

At a Meeting of the Town Council held at the Town Hall, Market Square, Higham Ferrers on Tuesday 05 January 2010.

Present:

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs. A M Sauntson)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs. V M Newbery)
Councillor M P Beesley, Councillor D E Drage
Councillor A Dunn Councillor P Gadsby
Councillor Mrs. M Knott Councillor H L Jackson
Councillor Mrs. S Mantle. Councillor G L Moore
Councillor Mrs. G M Murdin BEM Councillor A M T Reading
Councillor Mrs. M E Tuffnail

10/001 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Statutory Meeting of the Town Council held on 22 November 2009 (copies of which being Folios 3889 - 3993 had previously been circulated) were approved and signed by The Mayor (Councillor Mrs. A M Sauntson)

10/002 **APOLOGIES**

The Town Clerk reported that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors R J Gell, D C Lawson MBE and Mrs. P H Whiting .

10/003 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Declarations of Interest were made by Members:
Councillor Mrs. M E Tuffnail – Payment 2968

010/004 **LIAISON WITH THE POLICE**

In the absence of the Police no report could be given. The Town Clerk agreed to refer an issue of a parked commercial vehicle in Elm Walk to the Police.

10/005 **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;

Salting and Gritting of Secondary Routes To write to the Northamptonshire County Council to express the Councils' concern regarding the present policy of salting and gritting of secondary routes especially Queensway and School Lane, Higham Ferrers

10/006 **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.

010/007 **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 of a pair of semi-detached houses at No comment or objection.
/0006/ 4 Stanwick Road, Higham Ferrers
FUL .

EN/09/ Single storey front extension, single No comment or objection
01807 storey veranda area to rear and
/FUL single storey detached double
garage at 12 Meadow Walk,
Higham Ferrers

And it was

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

10/008 **POLICY AND ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE**

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs. A M Sauntson) 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 Policy and Establishment Committee held on 01 December 2009, (copies of which being Folios 3894 – 3902 had previously been circulated) be received and adopted subject to Minute 09/391 being amended to read ‘Year ending 31 March 2011’ in the penultimate line.

An it was further agreed that the Transfer of Public Conveniences Working Party consist of Councillors D C Lawson MBE, G L Moore and the Town Clerk.

10/009 **PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IN MIDLAND ROAD**

A letter had been received from DLP Planning Limited (copies of which had been previously circulated) in response to a letter from the Council with respect to a proposed contribution for a proposed development in Midland Road, Higham Ferrers . A discussion took place at the conclusion of which it was

RESOLVED that a letter be sent in confidence to the Planning Authority outlining the Council’s position regarding the proposed development in Midland Road, Higham Ferrers, and the level of contribution that would be required under a Section 106 Agreement.

It was further noted that as this matter was previously discussed under Minute 09/378, that Standing Orders precluded that decision being changed before 24 May 2010.

10/010 **URBAN GRASS MOWING**

A letter had been received from Northamptonshire County Council (copies of which had been previously circulated) regarding a Section 136 Agreement for 2010 with respect to Urban Grass Mowing. An extended discussion took place at the conclusion of which it was

RESOLVED that the Council enter into a Section 136 Agreement with Northamptonshire County Council with respect to Urban Grass Mowing for the year 2010.

10/011 **PROPOSED NEW PHARMACY**

A letter had been received from NHS Northamptonshire (copies of which had been previously circulated) relating to an application for a proposed new pharmacy adjacent to Waitrose, Crown Park, Rushden. An extended discussion took place at the conclusion of which it was

RESOLVED that the Council register its' objection to the proposed new pharmacy at Crown Park, Rushden, on the grounds that it may detrimentally affect existing pharmacies in Higham Ferrers and Rushden and could cause the closure of such facilities.

10/012 **PLAY RANGER SCHEME**

A letter had been received from Cultural Community Partnerships (copies of which had been previously circulated) outlining the Play Ranger Scheme and inviting Councils to participate. Following a brief discussion it was agreed that an invitation be given to Cultural Community Partnerships to give a short presentation on the Play Ranger Scheme at the next Meeting of the Council.

10/013 **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 Grant matters that the Press and Public be temporarily excluded.

10/014 **RIVERSIDE PARK IMPROVEMENTS AND EXTENSION**

The Town Clerk presented a Report (copies of which had been previously circulated) relating to Riverside Park Improvements and Extension which had been the subject a successful and partially successful grant applications. Tenders had been sought for the work to be carried out which were as follows:

Contractor A; £12965

Contractor B; £16850

In both cases a further £1000 was required to be added for the provision of an anti-motorcycle barrier, all amounts being exclusive of VAT.

A short discussion took place and it was

RESOLVED that the contract for the works at Riverside Park Improvements and Extension be awarded to Turney Landscapes Ltd in the sum of £12965, with a further £1000 to provide an anti-motorcycle barrier, all exclusive of VAT.

10/015 **VICTORIAN EXTRAVAGANZA**

The Town Clerk presented a Report (copies of which had been previously circulated) regarding the recent Victorian Extravaganza which had taken place on 21 November 2009, including final details of income and expenditure. An extended discussion took place with the Town Clerk responding to Members questions at the conclusion of which it was

RESOLVED that the Councils' thanks be recorded to the staff involved in the Victorian Extravaganza for their hard work in making the event a success

And further it was

RESOLVED that the responsibility for setting the date for the Victorian Extravaganza Event be delegated to the Victorian Extravaganza Working Party following consultation with other organisations at the Debrief Meeting on 21 January 2010.

10/016 **REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES**

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

Higham Ferrers United Charities – Councillor G M Murdin BEM
*Details of recent Bedesman's Day held
on 21 December 2009 and Christmas
Event for Pressland Pensioners and
Alms People*

10/017 **BUDGET MONITORING**

The Town Treasurer presented a Report (copies of which had been previously circulated) relating to the provision of regular budget monitoring reports as set out in the comments of the External Auditor, and giving examples of the format to be used.. A discussion took place at the conclusion of which it was

RESOLVED that the provision of regular Budget Monitoring Reports in the format proposed by the Town Treasurer (copies of which had been previously circulated) be approved.

And further it was

RESOLVED that the Councils thanks to the Town Treasurer be recorded for his hard work in the provision of the Annual Estimates and the Budget Monitoring documentation.

10/018 **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>
DD085	Tiscali UK Ltd	Broadband Provision	32.19
DD086	Scottish Widows PLC	Stakeholder Pension	159.54
2943	PDM Screenprint Ltd	Mayoral Allow. C. Cards (part)	72.99
2944	Society of Local Council Clerk	Annual Subscriptions	263.00
2945	E. S. P. O.	Stationery	56.43
2946	Rob Bailey	Vic. Extra. - Traction Engine	50.00
2947	858 Squadron Air Training Corps	Vic. Extra. - Marshal. Contrib.	75.00
2948	1st Higham Ferrers Scout Group	Vic. Extra. - Marshal. Contrib.	75.00
2949	Rotary Club Rushden - Chichele	Vic. Extra. - Marsh. Contrib.	50.00
2950	Wilson Browne	Vic. Extra. - Prize	50.00
2952	Sidey Design	Vic. Extra. - Prize	25.00
2953	British Gas Trading Ltd	Town Hall Gas Supply	116.61
2954	British Telecommunications PLC	Internet - S.Pav. CCTV	12.28
2955	Greenham Trading Ltd	Road Signs	173.98
2956	Katrina Arnold-Masters	Vic. Extra. - Prize	25.00
2957	East Northamptonshire Council	Maint. (Turney-Oct)	5,648.07
		Vic. Extra. - St John Amb. Contrib.	25.00
2958	St Mary's P C C		
2959	Moulton Morris Men	Vic. Extra. - Contribution	50.00
2960	British Telecommunications PLC	Fire Alarm Line	59.25
2961	British Telecommunications PLC	Voice/Fax/Security Lines	235.01
2962	Northants Fire Ltd	Fire Alarm Monitoring	339.25
2963	David J Linnell	Salary (Dec.)	1,405.77
2964	David R Hill	Salary (Oct/Nov/Dec.)	1,102.40
2965	Mrs Julie Morriss	Salary (Dec.)	719.48
2966	Ian McDonald	Wages (28/11-20/12+)	501.25
2967	David J Wicks	Salary (Oct/Nov/Dec.)	221.75
2968	Jennifer Tuffnail	Town Hall Cleaning	44.39
2969	Inland Revenue	NIC & PAYE	3,142.75
2970	E.on	Lighting Maintenance	138.48
2971	1st Reaction Ltd	Security Patrols (Nov.)	864.80
2972	Stephen J Pell	Castle Fields - Footpath	400.00
2973	St Mary's P C C	Business Prom. Grant	500.00
2974	CVL Systems Ltd	S.Pav. CCTV Renov. Camera	401.35

10/019 **BANK RECONCILIATION**

The Town Treasurer presented a Bank Reconciliation to 30 November 2009, having been verified by Councillor Mrs. G M Murrin BEM and it was signed by the Mayor.

10/020 **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

It was moved by The Mayor (Councillor Mrs. A M Sauntson) and

RESOLVED that Standing Orders be suspended to discuss an item of urgent business.

10/021 **MAINTENANCE FUND INVESTMENT**

The Town Treasurer advised that following the approval of the appointment of an Independent Financial Advisor it was desirable that a sum of £250,000 which was presently only receiving interest at a rate of 0.25% be invested to provide a better return. The Independent Financial Advisor had indicated that it was possible to achieve interest at 4.25% from a Barclays Fixed Income Bond subject to a 5 year term. An extended discussion took place with the Town Treasurer responding to Members questions at the conclusion of which it was

RESOLVED that the sum of £250,000 be placed in a Barclays Bank Fixed Income Bond for a term of 5 years .

10/021 **RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS**

It was moved by The Mayor (Councillor Mrs. A M Sauntson) and

RESOLVED that Standing Orders be resumed .

Mayor

26 January 2010