

HELMDON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Helmdon Parish Council held on Wednesday 23rd May 2012 in the Reading Room, Church Street, Helmdon at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Councillors Barnes, Burns, Coatsworth, Adhemar, Simpson, Duncombe, England, Moody, Garner
Parish Clerk: Liz Hart

Four members of the public were present.

Action

PCSO Scott Cochrane was in attendance to provide feedback on the latest spate of crimes in the parish (14 crimes of which 5 were in May). He informed those present that other local villages had also been targeted. Extra patrols had been noticed by villages and were appreciated. Scott undertook to ask Towcester police about the possibility of having ANPR cameras. He urged members of the public to report any cold callers.

1 Election of Chairman for 2012/13

Cllr England proposed, seconded by Cllr Barnes that Cllr Burns be nominated for Chairman. All were in favour and Cllr Burns was elected as Chair.

2 Signing of Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office

Cllr Burns duly signed the declaration which was countersigned by the Parish Clerk.

3 Apologies for Absence

None.

4 Election of Vice Chairman for 2012/13

Cllr Barnes proposed, seconded by Cllr Adhemar that Cllr Coatsworth be nominated for the position of Vice Chair. All were in favour and Cllr Coatsworth was elected Vice Chairman.

5 To appoint the Responsible Financial Officer

Cllr Burns proposed, seconded by Cllr Coatsworth that the Parish Clerk, Liz Hart continue as RFO. All were in favour.

6 To appoint an Internal Auditor

Cllr Moody declared a prejudicial interest in the following item.

Cllr Burns proposed, seconded by Cllr Coatsworth that NorthantsCALC be retained as the Internal Auditor. All were in favour.

7 The appointment of committee members

The membership for 2012/13 was resolved as follows:

- a) **Finance:** Cllrs Burns, Barnes, Garner, Coatsworth, Moody and RFO
- b) **Planning:** Cllrs Burns, Barnes, Coatsworth, Duncombe, Garner, Adhemar, Simpson
- c) **Road Safety:** Cllrs Duncombe, England, Garner
- d) **Playground:** Cllrs Garner, Simpson, Adhemar
- e) **Allotment:** Cllrs Moody, Coatsworth, Adhemar, Garner
- f) **Achieving Quality Council Status (5) (Working Party):** Cllrs Barnes, Coatsworth, Burns, Adhemar and Moody

8 The appointment of Parish Representatives

The following were appointed with all in favour:

- a) **Parish Paths Warden** – Roger Miles
- b) **Parish Highways Representative** – Cllr Moody
- c) **Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator** – Cllr England
- d) **School Liaison Councillor** – Cllrs Simpson and Adhemar
- e) **PC Rep on Reading Room Committee** – Cllr England
- f) **PC Reps on Parish Plan Monitoring Group** – Cllrs Moody, Barnes and Coatsworth
- g) **Poppy Organisers** – Cllr Coatsworth and Burns
- h) **PC Reps on Blackpits Monitoring Group** – Cllr Coatsworth and Burns
- i) **Health and Safety Officers** – Cllrs Coatsworth and Garner
- j) **Tree Warden** – Phillip Ward

The Clerk will inform the Primary School of the appointment of Cllrs Simpson and Adhemar as School Liaison Councillors.

Clerk

9 Updating of Register of Interests

The Clerk reminded all Councillors of the need to update to produce copies of the Register of Interest forms within 28 days for submission to SNC.

10 Committee & Representative Reports

- a) **Finance** – The Clerk informed the meeting that the Committee had met to review the end of year accounts and would continue to meet periodically throughout the year to review progress and report back to the Full Council Meeting as required. Grant applications had been processed early to allow for the Jubilee timescales.
- b) **Planning** – Cllr Burns confirmed that applications levels were as normal but that the Parish Council was disappointed with certain planning decisions; the focus this year had been on the Wind Farm Appeal, the result of which was due by 13th July.
- c) **Road Safety** – The Highways Scheme is being re-launched by NCC. Cllr England reported some parents using the Pre-School were driving too fast along Hintons Close. Generally speeding remained an issue and it was appreciated that PC Clive Ashmore had been present in the village monitoring motorists.
- d) **Playground** – the balance beam and tyre swing had been repaired.
- e) **Allotments** – One plot was vacant due to the Clerk having been asked not to let it out, there was a waiting list of two.
- f) **Achieving Quality Status** – the next meeting is in June and the Parish Council is on target to receive accreditation in September. The Training Plan would be reviewed at the July meeting.
- g) **Helmdon Parish Plan** – the plans for a cycleway to Brackley have been positively received.
- h) **Tree Warden** – an application is being made to the Woodland Trust for Jubilee Trees.
- i) **Parish Paths Warden** - Part of my role is to liaise with the Rights of Way officers at

Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) on behalf of the Parish. I am pleased to report that during the past year they have contributed a good deal to improving our paths, despite some staffing issues.

In particular the new stiles and bridge on AP14 (towards Stuchbury) and the recent new gate on AP29 (from Field Way) are very much appreciated. Some issues with landowners were addressed and an agreed list of priorities for further works is in hand.

My work to keep under review the 44 paths, which provide some 31 kilometres of rights of way in the Parish, is very greatly assisted by the active Paths Group, chaired by Mike Barnes; it developed from the Parish Plan. The Paths Group's practical work has included cutting back hedges, repairing stiles and improving the permissive path along the old railway route towards Astwell.

The highlight of my report last year was the extension of this path with the agreement of the landowners. Several people helped with the bridge-building and brush cutting work that was needed to open this path. It is pleasing to see how use of this new path has increased.

The route and status of the permissive path around the outside on the churchyard has been formally agreed with the landowner. This is now the third permissive path in the Parish.

Copies of the village footpaths map that the Paths Group produced in 2006 are still available and a reprint is being prepared. The fourth in our series of leaflets on circular walks around Helmdon is ready for printing; it describes walks to Wappenham and back in a figure of eight.

The Health Walks scheme now sponsored nationally by The Ramblers Association and Macmillan Cancer Support, and facilitated locally by South Northants Council, has been active in Helmdon for three years. Thursday afternoon walks continue throughout the year, with only a few cancellations for bad weather; they start from the Reading room at 1.45pm and return for tea soon after 3pm. On Monday 14 May we started the fourth year of summer evening walks, departing from "The Bell" at 7pm and returning by dusk; these will continue weekly until the 20 August.

Several landowners have generously assisted with the planning of varied routes for these walks, for example by allowing some diversions from the official paths for these led groups.

The two trained Health Walk Leaders in the village are Lesley Kinghorn and myself. We are grateful for the regular help of other leaders from Pattishall and Brackley.

The frequency and popularity of our Health walks has enabled me to present solid evidence to the current windfarm inquiry. There were some 50 walks in 2011 with an average of 15 people on each walk. Recently we have walked through the site several times.

Our path AP16 through Grange Farm becomes AN10 at the boundary with Greatworth Parish and then runs very close to the proposed positions of the wind turbines. Their impact on AN10 is a focal point in the argument and a concern for Helmdon's users of this attractive path.

To end on a mundane but serious point, I must note that there are still too many incidents of dogs fouling footpaths. I hope that the recent publicity in Helmdon Voice will be heeded.

Roger Miles
(01295 –768964)

Cllr Burns proposed a vote of thanks to Roger for all his hard work.

- j) **Neighbourhood Watch** – Cllr England had had problems with NHW not having a record of his role which is now rectified; it was suggested that a note be inserted in the newsletter that he is the Village Co-ordinator.,
- k) **School Liaison** – It was noted that the School's involvement with the community was positive as shown by the planned Jubilee celebrations.
- l) **Reading Room** – Cllr England reported that that bookings are up and that Village Café is going from strength to strength. He thanked all those involved. The refurbishment of the Committee Room is to be discussed at the AGM. The current account balance is £6597, the 60 day account is £5756.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.