

At a Statutory Meeting of the Town Council held at the Town Hall, Market Square, Higham Ferrers on Tuesday 25 November 2008.

Present:

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

08/412 **PRAYERS**

The Meeting opened with Prayers led by the Mayor's Chaplain Rev. Michael Jackson.

08/413 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 28 October 2008 (copies of which being Folios 3745 - 3751 had previously been circulated) were approved and signed by the Mayor (Councillor G L Moore).

08/414 **APOLOGIES**

The Town Clerk reported that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Mrs. S Mantle.

08/415 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Declarations of Interest were made by Members:
Councillor D C Lawson MBE – Agenda Item 11 High Street Parking
Councillor R J Gell – Agenda Item 8(1) Planning at Holywell Farm and
Agenda Item 12(d) The Hedges Pocket Park
Councillor Mrs. V M Newbery – Agenda Item 8(1) Planning at Holywell Farm

08/416 **LIAISON WITH THE POLICE**

PC D Brown was present and circulated Crime Statistics relating to Higham Ferrers. Violent crime had shown a decrease, however burglaries and auto crime had shown a marked increase.. Members raised various concerns including alcohol and substance abuse at Riverside Park. Juvenile nuisance and vandalism at St Mary's Church, the area of High Street close to the Co-op Supermarket and distraction and walk in burglaries.

08/417 **QUESTIONS ASKED PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 19**

In response to questions asked pursuant to Standing Order 19 the Town Clerk agreed to take the following action :

Street Lamp at Town Hall - To investigate the rewiring and replacement of the current street lamp attached to the Town Hall.

08/418 **PLANNING APPLICATION DETERMINATIONS**

The Town Clerk informed the Meeting of the Planning Application Determinations affecting Higham Ferrers made by East Northamptonshire Council since the last Meeting.

08/419 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS NOTIFICATIONS**

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

EN/08/ 01462/ FUL	Erection of 32,000 laying birds free range poultry house and feed silos at Holywell Farm, Chelveston Road, Stanwick	No comment or objection in principle but adequate screening should be provided for adjacent properties,
EN/08/ 01960/ TCA	One sycamore, one hawthorn and two unidentifiable small trees to be cut down to stump at 66 College Street, Higham Ferrers	No comment or objection
EN/08/ 01984/ FUL	Extension to side and rear elevations at 46 Meadow Walk, Higham Ferrers	No comment or objection
EN/08/ 1991/ FUL	Replacement of garages with 4 dwellings and parking at Land off Elizabeth Way, Higham Ferrers	1. The Council has serious concerns regarding the loss of amenity garages to provide land for the proposed development, which will inevitably lead to further on street parking in an area which is already used to a high level. All the garages are currently used according to information given to the Council with a waiting list for any vacancy. 2. The proposed development will lead to loss of amenity to adjoining properties and is out of keeping with the current street scene for the area. 3. For the above reasons the application should be rejected.

And it was

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

08/420 **SPORTS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Chairman (Councillor Mrs. P H Whiting) moved the receipt and adoption of the Reports and Recommendations of the Committee.
Following further discussion it was

RESOLVED that the Report and Recommendations of the Sports and Recreation Advisory Committee held on 04 November 2008, (copies of which being Folios 3752 – 3753 had previously been circulated) be received and adopted.

08/421 **HIGHAM FERRERS CEMETERY**

The Town Clerk presented a report (copies of which had been previously circulated) relating to action he had taken to install a second pedestrian gate at Higham Ferrers Cemetery following representations from disabled persons upon the vehicle access gates being permanently locked. A short discussion ensued and it was

RESOLVED that the action of the Town Clerk be endorsed.

08/422 **HIGH STREET PARKING**

Councillor A Dunn proposed the following Motion appropriate notice having been given under Standing Order 12: ‘That this Council supports moving the Bus Stop from outside the Co-op to a position 25 metres in a Northerly direction in order that buses can pull in from the highway to maintain a clear right of way. Further, to deter car parking in the Bus Bay railings should surround the bay except in the immediate vicinity of the bus stop. Car parking for a 20 minute limited period could then be accommodated in the space in front of the Co-op. The motion was seconded and a discussion ensued at the conclusion of which Councillor Dunn withdrew the Motion.

08/423 **PARKING AMENDMENTS IN HIGHAM FERRERS**

A letter had been received from Northamptonshire County Council (copies of which had been previously circulated) relating to proposed parking amendments in Higham Ferrers . A discussion ensued at the conclusion of which it was

RESOLVED that the proposed Parking Amendments for Higham Ferrers by Northamptonshire County Council be supported by the Council.

Councillors D E Drage and Mrs. V M Newbery declared an Interest in this item and left the Meeting whilst the item was discussed.

08/424 **PROPOSED CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES**

A document had been received from The Department for the Communities and Local Government (copies of which were available from the Town Clerk) regarding the proposed Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members and Employees, and . the Town Clerk advised of the various consultations which were taking place at a national level between the Stakeholders. The document was received.

08/425 **NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – DRAFT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY**

A document had been received from Northamptonshire County Council (copies of which were available from the Town Clerk) regarding a draft Public Participation and External Communications Strategy. Following a brief discussion it was agreed that the Town Clerk write an appropriate response.

08/426 **THE HEDGES POCKET PARK**

A letter had been received from Northamptonshire County Council (copies of which had been previously circulated) regarding the current situation vis-à-vis The Hedges Pocket Park. Following a discussion it was agreed that the Town Clerk write to Mrs. C Childs the co-ordinator of the Hedges Park Group with a view to ascertaining their view on the continuation of the Pocket Park.

08/427 **LAND AT KINGS MEADOW LANE**

A letter had been received from George Wimpey South Midlands Ltd.,(copies of which had been previously circulated) requesting consideration to be given to the sale of areas of Open Space Land at Kings Meadow Phase Two to residents. A discussion ensued at the conclusion of which it was

RESOLVED that Council oppose the proposed sale of Open Space Land at Kings Meadow Phase Two by George Wimpey South Midlands Ltd., and that the transfer of the land under the Section 106 Agreement be pursued.

08/428 **CCTV CAMERA RELOCATION**

A letter had been received from East Northamptonshire Council (copies of which had been previously circulated) detailing the costing of relocating the CCTV camera situated in Saffron Road to the other side of the car park entrance at £3000, and proposing that the cost be met by East Northamptonshire Council , Northamptonshire County Council Community Empowerment and Higham Ferrers Town Council, each party paying £1000. A discussion ensued and it was

RESOLVED that the Council pay £1000 towards the cost of relocating the CCTV camera situated in Saffron Road, Higham Ferrers .

08/429 **CPRE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE BRANCH AGM**

A letter had been received from The Campaign to Protect Rural England Northamptonshire Branch (copies of which had been previously circulated) announcing the Annual General Meeting. The letter was received.

08/430

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES

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

Riverside Park Anglers Association – Councillor R J Gell
Details of recent Meeting and that the society presently has 120 members.

Designated Alcohol Free Zone – *Details of recent meeting of the Working Party and that a walk of the proposed area is to be made.* Councillor D C Lawson MBE

Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils County Committee Meeting – *Report of meeting held on 22 November 2008. and the proposed alterations to the Litchborough premises.* The Town Clerk

08/431

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

RESOLVED that payments be made as listed hereunder and that in the case of Ref. No.2650, the expenditure be incurred under the provisions of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), it being considered to be in the best interest of the Town so to do and that the benefit is commensurate with the cost:

<i>Ref. No.</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
DD060	Tiscali UK Ltd	Broadband Provision	32.89
2642	RAO Stationers Ltd	Ansaphone/Fax & Year Planner	142.69
2643	Fusion Security Ltd	Parks Security (Oct.)	1,183.81
2644	Stephen J Pell	Cemetery Gate & Store Repair	705.00
2645	E.on	Sports Pavilion Electricity	180.98
2646	Colson and Loaring	Cemetery Chapel Reroofing	12,337.50
2647	Anglian Water	5 Coll. St. Water/Sewerage	133.34
2649	Cllr. G L Moore	Part Mayoral allowance	250.00
2650	Thomas Fattorini Ltd	Past Mayoral Badges (5)	777.61
2651	Turney Landscapes Ltd	Tree Work/Scrub Clearance	2,774.06
2652	David J Linnell	Salary (Nov.)	1,301.08
2653	Mrs Julie Loraine	Salary (Nov.)	665.24
2654	Ian McDonald	Wages (27/10-23/11)	560.87
2655	Jennifer Tuffnail	Town Hall Cleaning	43.28
2656	Dabs.com PLC	Printer and Photo Software	196.45
2657	RAO Stationers Ltd	Printer Cartridge	16.92

2658	Petty Cash	Expenses Reimbursement	70.09
2659	Greenham Trading Ltd	Road Closed Sign	54.05
	Society of Local Council		
2660	Clerk	Annual Subscription	260.00
2661	Stephen J Pell	Fencing & Gutter Repairs	125.00

08/432 **BANK RECONCILIATION**

The Town Treasurer presented a Bank Reconciliation to 31 October 2008, having been verified by Councillor D C Lawson MBE, and it was signed by the Mayor.

08/433 **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

It was moved by The Mayor (Councillor G L Moore) and resolved that Standing Orders be suspended in order to discuss an item of urgent business.

08/434 **RUSHDEN MEMORIAL CLINIC AND RUSHDEN HOSPITAL SITE**

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs. A M Sauntson) advised of the forthcoming closure of the Rushden Memorial Clinic and its' relocation to Irthlingborough and the proposals which were under consideration for the Rushden Hospital site, both of which were detrimental to local residents. An extended discussion ensued at the conclusion of which it was

RESOLVED that the Council oppose the closure of the Rushden Memorial Clinic and the proposals for the Rushden Hospital site and that as an initial step the Town Clerk contact his Rushden Town Council counterpart with a view to the two Councils working together on the issues involved.

08/435 **RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS**

It was moved by The Mayor (Councillor G L Moore) and resolved that Standing Orders be resumed.

Mayor

23 December 2008