

## HELMDON PARISH COUNCIL

### Draft Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Helmdon Parish Council held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2012 in the Reading Room, Church Street, Helmdon at 7:45pm

**Present:** Councillors Burns, Barnes, England, Moody, Garner, Duncombe, Adhemar, Coatsworth.

Parish Clerk: Liz Hart  
Four members of the public were present.

*Prior to the meeting starting, Nick King from SNVB Village Networks – Brackley and Towcester gave a short presentation explaining the role of the organisation. The services provided include Garden Buddies, advice on debt, welfare benefits and job seeking. SNVB had been successful in gaining funding from the National Lottery to provide an information centre on wheels with advisors on board. A 16 seater mini bus is available to take people to Advice Centres and is also available to hire for community groups. SNVB will adopt a flexible approach to any of the villages' suggestions. Cllr Burns thanked Nick King for his informative presentation.*

**Action**

#### 1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Simpson was on holiday; her apologies were accepted.

#### 2 Declarations of Interest

Mike Barnes declared an interest in item 6d) tenders.

#### 3 Approval and Signature of the Minutes of the AGM and the Ordinary Meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2012

Cllr Moody proposed, seconded by Cllr Barnes that the AGM Minutes of 23<sup>rd</sup> May be approved with the following amendment inserted: Item 6 - "Internal Audit Service" following Northants CALC. All were in favour.

Cllr Coatsworth proposed, seconded by Cllr Duncombe that the Ordinary Meeting Minutes of 23<sup>rd</sup> May be approved with the following amendments inserted:

Item 11 – insert after tree "as provided by the Woodland Trust"

Item 15 – insert "would be useful"

All were in favour.

#### 4 Matters Arising from the Minutes of 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2012

##### **AGM Minutes**

Cllr Barnes commented that with regard to the NHW scheme he had been unimpressed with police response to information provided since the recent spate of crimes. Cllr England confirmed that Clive Ashmore has maintained contact.

##### **Ordinary Minutes**

Cllr Moody raised concerns that a payment to Cllr Duncombe for anti-windfarm signs had not been approved by the Parish Council prior to the order being placed. Cllr Burns clarified that timescales had not allowed this to happen and that he and Cllr Duncombe would have underwritten the payment, were it not subsequently agreed.

It was noted that the Annual Report had been published to the correct timescales.

It was commented that it may be helpful to have an ongoing list of jobs for the Parish Enhancement Gang programme as there is a short timescale in which to respond.

## 5 Open Forum

The overgrown hedge on Station Road has not yet been trimmed; the Clerk will chase up.

Clerk

## 6 Finance

### a) Financial statement

It was resolved to accept the following statement:

Current Account (Coop)	£24,174.76
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### b) Bills for payment

It was resolved to pay the following bills:

Accounts Payable	NET	VAT	GROSS	Cheque
Brown and Barden (Invoice 3448)	170.00	34.00	204.00	500284
Brown and Barden (Invoice 3459)	170.00	34.00	204.00	500285
E Hart - Clerk's Wages	684.08	0.00	684.08	500286
E Hart – Expenses - postage	8.65	0.00	8.65	500287
EON UK	104.11	20.82	124.93	500288
EON	150.99	7.55	158.54	500289
Helmdon Primary School	350.00	0.00	350.00	500290
Jayne Brown (war memorial plants)	66.92	0.00	66.92	500291
EON UK - repairs lamps 25&28 – new ignitor/ electric cell	78.21	15.64	93.85	500292

The clerk was requested to ask Brown and Barden to clear brambles on Jenners Piece in October.

Clerk

### c) Payments Received

The following were noted:

<b>Payments Received</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Interest (June)	3.89
Interest (July)	3.84
Allotment rent – Mr Thorpe	10.00
Allotment rent – Mr Riley	10.00
Allotment rent – Mr Drew	10.00
Allotment rent – Mrs Shepherd	10.00
Allotment rent – Mr and Mrs Francis	10.00
Allotment rent – Helmdon Primary School	10.00
Allotment rent – Mr King	10.00
Allotment rent – Mr Bailey	10.00
Allotment rent – Mrs Blake	10.00
Allotment rent – Mr Harman	10.00

#### **d) Consideration of tenders received**

EON quote – it was resolved to accept the quote to repair broken light no 5 for £284.**90**. The Clerk will obtain more quotes for noticeboards for the September meeting.

#### **e)To review internal auditor's report**

The contents of the report were noted with no future action required; it was highlighted that this reflected well on the Finance Committee and the staff of the council.

#### **7 Planning:**

##### **a) To receive update on Broadview Energy Ltd Wind Farm appeal Farm appeal and consider any further action required including consideration of standard of service from Local Authority**

Cllr Burns commented that there was a general feeling that the community was not well served by SNC at the appeal. Whilst Broadview's team were highly professional, SNC's team was left open to cross examination with not a great deal of support. The Clerk gave an update from HSGWAG who are seeking legal advice regarding whether there are grounds to appeal on points of law. SNC is also taking legal advice on this matter. Cllr Burns would speak to Robin Digby for an update.

**Cllr Burns**

There was discussion on whether it would be beneficial for individuals to write to Mr Pitt and Eric Pickles. Cllr Coatsworth suggested drafting a letter with contact details. It was resolved that Cllr Burns would draft one and the Clerk would arrange printing.

**Cllr Burns / Clerk**

It was felt that it would be beneficial for a meeting to take place between SNC/NCC/HSGWAG.

Cllr Moody commented that there are many conditions requiring discharge before the development could proceed. It was resolved to form a Committee to review all subsequent matters concerning the Wind Farm with the following members: Cllr Burns, Duncombe and Garner.

**Cllrs Burns,  
Garner,  
Duncombe**

**b) To receive decisions of Planning committee on applications since 23/05/12**

**Application: S/2012/0535/FUL**

**Location: Rear of Helmdon House 87 Church Street Helmdon**

**Proposal: Construction of a menage**

It was resolved to support the application with no further comments.

**Application: S/2012/0578/FUL**

**Location: Barn Court Station Road Helmdon**

**Proposal: Single & two storey rear extension and proposed shed dormer to replace existing flat roof dormers, and vertical flue**

It was resolved to support the application with no further comments.

**Application: S/2012/0631/FUL**

**Location: 15 Station Road Helmdon**

**Proposal: First floor rear extension**

**Application: S/2012/0724/LDE**

**Location: 4 Wrightons Hill Helmdon**

**Proposal: Lawful Development Certificate for an existing use of land as domestic garden**

**It was resolved to object to the application for the following reasons:**

Having reviewed the application the Parish Council has concerns as the purpose of the application. Whilst it has no objection to how the site is currently used, it is noted that the land is outside the Village Confines Boundary. It is noted that there have previously been applications for new dwellings on similar sites on Wappenham Rd which were refused.

**Application: S/2012/0791/FUL**

**Location: Land between B4525 and bridge into Helmdon and Station Road**

**Proposal: Two stone wall gates on either side of the road with a stone plaque with Helmdon. Jubilee 2012 enscribed.**

All members of the Committee declared a prejudicial interest as the applicant was Helmdon Parish Council and no comments were submitted.

**Application number: S/2010/1117/FUL**

**Location: Spring Farm Welsh Lane Helmdon**

**Proposal: Change of use from agricultural land and buildings to Sui Generis use for corporate and private entertainment business including driving military motor vehicles, use of firearms and storage of both. Creation of pool from agricultural land for same corporate and private entertainment use. Clay pigeon and black powder shooting and retention of mobile home at site entrance for residential purposes (retrospective)  
Amendment: revised description and additional information**

It was resolved to object to the application for the following reasons:

Previous objections still stand . With regard to this particular consultation the Parish Council would make the following comments:

The applicant appears to have initially accepted Highways' request for additional entrance but is now discounting this on grounds of cost alone which is unacceptable with regard to Road Safety. Since the original application the B4525 has now been classified as a Red Route which

is consistent with the views of the Parish Council as to how dangerous a road it is. The Parish Council notes that the tanks at the entrance have NOT been moved back into the site itself as stated by the applicant and continue to be a distraction to drivers. The target sign is also a distraction and appears to be in place a lot more often than simply on event days.

The applicant has not satisfied the Parish Council that Health and Safety concerns on the site itself have been addressed:

- No record of accidents/incidents on site has been forthcoming – the Parish Council has been made aware of an incident which caused damage and animal fatalities to a neighbouring property.
- The applicant does not appear to have full knowledge of the firearms he is licensed to keep, having been charged with being in possession of certain firearms illegally including a rocket launcher.
- The application for the wind turbines has been allowed on appeal. The applicant needs to satisfy the Local Authority that that tanks and wind turbines can exist safely side by side.

With regard to the mobile home the Parish Council would query whether all the necessary requirements for a residential property have been met as no further paperwork on this has been forthcoming.

**Application number: S/2012/0825/FUL**

**Location: Astwell Park Farm Helmdon**

**Proposal: Replace 4 no. rooflights with 4 no. dormer windows**

It was resolved to support the application.

#### **c) Update from Parish Clerk regarding outstanding applications**

A verbal update was given.

#### **d) Neighbourhood Planning – update**

Cllr Coatsworth reported that he was to attend a presentation on 7<sup>th</sup> August at SNC on the Joint Core Strategy.

### **8 Correspondence Review**

Correspondence as per Appendix A was reviewed.

Cllr Moody asked the Clerk to add the late notification of changes to the MGWSP structure to the list of poor service from local authorities.

**Clerk**

### **9 Adoption of new Code of Conduct: to resolve which model to adopt and to adopt as prescribed**

Cllr Coatsworth commented that the NALC one was easier to understand and incorporated everything necessary. Cllr Moody observed that the Code is likely to change shortly in any case.

It was resolved that the code of conduct received from NALC as a template be adopted with no amendments as the code of conduct for members and co-opted members of Helmdon Parish Council with effect from 25<sup>th</sup> July 2012 and that the Clerk be requested to notify the Monitoring Officer of South Northamptonshire Council of the passing of the above.

**Clerk**

**10 To submit new members' interests forms**

The Clerk expressed concern that she was unable to submit Cllr Simpson's form to the correct timescales. It was noted that if forms were not returned by 29<sup>th</sup> July, there would technically be a breach of the code of conduct and a Councillor would be liable to criminal prosecution.

**11 To receive update on bridge on Station Road**

An update had been circulated; Cllr Coatsworth commented that the standard of service was abysmal.

**12 QPS – to receive update from Working Group**

It was reported that the production of a Training Schedule is outstanding. The next meeting is in August to finalise preparations for the accreditation panel.

**13 To receive update on Snapshot Project**

The Clerk has completed the form for the Empowering Councillors Scheme. It was queried if the money could instead be used to subsidise copies for the public to purchase. The Clerk clarified that the application had stated the funding was for individual public copies. The Clerk will ensure the item is on September's agenda.

Clerk

**14 To review any flooding preventative actions to be taken (letter from Mr Thorpe)**

It was reported that three weeks previously the flood water very high but the level in the brook not a problem. Flooding defences were put up and drains were cleaned out by a member of the public. Two weeks later there had been another heavy storm; it was felt the system simply has not got the capacity to take the water and a bigger pipe is required.

Cllr Moody suggested having a nominated Flood Response team to organise issues like opening up the sewer and cleaning drains. It was emphasised that the impact of being flooded is long standing; Cllr Moody commented that some people don't appreciate the impact.

It was noted that the worse floods were historically between April and July and that a long term solution should be sought. It was resolved that the Clerk should invite AWA and MGWSP to the September meeting. The Clerk asked for photos and further information from interested parties.

Clerk

**15 To receive update on Jubilee Gate Project**

The project is in the planning department at SNC. It was resolved to apply for funding of £750 from the HYHOS.

Clerk

**16 To consider Road Safety Issues**

Cllr England had raised the issue of speeding with the Police who had come and done a speed check at 10am on Wappenham Road. Cllr Burns commented on the problem of speeding tractors and motorcyclists; the issue of disregard for horses on the road was also raised. It was resolved to join the Speedwatch scheme and that two Cllrs would receive training.

Cllr England will ask PCSO Cochrane for an update regarding ANPR as mentioned at the Annual Meeting.

Cllr England

**17 Update from School Liaison Councillors**

No update to report.

**18 Update from Playground Committee**

It was reported that fortnightly inspections are being done. Once the RoSPA report is received a plan for remedial work will be formulated.

Litter pick – Cllr Adhemar will do this every Sunday and arrange cover if she is unable to.

**Cllr Adhemar****19 Health and Safety – to consider any issues arising**

The Clerk will obtain all necessary quotes for the September meeting.

**Clerk****20 Councillors' Questions**

The results of the Best Village Competition were announced: best Newcomer – Blisworth; Small category– Old, Little Houghton; Medium category- Cottingham, Syresham; large category - Blisworth, Silverstone; Overall winner- Blisworth

Concern was raised that the dustbin men had been dismissive regarding effluent leaking from garden waste vehicles; the Clerk will contact SNC.

**Clerk**

**The meeting closed at 10:08 pm**

## Appendix A – Correspondence Received – 23<sup>rd</sup> May – 24<sup>th</sup> July 2012

### South Northamptonshire Council

- Weekly Planning Application listings
- Planning Applications:
  - S/2012/0578/FUL - Barn Court Station Road Helmdon - Single & two storey rear extension and proposed shed dormer to replace existing flat roof dormers, and vertical flue – *subsequently refused by SNC*
  - S/2012/0631/FUL - 15 Station Road Helmdon - First floor rear extension - *subsequently approved by SNC*
  - S/2012/0724/LDE - 4 Wrightons Hill Helmdon - Lawful Development Certificate for an existing use of land as domestic garden
  - S/2012/0791/FUL - Land between B4525 and bridge into Helmdon and Station Road - Two stone wall gates on either side of the road with a stone plaque with Helmdon Jubilee 2012 encribed.
  - S/2010/1117/FUL - Spring Farm Welsh Lane Helmdon - Change of use from agricultural land and buildings to Sui Generis use for corporate and private entertainment business including driving military motor vehicles, use of firearms and storage of both. Creation of pool from agricultural land for same corporate and private entertainment use. Clay pigeon and black powder shooting and retention of mobile home at site entrance for residential purposes (retrospective) Amendment: revised description and additional information
  - S/2012/0825/FUL - Astwell Park Farm Helmdon - Replace 4 no. rooflights with 4 no. dormer windows
- Electoral monthly changes
- Update on Job Club
- Appeal decision – Spring Farm Ridge
- New Code of Conduct and Members' Interests Forms
- Press releases on new Chairman, anti-social behaviour, Grange Park District election, Brackley by election, apprenticeships, licensing, council tax bandings, moat lane demolitions, dog mess, food safety, A43 litter pick
- Parish Council Briefing on Proposed Changes to Draft Joint Core Strategy – invite
- HS2 – walks leaflet

### Northamptonshire County Council

- Highways Newsletters and supplements
- County Connect – Promotional material
- Police – Have Your Say – promotional material
- Police – Washington cluster newsletter
- NMWDF – Consultation on revised Statement of Community Involvement
- Notice of meeting regarding HS2 and ROW alignment
- MGWSP – update on the Station Rd Bridge

- Pocket Parks Leaflet
- Notice of Church Street Carriageway patching
- West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit – Newsletter
- Helen Howard – confirmation that B4525 is a Red Route

### **NALC**

- June Update
- New NALC Code of Conduct
- Training Schedule July – December 2012
- Clerk Vacancy information and temporary cover advert

### **Miscellaneous**

- South Northants Homes – works briefing papers
- Coop – bank statements for June, July
- Internal Auditor's Report
- EON – quotation for lamp repair on Wappenham Rd
- CPRE update
- National Health Service Commissioning Board Authority – Lay Assessors' information
- Northants 50+ Summer 2012 Newsletter
- Sarah Graham – comments regarding Wind Farm Appeal
- Helmdon Primary School – notice of works during the school holidays, concerns regarding the litter bins
- EON – payment of invoices – query regarding timings
- Richard Farquharson – note regarding tree in brook
- Chris Thorpe – concerns regarding sewerage/storm drains capacity
- Vanessa Vicars – concerns regarding dangerous driving in the village
- SLCC Conference details
- Karl Leitelmayer – details of Helmdon Olympics Event
- Olga Stevens-Astell – comments regarding B4525
- HS2 Ltd – Community Forum notes
- Philip Ward – notification that the horse chestnut tree on Station Rd is unsafe (honey fungus)
- Simon Martin – concerns regarding water on Church Street and his driveway
- SNAG meeting update

### **Accounts received**

- Brown and Barden (3448) - £170 + £34 VAT = £204.00
- Brown and Barden (3459) - £170 + £34 VAT = £204.00
- EON £104.11 + 20.82 VAT = £124.93
- EON UK – £78.21+15.64 VAT = 93.85
- EON UK – £150.99 + 7.55 VAT = 158.54
- Helmdon Primary School - £350
- Jayne Brown - £66.92