

HELMDON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Helmdon Parish Council held on Monday 16th May 2011 in the Reading Room, Church Street, Helmdon at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Councillors Barnes, Burns, Coatsworth, Adhemar, Simpson, Duncombe, England, Moody
Parish Clerk: Liz Hart

Three members of the public were present.

		Action
1	<p>Election of Chairman for 2011/12</p> <p>Cllr England proposed, seconded by Cllr Duncombe that Cllr Burns be nominated for Chairman. All were in favour.</p>	
2	<p>Signing of Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office</p> <p>Cllr Burns duly signed the declaration which was countersigned by the Parish Clerk.</p>	
3	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Cllr Earl had given apologies due to work commitments.</p> <p>Roger Miles, Footpaths Warden had also given his apologies.</p>	
4	<p>To receive councillors' declarations of acceptance of office</p> <p>These were received by the Clerk.</p>	
5	<p>Election of Vice Chairman for 2011/12</p> <p>Cllr England proposed, seconded by Cllr Adhemar that Cllr Earl be nominated for the position of Vice Chair. All were in favour.</p>	
6	<p>To appoint the Responsible Financial Officer</p> <p>Cllr Burns proposed, seconded by Cllr Barnes that the Parish Clerk, Liz Hart continue as RFO. All were in favour.</p>	
7	<p>To appoint an Internal Auditor</p> <p><i>Cllr Moody declared a prejudicial interest in the following item.</i></p> <p>Cllr Burns proposed, seconded by Cllr Barnes that NorthantsCALC be retained as the Internal Auditor. All were in favour.</p>	

8 The appointment of committee members

The membership for 2011/12 was resolved as follows:

- a) **Finance:** Cllrs Burns, Barnes, Earl, Coatsworth, Moody and RFO
- b) **Planning:** Cllrs Burns, Barnes, Coatsworth, Duncombe, Earl, Adhemar, Simpson
- c) **Road Safety:** Cllrs Duncombe, England, Earl
- d) **Playground:** Cllrs Earl, Simpson
- e) **Allotment:** Cllrs Moody, Coatsworth, Adhemar
- f) **Achieving Quality Council Status (5) (Working Party):** Cllrs Barnes, Coatsworth, Burns, Adhemar and Moody

9 The appointment of Parish Representatives

The following were appointed with all in favour:

- a) **Parish Paths Warden** – Roger Miles
- b) **Parish Highways Representative** – Cllr Moody
- c) **Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator** – Cllr England
- d) **School Liaison Councillor** – Cllrs Simpson and Adhemar
- e) **PC Rep on Reading Room Committee** – Cllr England
- f) **PC Reps on Parish Plan Monitoring Group** – Cllrs Barnes and Coatsworth
- g) **Poppy Organiser** – Cllr Earl
- h) **PC Reps on Blackpits Monitoring Group** – Cllr Coatsworth and Burns
- i) **Health and Safety Officers** – Cllrs Coatsworth and Earl

The Clerk will inform the Primary School of the appointment of Cllrs Simpson and Adhemar as School Liaison Councillors.

Clerk

10 Updating of Register of Interests

The Clerk reminded all Councillors of the need to update to produce copies of the Register of Interest forms within 28 days for submission to SNC.

11 Approval and signature of the Minutes for the AGM held on 26th May 2010

Cllr Barnes proposed, seconded by Cllr England that the Minutes be approved by Council. All were in favour and Cllr Burns duly signed the Minutes.

12 Matters arising from the minutes of 26th May 2010

None.

13 Committee & Representative Reports

- a) **Finance** – The Clerk informed the meeting that the Committee would shortly be reviewing the end of year accounts and grant applications and would continue to meet periodically throughout the year to review progress and report back to the Full Council Meeting as required.
- b) **Planning** – Cllr Burns confirmed that SNC were well aware that the Parish Council was disappointed with certain planning decisions; it remained to be seen what the impact of the new planning delegation scheme would be. The publication of the Localism Bill was awaited with interest.
- c) **Road Safety** – Cllr England reported that no meeting had taken place in the year. Speeding remained an issue.
- d) **Playground** – no report.
- e) **Allotments** – Cllr Coatsworth reported that a walkabout was scheduled for 22nd May. One plot was vacant, most of the plots were well maintained.

- f) **Helmdon Parish Plan** – Cllr Barnes reported that the Refresh was well underway. The Parish Council was due to adopt the new Action Plan; it was to be hoped that the Parish Council would be more involved in the future
- g) **Parish Paths Warden** - Part of my role is to liaise with the Rights of Way officers at Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) on behalf of the Parish. I am pleased to report that throughout the past year they have responded well on a variety of matters. Several new bridges over ditches have been installed, stiles improved and new signs have been provided; some problems with landowners were addressed and an agreed list of priorities for further works is in hand. Also NCC have distributed a new definitive map of our paths, dated 1 October 2010.

My work to keep under review the 44 paths, which provide some 31 kilometres of rights of way in the Parish, is very greatly assisted by the active Paths Group, chaired by Mike Barnes that developed from the Parish Plan. The Paths Group's practical work has included cutting back hedges, repairing stiles and digging a drainage ditch. With the agreement of the landowner, Mervyn Humphrey, work to improve the permissive path along the old railway route towards Astwell has continued. This path is not a right of way but is an amenity that many use.

The highlight of the year has been the extension of this path with the agreement of the landowners, John and Geoff Watson. Several people helped with the bridge-building and brush cutting work that was needed to open this path. It is pleasing to see how well the new part of this path is being used and appreciated.

Copies of the village footpaths map that the Paths Group produced in 2006 have been distributed widely but some are still available. During this year we published the third of our series of leaflets on circular walks around Helmdon. A fourth on walking to Wappenham and back in a figure of eight is nearing completion.

The Health Walks scheme sponsored by South Northants Council is active in Helmdon. Thursday afternoon walks continued throughout the year, with only a few cancellations for bad weather; they start from the Reading room at 1.45pm and return for tea soon after 3pm. On Monday 16 May we will start a third year of summer evening walks, departing from "The Bell" at 7pm and returning by dusk; these will continue weekly until the last one on 22 August.

Several landowners have generously assisted with the planning of varied routes for these walks, for example by allowing some diversions from the official paths for these led groups.

Unfortunately there have been too many incidents of dogs fouling footpaths and running unchecked in fields with stock; also of gates being left open and fences broken down allowing stock to stray.

I am always pleased to hear from anyone with a paths question or problem and apologise that I cannot be present at this meeting.

Roger Miles
(01295 –768964)

- h) **Neighbourhood Watch** – No report.
- i) **School Liaison** – Cllr Burns reported that the main contact with the school recently had been regarding the fence. He was pleased that the result was better than the original proposal.
- j) **Reading Room** – Cllr England reported that the cupboard had been modified. The Post Office has requested a cupboard in the kitchen which they would pay for. Fundraising would continue to raise money to replace reserves.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.