

Present: Councillors: B Haycock (Past-Chairman)
K Fenwick (Chairman)
M Hulbert
I Dyckhoff
J Sharp
D Cambray

Clerk: G Coombs

1. APOLOGIES

An Apology was received from Cllr Kendall who is unable to attend due to illness. This was accepted.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Council adopted the minutes of 6th April 2009.

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

Cllr Haycock has obtained a quotation for installing the seat. Cllr Haycock and Cllr Hulbert declared an interest, as both know the firm concerned neither has a financial interest in the firm. Some discussion was had over this and the Council agreed that when discussing the quotes, Cllr Fenwick would discuss the amounts and details of the quotations but not the companies so an impartial decision could be made. Cllr Fenwick would obtain another quotation and these would be discussed at the next meeting.

3.5 Footpath – Brackley Lane to White Cottage

The Clerk and Cllr Hulbert had a meeting with Helen Howard of NCC regarding the extension of the footpath towards White Cottage so that walkers can see clearer in both directions. Helen Howard did not think that this was likely because it would be just as unsafe because of the parked vehicles and other vehicles mounting the curb to get passed.

Cllr Hulbert discussed a portable speed sign, which Abthorpe could purchase and mount where they wish. Cllr Hulbert also discussed the idea of having the crossing from the Corner of Brackley Lane to 42 Wappenham Road and installing a footpath there. Again Helen Howard did not think this would be possible unless we had a major build in the village and could arrange for them to pay for this.

The Clerk proposed the installation of traffic lights, as this seemed to slow the traffic completely and only allowed cars to travel in single file.

3.6 Site of Old Pump (North Entrance to Church)

This is a project in progress. Green/Blue bricks are required and a water pedestal/spout similar to the existing one on the Green.

The owner of the white cottage approached Cllr Fenwick and wondered if it would be possible to site a tube of flowers at this site. The Council agreed to this and asked the Clerk to let the insurance know.

3.7 Registration of The Green

The Clerk needs to look through the records and verify what was applied for. (The section of grass in question is in front of 2 and 3 The Green.)

3.8 Mini Farm

A letter has been received dated 24th April from Patrick Burke, regarding this site. Partial applications have been received but it is incomplete and cannot be placed on the planning register. Residential

development would not be permitted on this site, however, the owner and his family are travellers and this will be taken into consideration when considering their application. The Council discussed this and agreed to monitor this situation.

3.9 Neighbourhood Watch

A letter has been received regarding community Messaging Service, Cllr Fenwick agreed to discuss this at the next Police Review meeting, Tuesday 2nd June.

3.10 Policy Liaison Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on 2nd June 2009, Cllr Fenwick agreed to attend.

3.11 Electricity Supply to Telephone Kiosk

The council now owns the telephone Kiosk lighting has been re-directed. The Clerk was asked to look at the paperwork to verify how the kiosk should be maintained.

3.12 Ditch – Stanhill Row

The clerk received an email from Alan James, Temporary Flood Alleviation Officer, SNC regarding this ditch stating that they were going to contact the field owner, Mr Lee and ask him to address this. The Clerk replied stating that we have discussed this with Mr Lee on numerous occasions and the ditch is not and never has been their responsibility. It has always been the owners of the house responsibility.

A subsequent letter from Dean Babbington, Building Works Manager, South Northants Homes, is now looking into ownership of this ditch.

Cllr Haycock clarified that under the Enclosures Act the landowner had to enclose their land so to maximise their potential they installed the hedge and built the ditch on the other side. The landowner had the right to go onto the adjacent property to maintain the ditch. Therefore in this case, the hedge and ditch are owned and maintained by the houses adjacent to the ditch.

The Council waited to see the outcome of this.

3.13 Clerk

Bob Carter has agreed to take the position of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to Abthorpe Parish Council. The Council reviewed and agreed to maintain the meetings on a Monday. The clerk also agreed to the salary of £750.00 per annum. There will be a period of handover with Bob to start at the meeting of 29th June 2009.

4.0 FINANCE

4.1 Financial Balances

Business Investment Account as 30th April 2009: £10,933.14

Treasurer Account as at 30th April 2009 £4,141.82

Includes precept of £1,500.00

Outstanding Cheques:

BT	£1.00	Chq 274
Towcester Area Door to Door	£50.00	Chq 282
Mrs C G Coombs (Clerk's Salary)	£750.00	Chq 283
Eon	£74.31	Chq 284
Glasdon Manufacturing Ltd	£918.16	Chq 286
Briar Hill Engineering	£268.74	Chq 287
SNVB	<u>£33.60</u>	Chq 288
	£1,941.00	

Balance £2,200.82

4.2 Payments

The following were put forward for payment:

Eon (Lighting)	£95.50	Chq 289
Eon (Maintenance)	£62.95	Chq 290
K Fenwick (Mower)	£11.26	Chq 292
Aon Ltd (Insurance)	£439.64	Chq 293
Northants CALC (Membership and Audit Fee)	£173.03	Chq 294
Total:	£927.12	

The Council agreed these payments.

4.3 Section 137 Payment – Reimbursement of TADD membership

Cllr Hulbert declared an interest and did not take part in the discussion or decision. The Clerk put forward a payment of the reimbursement of TADD membership. There are 13 members at £12.00 each. The Council agreed to reimburse the 13 members their membership fee. This totalled £156.00 (Chq 291 made payable to cash)

The accounts are to be internally audited tomorrow, 12th May 2009.

5. PLANNING

5.1 Application

5.2 Update

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

5.2.2 S/2009/0123/P Two storey side extension. 10 Wappenham Road, Abthorpe, Towcester.

5.2.3 S/2009/187/P Demolition of lean to outhouse attached to front of building, erection of two storey side extension on north side of house, conservatory to rear and garage to front. Cedar Cottage, Main Street, Abthorpe.

This application has been withdrawn.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Armed Forces Day

The Council discussed this and asked the Clerk to write to people within the village who had connections with the Armed services asking if they would like to attend this meeting.

6.2 Local Council Review

The Council agreed not to subscribe to this.

6.3 Planning Training

A Planning Seminar is being held on 20th May 2009, 6 – 8.30 pm to discuss section 106 agreements. Section 106 is the section under which Councils can requested developments to create additional elements of benefit to the community.

6.4 Public Consultation Affordable Housing

A public Consultation is being held regarding Affordable Housing from the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit. Information can be found at <http://consult.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org> The consultation period is from 9th April to 21st May.

6.5 Rockingham Forest Trust

An email has been received from Stuart Taylor, Heritage Project Co-ordinator, Rockingham Forest Trust regarding Abthorpe and the Woods, who is requesting our support for the Heritage Rose of the Shires project. The Council agreed to support in principle and agreed to have the item put into AbTalk. The Clerk was asked to contact Stuart Taylor.

6.6 South Northants Homes

Work is being carried out in various locations within Abthorpe. New kitchens, bathrooms are being installed.

6.7 Village Agent Mapping

An email has been received this. The Council discussed and decided not to take it further.

6.8 Empowering Councillors and Communities Scheme

The Council has been asked to complete a questionnaire regarding this, so that public money is monitored on how it is spent. The Clerk was asked to complete this.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 RA16 meets RA20

A rail with sheeting (sheep netting) has been installed at this site making the stile difficult to pass.

7.2 Minute Book

The Council agreed that the minute book could be a lever arch file. Cllr Hulbert stated that as she goes to this location most weeks she can get this archived.

There being not other business the meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

*Please note: The next regular **Parish Council Meeting** is to be held on Monday 27th June 2009 in the Old School, Abthorpe.*