

At a Meeting of the Town Council held at the Town Hall, Market Square, Higham Ferrers on Tuesday 31 March 2009 .

Present:

The Mayor (Councillor G L Moore)
Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs A M Sauntson)
Councillor M P Beesley Councillor A Dunn
Councillor R J Gell Councillor H L Jackson
Councillor Mrs. M Knott Councillor D C Lawson MBE
Councillor Mrs. S Mantle Councillor. Mrs. G M Murdin BEM
Councillor Mrs. V M Newbery Councillor. Mrs. M E Tuffnail
Councillor Mrs. P H Whiting

09/067 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Town Council held on 27 January 2009 (copies of which being Folios 3778 - 3784 had previously been circulated) were approved and signed by the Mayor (Councillor G L Moore) .

09/068 **APOLOGIES**

The Town Clerk reported that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors D E Drage , P Gadsby and A M T Reading.

09/069 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Declarations of Interest were made by Members:

Councillor H L Jackson – Agenda Item Planning Application Higham Ferrers Sports and Social Club, Linnetts Lane

09/070 **LIAISON WITH THE POLICE**

In the absence of the Police no report could be given and a brief discussion took place regarding issues involving the Garage in High Street and parking on the pedestrian crossing in Saffron Road, and the Town Clerk agreed to pass on the details to the appropriate bodies.

09071 **PLANNING APPLICATION DETERMINATIONS**

The Town Clerk informed the Meeting that there had been no Planning Application Determinations affecting Higham Ferrers since the last Meeting.

09/072 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS NOTIFICATIONS**

The following application notifications (copies of which were circulated during the Meeting) were considered and comments made as noted thereunder.

EN/09/ 00255/ FUL	Single storey front and rear extension and first floor dormer at 80 Wharf Road, Higham Ferrers	No comment or objection
EN/09/ 00276/ FUL	Proposed single storey dwelling with associated parking and amenity area at 1 Wykeham Road, Higham Ferrers	<p>1. Access and egress from the application site is within a very short distance of a corner and will represent a road safety hazard.</p> <p>2. The application site involves the demolition of existing off road parking for existing residents with no provision within the new development, which will mean extra vehicles being parked on the road in an area of high demand.</p> <p>3. For the above reasons the application should be refused.</p>
EN/09/ 00328/ TCA	Felling of Sycamore Tree No. T985 at The Vicarage, Wood Street, Higham Ferrers	The Planning Authority should ensure that all options are explored to remedy the current situation before permitting felling of the tree.
EN/09/ 00302/ FUL	Extension to front of club house at Higham Sports and Social Club, Linnetts Lane, Higham Ferrers	No comment or objection

And it was

RESOLVED that the Local Planning Authority be advised of the comments now made.

Councillor H L Jackson having declared an Interest in Planning Application EN/09/00302/FUL left the Meeting whilst the item was discussed.

09/073 **NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Councillor H L Jackson (Chairman) moved the receipt of the Minutes and Recommendations of the Meeting of the Natural Environment Advisory Committee held on 03 March 2009 (copies of which being Folios 3795 had previously been circulated). The Chairman advised due to the lack of a quorum no Meeting had been held although a brief discussion took place on Rushden Greenways implementation and it was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Natural Environment Advisory Committee held on 03 March 2009 be received.

09/074 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was moved and **RESOLVED** that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted involving Council Contracts and Council Staffing matters that the Press and Public be temporarily excluded.

09/075 **STAFF REMUNERATION**

The Town Clerk presented a Report (copies of which had been previously circulated) regarding Staff Remuneration following agreement being reached on the National Pay Award. Following a short discussion it was

RESOLVED that the National Pay Award of 2.75% be applied as previously agreed under Minute 08/372 which would have the following effect from 01 April 2009;

	Current	From 01.4.09
Town Clerk	£21758	£22989
Town Treasurer	£5365	£5512
Administration Officer	£9682	£10520
Mayor's Sergeant	£ 863	£ 887
Cleaner	£ 649	£ 667

09/076 **MULTI USE GAMES AND TENNIS COURTS**

The Town Clerk presented a Report (copies of which had been previously circulated) regarding various options which were available to the Council to improve the way lettings of the Multi Use Games and Tennis Courts were being handled. An extended discussion took place at the conclusion of which it was

RESOLVED that the proposed creation of a key custodian for the lettings of the Multi Use Games and Tennis Courts be approved in principle and that the decision vis-à-vis terms of employment and remuneration be delegated to the next Meeting of the Policy and Establishment Committee as time was of the essence in the recruitment process.

09/077 **SCHOOL ORGANISATION – CONSULTATION ON KEY PRINCIPLES**

A consultation document had been issued by Northamptonshire County Council (copies of which were available from the Town Clerk) which had elucidated a proposed response by East Northamptonshire Council (copies of which had been previously circulated). The meeting was apprised by the Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs. A M Sauntson) of the full response made by East Northamptonshire Council and an extended discussion took place at the conclusion of which it was

RESOLVED that the Council wholeheartedly support the response made by East Northamptonshire Council to the consultation on School Organisation – Consultation on Key Principles with respect to primary and secondary education in Higham Ferrers and urges the Education Authority to immediately commence planning a new Primary School on the Ferrers Specialist Arts Academy site with appropriate second access from the A6 Bypass.

09/078 **BEDE HOUSE ALTERATIONS**

A letter had been received from Mr. A Matthias (copies of which had been previously circulated) expressing the thanks of the Bede House for the contribution made by the Council . The letter was received.

09/079 **A6 CHOWNS MILL ROUNDABOUT**

A letter had been received from Carillon WSP (copies of which had been previously circulated) regarding proposals for improvement to pedestrian and cyclist safety at the A45/A6 Chowns Mill Roundabout. The various options were discussed at the conclusion of which it was

RESOLVED that the Council support Option 3 of the proposals for the improvement of pedestrian and cyclist safety at the A45/A6 Chowns Mill Junction, viz., the installation of a new pedestrian/cyclist bridge at the junction and that at the same time consideration be given to overhead signage on the approaches to the roundabout.

09/080 **FOOTBALL LETTINGS**

A letter had been received from Mr. D Batchelor (copies of which had been previously circulated) regarding the terms at which the Football Lettings had been agreed. The letter was received.

09/081 **HISTORY GROUP BOOK LAUNCH**

A letter had been received from Higham Ferrers WW1 History Group (copies of which had been previously circulated) inviting Members to the launch of the book ‘Higham Boys at War 1914-1918’ on 22 April 2009. The Mayor was the organiser of the event and as the Deputy Mayor was unable to attend it was agreed that the council be represented by Councillor D C Lawson MBE.

09/082 **AMENITY WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS – COUNTYWIDE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

A letter had been received from Northamptonshire County Council (copies of which had been previously circulated) regarding the Amenity Weight Restrictions-Countywide Awareness Campaign. The letter was received.

09/083 **REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES**

The following reports were given by Members of the activities to other bodies;

Southern Area Joint Action Group – Councillor Mrs. M Knott
Details of recent Meeting with Sgt. Kev Byrne in attendance and discussion regarding Police Pledges, and the rising number of Sat Nav. Thefts.

SERVE – *Details of possible prob;ems regarding the operation of the Bus Pass scheme for the over 60's.* Councillor Mrs. M Knott

Northamptonshire County Council – Councillor D C Lawson MBE
Delays in the implementation of Parking Restrictions caused by internal organisational difficulties.

Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils – *Details of recent Meeting of County Committee with particular emphasis on Policing in the County.* The Town Clerk

09/084 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

The accounts for payment were circulated during the Meeting and it was

RESOLVED that payments be made as listed hereunder:

<i>Ref. No.</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
DD067	Tiscali UK Ltd	Broadband Provision	32.19
DD068	Scottish Widows PLC	Stakeholder Pension	146.84
2726	E. S. P. O.	Stationery & Sundries	53.14
2727	British Telecom PLC	Telephone - Fire alarm	55.80
2728	E.on	Electricity	192.66
2729	Ass Surfaces & Mats. Ltd	Play Surfacing	5,084.47
2730	Northants Fire Ltd	Fire Alarm -Redcare	243.80
2731	British Gas Trading Ltd	Town Hall Gas Supply	551.62

2732	BACA	Extinguisher & Signs	233.57
2733	Dabs.com PLC	A/V Software	40.59
2734	Smith Chamberlain	Riverside Park Acq.	5,476.00
2735	RAO Stationers Ltd	FAX Ribbons	32.41
2736	Petty Cash	Expenses Reimbursement	51.80
2737	1st Reaction Ltd	Parks Security (Feb)	538.20
2738	Stephen J Pell	Waste Pipe Repair	25.00
2739	E.on	Lighting Maintenance	137.41
2740	British Telecom PLC	Telephone - Fax/Voice	248.60
2741	East Northants Council	Maint. (Aug/Oct Adjust)	4,629.94
2742	Turney Landscapes Ltd	KML Shrub Work	1,840.00
2743	Wicksteed Leisure Ltd	Annual Inspection	81.65
2744	David J Linnell	Salary (Mar.)	1,300.87
2745	Mrs Julie Morriss	Salary (Mar.)	665.24
2746	David R Hill	Salary (Jan/Feb/Mar.)	1,072.85
2747	Ian McDonald	Wages (23/02-29/03)	650.99
2748	David J Wicks	Salary (Jan/Feb/Mar.)	172.54
2749	Jennifer Tuffnail	Town Hall Cleaning (Mar)	43.09
2750	Inland Revenue	NIC & PAYE Tax	2944.75
2751	Turney Landscapes Ltd	Cemetery Turfing Works	5,292.30
2752	East Northants Council	NNDR - Half-year	3,671.62
2753	Zurich Insurance PLC	Insurance Premium	6,348.52
2754	Byways & Bridleways	Annual Subscription	35.00
2755	NALC	DIS Annual Subscription	105.00
2756	Anglian Water	Car Park Sewerage	405.15

09/085 **BANK RECONCILIATION**

The Town Treasurer presented a Bank Reconciliation to 28 February 2009, having been verified by Councillor D C Lawson MBE and it was signed by the Mayor.

Mayor

28 April 2009