the notice boards would result in new volunteers coming forward.	
14	Pavements – Church Street and Shortlands The pavements on Church Street were felt to be an issue; the Clerk was requested to contact Andrew Grant. The road surface on Station Road was also highlighted as being poor.	Clerk
15	Update on the Draft Proposal of the Proposed Cycle Path to Brackley The Clerk had written to the landowners requesting their views on the proposal and replies were awaited.	
16	Parking on the Pavements of Wappenham Road – update It was reported the situation was much improved after warning notices had been posted on offending vehicles.	
17	Flooding issues Cllr Burns thanked the Clerk for her efforts in obtaining sand bags during the recent period of weather warnings. The Clerk informed the meeting that she would continue to liaise with SNC over their proposals for alleviating the flooding issues in Helmdon.	
18	B4525 Road Group – update The next meeting of this group is scheduled for 12 th February. Cllr Burns had proposed permanent speed cameras in the vicinity of the crossroads. All Councillors were requested to consider their suggestions to be put to the group and forward them to the Clerk for collation.	Clerk
19	Dog Fouling Two letters from parishioners had been receiving relating to a particularly bad problem on Station Road. The Clerk produced the posters received from SNC; Council felt these to be disappointing. The Clerk will obtain different ones for future use.	
20	Allotments Cllr Coatsworth commented that dog fouling was an issue on the allotments.	
21	Risk Assessments Cllr Coatsworth distributed these to all; the only issue identified which required further analysis was that of the risk associated with obtaining water from the brook. He will report back to the next meeting on this issue.	
22	Tennis Courts Cllr Crouch felt that the previous site on the Jeffs Coaches site could once again be a great facility. The Clerk was asked to write to Ken Jeffs enquiring as to the feasibility of using the land once again.	

23 Councillors' Questions

Cllr Barnes queried whether the Parish Council had any specific information relating to land ownership; Cllr Burns confirmed it did not.

Cllr Barnes commented on the fact that two planning applications had not been sent to the Clerk by SNC for consultation. The Clerk will write to express concern.

Cllr Coatsworth queried reason for the works on Welsh Lane; this was believed to be due to the laying of water pipes.

Cllr Duncombe reported a lamp failure at Home Farm.

Cllr Duncombe highlighted an issue with rubbish being left behind on the road at Field Way by the waste disposal team. The Clerk will contact SNC.

The meeting closed at 9:42pm

Appendix A -Correspondence Received – 23rd November 2007 – 20th January 2008

South Northamptonshire Council

- Weekly Planning Application listings – 28/11,05/12, 12/12,19/12, 02/01,09/01, 16/01
- Notice of Decision for S/2007/1362/P - 57A Church Street – permission
- Notice of Decision for S/2007/1262/LB – 35 Wappenham Rd – permission
- Notice of Decision for S/2007/1202/P – Astwell Mill – permission
- Request for precept for 2008-9
- Advanced notice of a Housing Needs Assessment in 2008
- Strategic Housing Team – Newsletter 1
- 2007 Electoral Register
- Details of Information Session on Taxbase Calculation and amended date – *circulated*
- Christmas Card from Cllr Smith
- Invitation to Civic Carol Service - *circulated*
- Advance Notice of Annual Civic Dinner in April – *no invitation required*
- Arts New South Northamptonshire
- Dog Fouling Laminate Posters – *for distribution*

Northamptonshire County Council

- Decision notice for 07/00059/WAS – Blackpits Barn, Helmdon – permission with conditions
- Draft Budget Consultation – *on Agenda*
- Draft Lease for Playground with responses to amendments – *circulated*

NCALC/ACRE

- Update – *circulated on email*
- Confirmation of David Harries as Internal Auditor
- The Playing Field Newsletter – *for the Playground Committee*
- Emails regarding CiLCA course

Miscellaneous

- Northants Police – details of budget consultation - *circulated to Cllrs and put on website*
- SNVB – current vacancies *posters – displayed*
- SNVB – notification of the end of the “Pension Information” Project in Towcester
- Brackley Hospital Trust – letter of thanks for donation of £250 (Nov 07)
- Letter concerning logs on the verges at Falcutt
- Email suggesting the Parish Council consider becoming climate friendly as per p 7 of SNC review
- Landscape and Amenity magazine – *for playground committee*
- Northants Touring Arts Newsletter
- Grass Cutting Tenders x 2
- Letters from landowners concerning the proposed cycle path to Brackley – *circulated – on Agenda*

- Letter from Helmdon Fellowship requesting information on Village of the Year timescales – *circulated*
- Clerks and Councils Direct
- SNVB – Link UP Newsletter
- John Hicks – letter advertising a playground inspection service – *for Playground Committee*
- Coop – letter regarding change of signatories requesting further information – *actioned*
- Letter from Tim Bowsell giving times of surgeries and accompanying poster
- Brochure from Orchard Street Furniture
- Enterprise Solutions – Invitation to an Event “setting up a Community Shop”
- Powergen – advice that annual cost will raise to £605.63 based on Estimated Annual Consumption
- Communities and Local Government – Consultation Document – *responses by 15th February*
- Coop - confirmation that the new signatories for the Coop account are now effective
- Email from Richard Farquharson regarding Grange Lane flooding – *circulated*
- Came and Company –email regarding Norwich Union insurance – *quote requested*
- Email on Policing budget consultation – *circulated*
- Email asking Parish Council to consider a notice board in Station Road south of the school

Accounts received

- ABB – 116.54 – Lighting Maintenance
- Eon Networks – 99.24
- Helmdon.com - £100.00 – website management costs