

**At the Meeting of the Natural Environment Advisory Committee held at the Town Hall, Higham Ferrers on Tuesday 7 October, 2008.**

**Present:** Councillor R.J. Gell  
Councillor H.L. Jackson  
Councillor Mrs V.M. Newbery

Mr S. Tuffnail – Higham Ferrers Angling Association  
Dr W. Lovell – Higham Ferrers Parish Path Warden

**08/347 APOLOGIES**

The Town Clerk reported that he had received apologies from the Mayor (Councillor G.L. Moore), Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs A.M. Sauntson) and Councillors P. Gadsby and Mrs M. Knott, Mrs C. Childs and Mr A. Stanton.

**08/348 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**08/349 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Natural Environment Advisory Committee held on 10 June, 2008 (copies of which being Folios 3697-3699 had been previously Circulated) were approved and signed by the Chairman (Councillor H.L. Jackson).

**08/350 RUSHDEN & HIGHAM FERRERS CONSERVATION GROUP**

Councillor R.J. Gell reported that there had not been any new volunteers further to advertising in the Hecham Chronicle.

**08/351 MEADOW BRIDGE RIVERSIDE PARK**

It was reported that the large hole in the footbridge made safe by the Park Ranger after the previous meeting had been removed and further planks were missing. The Town Clerk informed the committee that it had been reported to Northamptonshire County Council and an inspection by their representative was to be carried out within the next 5-10 days.

**08/352 KINGS MEADOW LANE ESTATE REPORT**

It was reported that the close boarded fence in Mill Fields was enclosing trees in the POS. Following a brief discussion the Town Clerk agreed to investigate further.

**08/353 HIGHAM FERRERS AND RUSHDEN CONSERVATION GROUP**

Councillor Gell reported that The Hedges Pocket Park had been neglected. This is mainly due to the area being used by the public to dispose of rubbish

and as a result the volunteers had lost interest in trying to maintain the area. Cllr R.T. Gell agreed to contact Ruth Rolls at Northamptonshire County Council regarding this situation.

08/354 **HIGHAM FERRERS RIVERSIDE PARK ANGLERS ASSOCIATION**

It was noted that the broken dustbin had been replaced.

A proposed barrier to permit pedestrian access to the area area was discussed. The Town Clerk agreed to investigate the feasibility of erecting a barrier, but it would need to be one that would also allow vehicle access.

The Anglers would be carrying out more work to the footpaths over the winter period.

It was reported that motor cyclists were using the footpaths, causing problems.

A request for a further dog bin in the area was made.

08/355 **PARISH PATH WARDEN**

The Parish Path Warden gave a comprehensive report on the new structure of the Rights of Way Department at Northamptonshire County Council and went on to give an explanation to the background of the unmaintained path VC7.

Following a brief discussion it was

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND** that the Council press Northamptonshire County Council to implement the Section 106 agreement between Hanson and NCC that will see the creation of public rights of way under section 25 of the Highways Act 1980.

He went on to give a report on footpaths as follows:

Cross-field paths – Path VC8 from Slaters Lodge to Chelveston is cultivated and not restored. It may be planted with oil seed rape. A strip of maize at the intermediate hedge obstructs the path – a situation which has recurred for a number of years.

Path VC9 from Slaters Lodge to Newton Bromswold is cultivated and not restored.

The rights of way officer is aware of the situation and the problem farmers.

Path VC26 from the Stanwick Road footbridge across the fields to Chelveston Lodge: the bridge over Bidwell Water has been cleared of overgrowing trees.

Path VC23 beside the old gravel pits between the A45 and Station Road is thoroughly obstructed by upgrowth and overgrowth. The section between VC26 and the parish border with Chelveston is in good condition.

Path UK2 from The Hedges: The section from the Hedges to the A6 bypass has been mown and is in good condition.

Path VC3 in the old railway goods yard is affected by overgrowth, which needs cutting back and by litter.

Path VC15 from Nene Road down towards the river is in reasonable condition.

Path VC13 from VC15 to Wharf Road is in reasonable condition except for one short section which is sloping into the ditch. It needs building up.

Path VC18 from Pear Tree Cottage to Midland Road: the overgrowing ivy has been cut back.

08/356 **PARISH TREE WARDEN**

No report had been received from the Parish Tree Warden. The committee were advised that a report from ENC was still outstanding re information regarding TPOs

The Town Clerk advised that the Lime trees in Saffron Road will be pollarded during the winter programme, together with the trees in the cemetery which are overhanging the path. The Silver Birch tree in Saffron Road will not be trimmed.

08/357 **RIVERSIDE PARK AND KINGS MEADOW LANE**

The acquisition of a link between Riverside Park and Kings Meadow Lane Estate was discussed. It was

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND** that the Riverside Park link to the Kings Meadow Lane development and improvements to the Riverside Park be added to the Town Councils Project List.

08/358 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the date of the next meeting will be 3 March, 2009.

Chairman  
3 March 2008

Mayor