

HELMDON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Helmdon Parish Council held on 23rd September 2009 in the Reading Room, Church Street, Helmdon at 7:30pm

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

Seven members of the public were present.

1 Apologies

The following apologies were received:

Cllr Turner – work commitments; Cllr Coatsworth – holiday; Cllr Stothard – Cllr Burns informed the meeting that Cllr Stothard had regretfully tendered his resignation as a Parish Councillor due to heavy work commitments. The Clerk will put in motion the Procedure for a Vacancy.

Action

Clerk

2 Approval and Signature of the Minutes for the Ordinary Meeting held on 22nd July

Cllr Thorne proposed seconded by Cllr Crouch that the Ordinary Meeting Minutes of 22nd July be approved with the following amendments:

Item 3 – Cllr Burns amended to Cllr Barnes

Item 12- Cllr Burns added to the list of Councillor who had declared a non-prejudicial interest in S/2009/0509/P.

All were in favour and Cllr Burns duly signed the minutes.

3 Matters Arising from the Minutes of 22nd July 2009

It was noted that no update had been received from Anglian Water following their presence at the previous meeting; the Clerk was requested to keep applying pressure for reports.

Clerk

4 Open Forum

Anglian Water - it was reported that Anglian Water had been in the village at the Green, Church Street and Station Road checking the foul and surface water system.

Village of the Year signs – the road signs were still in place – Cllr England volunteered to remove them.

Cllr England

Speed monitoring – it was noted that the equipment was still in place at Abthorpe – Clerk will contact Steve Barber to ask for an update.

Clerk

Helmdon Acorns New Building Proposal – Cllr Burns confirmed that when an application is submitted to SNC it will be considered in the normal way. It was highlighted that this development is in no way connected to the Affordable Housing Development.

Talkabout Magazine – the Clerk confirmed that there was no money in the budget specifically for the printing. Cllr Thorne advised that although advertising was low it was still being submitted; there may be a shortfall between the printing cost and advertising revenue.

Brackley Cottage Hospital – it was queried why a decision made in January to support the Hospital now appeared to have been revoked. Cllr Burns explained that David Brookhouse did not feel that a donation was appropriate this year; the Clerk also clarified that no decision of support had been revoked as the budgeted amount in January was for s137 expenditure as a whole, not specifically ring fenced for the Cottage Hospital.

5

Finance**a) Financial statement**

Cllr England proposed, seconded by Cllr Barnes that the financial statement be accepted. All were in favour.

Cash & Investments	
Current Account (Coop)	18,652.47
Nottingham Bond	500.00
Total	19,152.47
Less 6 unrepresented cheques	899.84
Total (reconciled)	18,252.63

b) Bills for Payment

Accounts Payable	NET	VAT	GROSS	Cheque
Helmdon.com	150.00	0.00	150.00	500131
C +E	250.00	0.00	250.00	500132
C+E	600.00	0.00	600.00	500133
Clerk's Wages (July and August)	398.41	0.00	398.41	500134
BDO Stoy Hayward LLP	135.00	20.25	155.25	500135
Playsafety Ltd	66.00	9.90	75.90	500136
Total	1599.41	30.15	1629.56	

Cllr Duncombe proposed seconded by Cllr Barnes that the above bills be paid.

c) Payments Received

The meeting noted that no payments had been received.

d) To consider recommendations from the Finance Committee regarding additional grant payments

Cllr Barnes proposed, seconded by Cllr Thorne that £200 be donated to Helmdon Acorns under s137 to be used to meet a proportion of the costs for their planning application. Cllr England declared a non-prejudicial interest in this matter as he lives on Hintons Close. All were in favour.

Regarding the Reading Room project, the Clerk had requested specific costing and a project plan; Cllr England suggested that a donation towards external works of re-pointing

and new guttering would be appreciated. He will submit costing for review at the November meeting.

Cllr England

e) To consider recommendations from the Finance Committee regarding Internal and External Auditor Reports

The Finance Committee recommended no action be taken regarding the Internal Auditor's Report. This was agreed. No action was required regarding the External Auditor as no commentary report had been needed.

f) To receive information update on costings for village pump restoration

This was to be carried forward to the November meeting as Cllr Coatsworth was awaiting further costing information.

Clerk

6 Correspondence Review

The correspondence as per Appendix A was reviewed.

NCC- it was noted that no response had been received to Cllr's Barnes' second letter regarding the footpaths. Clerk will chase up.

Clerk

Licensing application – it was queried whether there was a statutory period for consultation as the deadline for response had been very short.

Highways Conference – Cllr Burns volunteered to attend as Cllr Stothard (Highways Rep) had resigned.

Clerk

Playground Safety Report – the Clerk will Agenda this item for the November meeting so that the Playground Committee can report back on actions required.

Clerk

Vehicle Battery in the Brook - Cllr Duncombe volunteered to remove this.

Cllr Duncombe

ACS Renewables – it was agreed that the Parish Council could offer publicity to any event that may be organised in the village.

Clerk

7 To consider proposal regarding potential additional inscriptions at the War Memorial

Cllr Burns gave a summary to the meeting; after some discussion with the US Airforce and Will Adams, it was proposed to order a simple open-book style separate memorial inscribed a short heading and the first and surnames only of the fallen US Air Corps who had crashed at Astwell Farm. All costs incurred were to be reimbursed by the US Airforce. Cllr Burns tabled this proposal and it was seconded by Cllr Duncombe. All were in favour and the Clerk was asked to inform all relevant parties.

Clerk

8 To receive update on proposal from Grand Union Housing regarding Affordable Housing provision

A leaflet from SNC explaining more about the proposals had been delivered by a group of Councillors. Once a revised proposal was received, there would be a consultation event held in the village.

9 Planning:

a) To receive decisions of Planning committee on applications since 22/07/09

Application number: S/2009/0656/P

Location: Field Way House 2 Field Way Helmdon

Proposal: Formation of a stone track

Cllr Duncombe declared a prejudicial interest in this item and therefore did not participate in the consultation discussion.

The committee had no objections to the application and commented as followed:
The access should be used purely for the servicing of the stable block. The stable block should be for private use only as stated in the original application so no commercial use should be permitted. The track should not be used for the parking of any commercial vehicles. The track should remain stone and should not be tarmaced

Clerk

Application number: S/2009/0829/FUL

Location: Lilac Barn 53 Wappenham Road Helmdon

Proposal: Single storey extension to front, 1 no. dormer window to existing north roof slope. New detached one & half storey garage.

Cllr Thorne declared a prejudicial interest in this item and therefore did not participate in the consultation discussion.

Councillors Burns, Barnes, Coatsworth, Duncombe declared a non prejudicial interest in the application.

The committee had no objections to the application and commented as followed:
The neighbours are of the opinion that the development would be claustrophobic with regard to the position and height of the garage/studio and the proposed wall.
The Council would query whether the applicant has considered siting the garage/studio at the bottom of the garden area away from the neighbouring property and nearer the other garages.
The red line plan indicates that the proposed driveway could not be legitimately accessed by the applicant as he does not own a wide enough strip of land at the entrance point.
It is noted that the development would have the result that the courtyard feel to the front of the property and its neighbours would be lost due to the proposed wall height.

Application number: S/2009/0857/FUL

Location: 47 Station Road Helmdon

Proposal: Bay window & porch to front, with single storey extension to rear

The committee supported the application with regard to the bay window and porch whilst noting that works on the rear extension had commenced before the consultation period had ended.

b)To consider consultation response to West Northamptonshire Emergent Joint Core Strategy

It was commented that this document was causing concerns throughout Northamptonshire. 2000 houses had been suggested for Brackley with no account taken of the Radstone Fields Application as it had not yet been submitted.

10 Annual Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations – consideration of recommendations from Finance Committee

The Finance Committee proposed no amendments to the above were necessary and this was agreed.

11 Footpaths – to consider request from Footpaths Group to contact NCC regarding a safety issue with footbridge.

There were safety concerns regarding the footbridge at the bottom of Jeff's Bridge as it was very slippery. NCC had been informed and a suggestion made to put down chicken wire as a grip. This had been vetoed by NCC; the Clerk was requested to contact NCC detailing concerns and requesting an Action Plan.

Clerk

12 To consider correspondence from Anglian Water regarding flooding issues

No update had been received; a flooding meeting will take place in early November to review any new updates.

13 To consider scheme of wheelie bin labels encouraging traffic to reduce speed

It was agreed to put details on the scheme in Talkabout and on the website.

14 Councillors' Questions

Speed limit extension – the Clerk was asked to request an update.

Clerk

Poplar Tree in Shortlands Close – the Clerk was asked to report it as the pavement was heaving.

Clerk

School Field – the school have been experience problems with fox excrement.

License Agreement for the Playing Fields – Cllr Burns will convey the Parish Council's frustration to Cllr Andrew Grant.

Cllr Burns

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Appendix A - Correspondence Received – 22nd July – 22nd Sept 2009

South Northamptonshire Council

- Weekly Planning Application listings
- Planning Applications:
 - S/2009/0829/FUL - Lilac Barn 53 Wappenham Road Helmdon -Single storey extension to front, 1 no. dormer window to existing north roof slope. New detached one & half storey garage – *planning meeting held 17th Sept.*
 - S/2009/0509/P – Lilac Barn – 53 Wappenham Road - Single storey extension to front, 2 no. dormer windows to existing house, new single detached garage with studio over – notice of withdrawn of application
 - S/2009/0656/P – Field Way House, 2 Field Way – formation of a stone track - - - decision – approval with conditions
 - S/2009/0857/FUL - 47 Station Road Helmdon - Bay window & porch to front, with single storey extension to rear - *planning meeting held 17th Sept.*
- Register of Electors – monthly alterations
- Housing 4 U newsletter
- SPLAT – Autumn Activities - posters
- Alice Izzett – Letter of introduction from new Strategic Housing Officer, FAQ/Affordable Housing Update (amended)– *distributed to Parish via leaflet drop*, revised proposal to be reviewed by the Working Group in October
- Recession Impact Advice Pack – newsletter article, poster and advice leaflet
- Strategic Housing Newsletter
- Consultation regarding Country Comforts (Street Trading of Hot and Cold Food), B4525 Welsh Lane, Helmdon – comments collated by email and returned – response email from Licensing Dept
- Copy of Enforcement Notice for The Bell inn to dismantle the timber structure at the front of the building
- Strategic Policy Matters – invitation to meeting on 10th August
- David Aaronsen – request to community groups to fundraise for one of his nominated charities

Northamptonshire County Council

- New Bus Timetables for 499 and 508 – *displayed on noticeboards and in Seckingtons*
- NCC Consultation - Permit Scheme for Road Works
- Highways Rep Conference details – *response required*

NCALC

- Update July/August
- Information on Planning Training Events

Miscellaneous

- ACRE – details of Village of the Year comments and notice that there will be no competition next year
- Coop- bank statements – August and September, details of merger with Britannia
- BDO – audited annual return (no additional report) and completion of audit poster for display
- Anglian Water – maps of drains and sewers – filed for reference
- Northants Touring Arts – Autumn – Spring Programme
- Brackley Cottage Hospital Annual Accounts for y/e 31/03/2009
- South Northants Homes – Works Briefing Paper
- SNVB – posters and details of Rural Reach at the Racecourse
- Chris Klein Wassink – letter of thanks from Helmdon Bellringers for £100 grant
- Judy Cairns – letter of thanks from Friends of the Churchyard for £200 grant
- RoSPA Playground Inspection Report

- Les Finn – two quotes regarding the proposed War Memorial to the US Serviceman, associated corresponded from Will Adams and Rick Schlachter, US Army
- Letter of resignation from Cllr Stothard due to work commitments
- Confirmation that the Interim Rural Housing Policy has been adopted with amendments
- Val Eyre – suggestion that there is an action plan to keep the brook clear, notice of a van battery in the brook
- Northants Police – Special Constabulary awareness
- Northampton Borough Council – CD on Central Core Action Plan
- WNDP – consultation details, amendments and policy documentation on the West Northamptonshire Emergent Joint Core Strategy – *on Agenda*
- WNDP – notification of Sustainability Manual
- Clear Space Marketing on behalf of ACS Renewable Energy – request to hold presentation evening in the village

- **Accounts received**
- C + E (grass cutting) = £250 + £600
- BDO Stoy Hayward LLP = £135.00 + £20.25 VAT= £155.25
- Playsafety Ltd – playground inspection - £66.00 + £9.90 VAT = £75.90
- Helmdon.com - £150.00 – website management