

Present: Councillors: B Haycock (Chairman)
M Hulbert
K Fenwick

Clerk: G Coombs

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr's Kendall and Dyckhoff. These were accepted.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of 8th December the following amendments were made:

Item 3.9 "from" was inserted between "... received and ..." so read "... received from and ...".

Item 7.3 "h" was removed from "his" to make "is".

Minutes of 22nd December the following amendment was made:

Item 3.1 "sight" should read "site"

After these amendments were made the Council adopted these minutes.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Home Farm

The Council are monitoring.

3.2 Minute Book

The binding and archiving still needs to be actioned.

3.3 Bridleway Signs Brackley Lane, Withimer Lane RA46, RA4 and RA27

These have been reported.

3.4 Seat on the Green

A cheque for £500.00 has been received from Cllr Smith's Empowering Councillors and Community Scheme. The Council has been asked to forward a photograph and a copy of all invoices to Cllr Smith once the bench has been purchased and installed.

3.5 Footpath – Brackley Lane to White Cottage

No reply has been received to date, the Clerk has been asked to obtain a reply before the next meeting.

3.6 Trees – Cadogan Place

The Clerk has contacted Rights of Way, who are following this up.

3.7 Site of Old Pump (North Entrance to Church)

This is an ongoing project with the Council looking for a water pedestal/spout similar to the existing water pedestal/spout on the Green and Blue Bricks.

3.8 Registration of The Green

The Clerk has contacted NCC and is awaiting a reply. (The Council believed the grass area in front of 2 and 3 The Green should be included also.)

3.9 Affordable Housing Needs

A letter dated the 5th December has been received, stating that the proposed location is not suitable and that SNC are looking to see if there are any sites suitable in Wappenham, Slapton or Bradden. If nothing found they will return to Abthorpe.

3.10 Overgrown Shrubs

The overgrown shrubs have been cut back and people can walk on the footpath again.

3.11 Vintage Cars

The Vintage Cars did not meet on the Green.

3.12 Mini Farm

Several caravans are in residence at this site. The Clerk has spoken to SNC and was advised that they are looking into this situation.

4.0 FINANCE

4.1 Financial Balances

Business Investment Account as 31 st December 2008:	£10,929.52	
Treasurer Account as at 31 st December 2008	£2,505.53	
Outstanding Cheques:		
	BT	£1.00 Chq 274
	SNVB	£33.60 Chq 275
Total Balance	£2,470.93	

4.2 Payments

The following invoices were put forward for payment:

Eon UK Energy Services Ltd	£74.31	Chq 277
Eon	£95.50	Chq 278

The above payments were approved.

4.3 Section 137 Payment

Abthorpe Parochial Church Council	£50.00	Chq 279
Northamptonshire Victim Support	£50.00	Chq 280
Northamptonshire and Warwickshire Air Ambulance	£50.00	Chq 281

The above groups were put forward and the Council agreed unanimously to support these.

Towcester Area Door to Door £50.00

Cllr Hulbert declared an interest and therefore this could not be agreed as there was no quorum.

4.4 Budget

The Clerk produced a budget, which the Council had the opportunity to review. The Clerk increased items where the actual spend vs budget was greater for the current financial year, namely Street Lighting Supply, Insurance, NALC and Village Newsletter. The Admin was reduced. The Council discussed and agreed an exceptional item of £400.00 for the installation of the bench. The Clerk did not increase the Precept, which remains at £3,000.00. Proposed expenditure is £3,475.00 and income is £3,100.00.

4.5 Setting of Precept for the Financial Year 1st April 2009 – 31st March 2010

The Council agreed to set the precept at £3,000.00.

5. PLANNING

5.1 Application

5.2 Update

5.2.1 S/2008/0541/TR Removal of Public Payphone, Kiosk 857335, The Green, Abthorpe, Towcester
Emails have been received requesting the Council to confirm the removal of the equipment. A reply is required by the end of January. The Council agreed to the removal of equipment. The Clerk was asked to action this.

5.2.2 S/2008/1500/P Attached dwelling Adjacent to 1 Stanhill Row, Abthorpe
Approved.

5.2.3 S/2008/1628/P Two storey rear extension, two storey side extension and porch extension. Hayes Farmhouse, Abthorpe Road, Silverstone

6. Adoption of Policy, Freedom of Information Act

The questionnaire has been completed and the Council had the opportunity to review the questionnaire. Cllr Haycock proposed and Cllr Hulbert seconded the adoption of the policy. This was accepted unanimously.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Footpaths Unpassable

Cllr Haycock identified 6 sections of the footpaths around Abthorpe that are not passable. RA23, Hog lane all of it.

RA35 at the 4 gateways.

RA20 – SC14 two sections where they meet RA24, Wild Lane

RA24 In Bucknell Woods

RA43 In Bucknell Woods.

RA46 Blocked at end of Withimer Lane.

The Clerk was asked to report these.

7.2 NALC NCC Conference

NCC are holding a conference on 18th March 2009 at Rushden and Diamonds, 4.30 – 8.30.

7.3 NCC – Draft Council Plan and Budget Consultation

Replies are required by the 10th February 2009. This was put into circulation for the Councillors to review and reply.

7.4 Youth Opportunity Fund

Funding is available and the closing date is 13th March 2009.

7.5 West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Consultation and Update

A letter has been received regarding the development and Issues and Options meeting. This was put into circulation.

7.6 Greens Norton Medical Centre

The application for a Dispensary has been declined. The letter has been put into circulation.

7.7 Beat Community Panels

A meeting is to be held on Tuesday 10th March at 7.30. The items to be discussed are Police Visibility/Accessibility, Speeding and Promotion of Crime Prevention. Cllr Fenwick would try to attend this meeting.

7.8 Highways Questionnaire

The Clerk agreed to complete this questionnaire.

7.9 Garages

The Clerk has been asked to report the garages in Stanhill Row. The road is uneven. Additionally the garages in Brackley have a hole in the tarmac and the ground underneath has been washed away.

7.10 Speedwatch

Abthorpe have been invited to participate in the Speedwatch programme for the following year in September. The Council agreed and requested the Clerk to confirm Abthorpe's interest.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

*Please note: The next regular **Parish Council Meeting** is to be held on Monday 6th April 2008 in the Old School, Abthorpe.*

Dates of Future Meetings

Monday 11th May 2009

Annual General Meeting Monday 11th May 2009

Annual Parish Meeting Monday 18th May 2009