



**Query regarding ad hoc funding from SNC**

The Clerk had not received any information; she suggested the reference might be to the "Empowering Councillors" scheme at NCC.

**Atkins and NCC**

It was noted that the highways contract is being renegotiated.

**5 Finance****a) Financial Statement**

<b>Cash &amp; Investments</b>	
Current Account (Coop)	21,837.20
Nottingham Bond	500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,337.20</b>

Cllr Barnes proposed, seconded by Cllr Coatsworth that the statement be approved. All in favour.

**b) Bills for Payment**

The Clerk clarified that the clerk's wages included an annual incremental rise for having completed one year's service together with the back dated pay increase from April 2007 according to the new pay rates issued recently by NCALC. Cllr England proposed, seconded by Cllr Duncombe that the presented bills be paid. All in favour.

<b>Accounts Payable</b>	NET	VAT	GROSS	Cheque
Powergen	97.63	4.88	102.51	500043
C + E Grass Cutting	340.00	0.00	340.00	500044
Helmdon Reading Room	72.00	0.00	72.00	500045
Louise Carroll (key deposit refund)	5.00	0.00	5.00	500046
Sue Lidgley	21.00	0.00	21.00	500047
Brackley Cottage Hospital (3/4)	250.00	0.00	250.00	500048
Clerk's Wages (September and Oct)	375.86	0.00	375.86	500049
Clerk's Expenses (paper and stamps)	11.27	0.00	11.27	500049
Clerk's Telephone	8.74	0.00	8.74	500049

**c) Payments received**

The following were presented:

Nottingham Bond	9.38
Interest Oct/Nov	71.51
Precept	4962.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>5043.39</b>

**d) Conflict between standing orders and Financial Regulations regarding tender process**

Council noted a conflict in the tendering process between Standing Orders Policies and Practices and Financial Regulations 11b) and 11i). In order to resolve this, Cllr Burns proposed, seconded by Cllr Crouch that £100 be replaced by £500 under 11b) and 11i) be deleted. All were in favour. Clerk to amend documentation for sign off at the January meeting.

**Clerk**

**6 Correspondence**

See Appendix A

Cllr Burns had received further communication regarding logs on the verges at Falcutt; the complainant will be approaching NCC.

**7 Blackpits Recycling Monitoring Group Report**

David Powell has been making frequent visits to the facility and meetings have taken place regarding odour control. Members of the public should report any issues to Blackpits. The majority of the complaints come from the Falcutt and Stocking Farm areas.

New signage is now in place. The group continues to raise public awareness via various media. It was noted that the Group had been showed the contents of the green wheelies bins collected from the parish which contained non compostable materials.

Cllr Thorne is to attend a meeting in December of the Traffic Action Group at which it was expected that a petition would be raised. Given the expected short timescales for a required response, Cllr Barnes proposed, seconded by Cllr Turner, that once the Clerk receives the petition, its contents should be circulated, and provided that a majority of the Councillors were in favour, that Cllr Burns and Cllr Thorne would be mandated to sign on behalf of the Council. All were in favour.

**Clerk  
Cllrs Burns  
and Thorne**

**8 Village of the Year 2007 – allocation of prize money**

Cllr Crouch proposed, seconded by Cllr Duncombe that a sum of not more than £120 be used to purchase new shrubs for the War Memorial. All were in favour.

Cllr England will update the next meeting regarding the remainder of the money being put towards a new sound system for the Reading Room.

**Cllr England**

**9 School Playground update****a) Lease agreement – update on revised document submitted to NCC**

The revised document had been received that day by the Clerk. The Playground Committee are to review changes and present back to an Extra Ordinary Meeting in early January if appropriate, otherwise the ordinary January meeting.

**b) Repairs/improvements to the play area – review of submitted tenders.**

Three tenders had been received; these will be reviewed in detail at the next meeting. It is hoped that Andrew Grant will be able to release funding of between £4,000 and £5,000 in addition to funds already raised.

**10 To receive the decisions of the Planning committee on applications since 26<sup>th</sup> September**

**Application number: S/2007/1254/LB**

**Location: The Old Cross, Cross Lane, Helmdon**

**Proposal: Internal and external alterations to provide a hallway and WC on the ground floor and bathroom and dressing room at first floor level. The works include the removal of an existing staircase, the erection of partition walls, the introduction of a first floor over an existing single storey element of the buildings and alterations to the fenestration.**

The Committee supported the application.

**Application number: S/2007/1262/LB**

**Location: 35 Wappenham Road, Helmdon**

**Proposal: External alterations including the installation of rooflights, new door and window openings, and the replacement of the existing corrugated tin roof covering with slate. Internal alterations including the removal of internal walls, a ceiling and a roof structure, and the installation of new partitions, a new floor structure, a replacement roof structure, a new staircase and new insulation.**

The Committee had no objections to the application but wished to bring to the attention of SNC the fact that the applicant is using the chapel wall which is not in his ownership. Comments received from the Tove Valley Baptist Fellowship and accompanying photos are to be attached to the consultation.

**Application number: S/2007/1362/P**

**Location: 57A Church St, Helmdon**

**Proposal: Two garden sheds, greenhouse and play equipment.**

The Committee supported the application in general but drew attention to the possible invasion of privacy due to the position and height of the playtower.

**Application Number: S/2007/1262/LB**

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**Amendment details: Removal of rooflight in rear elevation and confirmation on proposals to roof**

The Committee supported the application.

**11 Helmdon Talkabout**

Council was not aware of any new volunteers for the roles of editor and advertising editor.

**12 Report from SNC reception – Cllr Burns**

The Local District Plan has been discontinued with no replacement yet in place. The main new developments being considered are to be located in Brackley and Towcester and Silverstone.

**13 Report from NCALC AGM - Cllr Thorne**

Cllr Thorne had circulated full details of the AGM prior to the meeting. NALC is now to be known as Northants County Association of Local Councils or NCALC. The annual subscription for Helmdon will increase by £8 next year. NALC has had input into committee work prior to the drafting of the White Paper for the new local Government Bill.

**14 Arrangement of Planning Committee Meetings**

Cllr Thorne and other Councillors had experienced difficulties recently in attending planning meetings called at short notice. Cllr Burns emphasised the unusually high levels of planning applications were unlikely to continue and suggested reviewing the situation after six months. In the meantime, the Clerk would request two options for meeting dates from Cllr Burns and select the one which most Cllrs could attend.

**15 Pavements – Church Street and Shortlands**

This is to be put on the Agenda for the next meeting for Cllr Stothard.

**Clerk****16 Rural Reach Project SNVB**

The Clerk had circulated this as requested. No further comments.

**17 Consideration of the Draft Proposal of the Proposed Cycle Path to Brackley**

Cllrs had received details of the proposal; Cllr Barnes stated that the Paths Group was seeking ongoing support from HPC to contact all landowners to ask for their support. Cllr Turner proposed, seconded by Cllr England, that the Clerk contact all three landowners. All were in favour.

**Clerk****18 Parking on the Pavements of Wappenham Road**

The police had confirmed that it is illegal to park on the pavements and an owner is liable were an accident to occur, with insurance deemed invalid. The Clerk will put a note in the next Talkabout and obtain cards from the Police.

**Clerk****19 Reading Room – legal relationship with the Parish Council**

Cllr England gave a report from a general meeting of the Reading Room held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November which questioned why Cllr Thorne had pursued the issue of the misplaced deeds so vigorously. Cllr Thorne explained that he merely wished to ascertain all the facts relating to the legal relationship between the Parish Council and the Reading Room. It was proposed that Cllr England should investigate any further options relating to this matter; Pam Whilton at NCALC may have details of the deeds.

**20 Allotments**

The Clerk had requested that the Allotments Committee be reinstated to address any ongoing issues. Cllrs Turner and Barnes volunteered to stand. All were in favour.

The Clerk had spent eleven hours on additional administration relating to the allotments since Cllr Gittens had resigned. It was proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr Barnes that this be paid and that the Clerk be paid an extra hour per month to cover this in the future. All were in favour.

**Clerk****21 Helmdon information board – installation and timescales**

No further update from NCC.

**22 Risk Assessments**

These will be issued next week.

**Cllr  
Coatsworth**

**23 Tennis Courts**

Cllr Crouch will cover this at the next meeting.

**Cllr Crouch**

**24 Councillors' Questions**

Cllr Duncombe provided the Clerk with a list of failed street lamps to report.

**Clerk**

The meeting closed at 9:55pm.

**Appendix - A Correspondence - 27<sup>th</sup> Sept 2007 – 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2007**

**South Northamptonshire Council**

- Weekly Planning Application listings - 19/09, 26/09, 03/10, 10/10, 17/10, 24/10, 31/10, 07/11, 14/11, 21/11
- Notice of Application for S/2007/1362/P – 57A Church St and plans – *planning meeting held*
- Notice of Application S/2007/1202/P – Astwell Mill, Helmdon - Single storey extension
- Notice of Amended Application for S/2007/1362/P – 57A Church St – two pergolas – *for information only*
- Notice of Decision for S/2007/0707/P – Stone Gables – permission granted for replacement porch and garage
- Notice of Decision for S/2007/0708/LB – Stone Gables – consent to internal alterations with conditions
- SNC Observation on S/2207/1328/PC – Blackpits Farm - circulated
- S/2007/1262/LB – 35 Wappenham Rd, Helmdon
- S/2007/1254/LB – The Old Cross, Cross Lane, Helmdon
- S/2007/1328/PC- Blackpits Farm
- S/2007/0708/LB, S/2007/0707/P – Stone Gables
- Request from Dick Parris for information on roads with restricted access – *responded*
- Landlord News and Views – Autumn 2007 newsletter
- Northamptonshire Waster Partnership -Let's Talk Rubbish Leaflets" – for distribution at meeting

**Northamptonshire County Council**

- Details of Planning Permission conditions for Blackpits Farm – in-vessel composting, anaerobic digestion plant – for information only
- Poster for Bus Service Consultation to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> November - *displayed*
- "I'm in Control" leaflets – leaflets and DVD
- Safer Winter Driving Leaflets
- Details of Strategic Funding Programme – deadline of 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 2007

**NALC/ACRE**

- Newly agreed pay scales for clerks (increase of 2.475% to be backdated to April) and information and advice on calculating Spinal Column Points - *both circulated*
- Village Viewpoint Winter 2007 x2 – *for distribution at the meeting*
- Letter from Vof Y Judge regarding Helmdon's results in the category for "Older People"

**Miscellaneous**

- Tenders for Playground Works x 3
- SNVB – details of Rural Reach – poster for noticeboards and information for Cllrs – *on Agenda*

- SNVB – Link Up Newsletter – October and November
- Brackley Cottage Hospital– letter of thanks for second £250 donation
- SLCC – Training Strategy Booklet on Continuous Professional Development
- Hands Off Our Horton – posters and copy of letter sent to Alan Johnson, Minister for Health
- Coop Bank Statement – October, November
- Allianz – receipt for £49.89 – additional premium
- Anglian Water – details for applying for a connection – in case PC were to consider water connection to the allotments
- Alzheimer’s Society – newsletter
- Phil Hope MP – letter of thanks for hospitality
- Encams – leaflets on dog fouling and litter
- Police - Safer Community Team – details of meeting in December - *for website and noticeboards*
- Policing in Your Community Newsletter

**Accounts received**

- Cheque payment - £9.38 – Nottingham bond
- Powergen – Electricity bill - £102.51
- Helmdon Reading Room Invoice- £72.00
- C + E grass cutting – final invoice of year - £340.00
- Sue Lidgley – bulbs for Pump garden - £21.00