



<p>again. Clerk to check their public liability insurance. However the Home Office had provided a certificate for Northants Probation Service displaying exemption from requirement to have employers' liability insurance.</p> <p>2009/45 – The Laurel Hedge which is supposed to be removed in the Autumn needs monitoring. Gill Ager also reported that the tarmac path across Church field is being encroached upon. Gill Ager will report it to Street Doctor and copy Michael Clarke in.</p> <p>2009/48/vii – SNC Estate Walkabout – Gill Morgan had asked SNC to ensure the PC is informed when they do another walkabout which are held about every 6 months.</p> <p>2009/48/ix – Burger Van – this has not been seen again.</p> <p>2009/48/xvii – NCC Parish Enhancement gangs – Gill Ager had been in touch and they had agreed to clean signs, put preservative on the wooden seats and the bus shelters, and cut back the overgrowth on the Horton Road. Kevin remarked that it would be worth estimating how much the 'Unpaid workers, the Parish Enhancement Scheme and the BTCV teams had saved from the precept.</p> <p><b><u>2009/59. Rights of Way</u></b></p> <p>The three people who had come forward, interested in the post of Parish Path Warden will meet up in October with Kevin Ward.</p> <p><b><u>2009/60. Police Matters</u></b></p> <p>Ruth Kentigern-Fox reported that she had attended the Community Team meeting. There were 15 reported crimes between April and July, 10 were inconsiderate behaviour. The police are looking at the issue of parking near school and the lay by problems in Yardley Hastings.</p> <p><b><u>2009/61. District and County Council Matters</u></b></p> <p><b>Michael Clarke reported on the work the County Council is doing to with future care of the elderly. He also outlined aspects of the education in the borough which has reflected the issues arising from moving from a three tier to a two tier system in secondary education.</b></p> <p><b>He also reminded the PC that the County Councillors are being allocated 'empowerment' funds again which will be available to parish councils.</b></p>	<p>VH</p> <p>GA</p> <p>KW</p>
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**2009/62. Correspondence**

Letters out:

- i) Mr Boon – regarding bus shelter maintenance/contract
- ii) Requests Grass cutting of Green next season – M and K Gardening (who do the Red Lion grass) and Two Shires Landscapes( who cut the Play Area). B&B already quoted.

Letters in:

- I. Update on the West Northants Emergent Joint Core Strategy
- II. + corrected consultation questionnaire
- III. SNC – PC newsletter
- IV. ‘Vitalise’ support for disabled – Clerk to write with standard letter enquiring if the people of Brafield have been assisted by this charity.
- V. People
- VI. Police – distraction burglaries
- VII. ‘Way Ahead’ – SNC priorities
- VIII. SNC – David Aaronson – request for support for his charities as Chairman – this could be considered later
- IX. NCC – Parish Path Wardens
- X. SNC – Affordable Housing Needs – Alice Izzett is new contact GM to liaise.
- XI. SNC – Housing 4U
- XII. NCC – Acknowledgment of Gill Ager’s letter regarding Parish Enhancement Gang
- XIII. NCC – Billing Bridge Shuttle signals modernisation
- XIV. Clerks and Councils Direct
- XV. NCALC Update
- XVI. BDO Stoy Hayward – re Audit + response
- XVII. South Northants Homes - Independent Board member required – notice up

**GM**

**2009/63. Highway and Transport Issues –**

The hedge next to 52 Billing Road is overgrown. Gill Ager has contacted NCC again about this and would continue to oversee.

**GA**

**2009/64. Strategic Planning**

**Kevin Ward summarised the activities recently carried**

out in response to the proposals by the West Northants Emergent Joint core strategy. The village response was initiated by two presentations in the hall during August attended by about 130 people. Detailed planning arguments were used by Kevin Ward. There is a lack of evidence as to why the housing numbers are needed. There is also very little detail about the development of infrastructure to support the housing.

Leaflets were given out on how and where to make views known. The overwhelming majority of those present were against the proposals so the Parish Council set about examining the most effective ways of assisting people in conveying their concerns and objections to the WNJPU in the short consultation period, which would run until 30.9.09. WNJPU also put on 2 exhibitions in hall in August.

Brafield, Little Houghton, Great Houghton, Hackleton and other local parish councils have joined forces with the local Landowner to jointly fight the proposals and Action Groups have also been formed. The Landowner is using the flooding argument to counter the proposals and Kevin Ward is objecting to the road development. This group have been meeting on weekly basis.

The long consultation questionnaire document has been used for a detailed response which is also to be sent to central and regional government and the Planning Inspectorate. Brafield's Action Group is being chaired by a local resident who has worked extremely hard.

Drop in sessions have been held at the Working Mens' Club for help to be offered in writing letters and more are planned before 30.9.09. 106 residents have given the PC copies of their response letters and a list of people in attendance at the presentation meetings has been kept.

PC members also attended Radio Northampton's Question Time whose panel included Executives of WNDC, North Northants Development Company, Sally Keeble MP, and Roger Kingston from Northants Residents Alliance.

South Northants Council is objecting to the proposals as one of the partners of the West Northants Joint Strategic Planning Committee. Michael Clarke thought

that NCC would also object at the meeting to be held on 1.10.09 at 2pm when the public will be able to speak.

Helen Barnell thanked Kevin Ward for his vast amount of work in investigating the planning argument. The other councillors also thanked Helen and Terry Barnell and Dawn Allingham for their massive efforts as well.

All were congratulated by Michael Clarke and Steve Hollowell for their professional response so far.

The present position of the WNDC was also discussed. This body has been very unpopular, however as Kevin Ward pointed out they were trying to use 'brown field' sites not 'green' whereas WNJPU is keener to use the green field sites which could suggest the proposals are developer lead and not evidence based. Mid Northants parishes will hopefully pick this up at their meeting later this month. The Regional Spatial Strategy which oversees the WNDC is also in disarray.

It was agreed by all councillors present that once Kevin's response was complete he would circulate to all via email and submit as the PC's formal response – **ALL IN FAVOUR.**

**KW**

Publicity was discussed and its costs discussed under 'Finance'.

2009/65 – Local Planning – nothing to discuss

2009/66. Finance

- i) The letter from BDO Stoy Hayward re the Audit and Risk Assessment was discussed. It was agreed that the Parish Council considered the risks taken by it and £10,000 Fidelity guarantee was adequate. Gill Ager proposed that the PC was satisfied with the Internal Audit arrangements offered by NCALC, this was seconded by Kevin Ward. This proposal was carried by the council.
- ii) Grass cutting arrangements. The clerk had written to M and K Gardening and Two Shires Landscapes for quotes. She had given them the same specification for the Green as Brown and Barden. M and K Gardening had responded and will charge £60 per visit as necessary. Brown and Barden charge £65 per visit. It was agreed that

the matter will be discussed at the next meeting when Two Shires will hopefully have submitted their quote.

iii) Cheques to pay:

A. Rainbow – shelter Oct – Jul 09	Chq 609 - £175.00
E-on - light repairs	Chq 610 - £35.96
E-on Supplies of lighting	Chq 611 - £337.62
Brown and Barden – grass cutting	Chq 612 - £149.50
V. Hartley** see below	Chq 613 - £1252.34
E-on – maintenance	Chq 614 - £250.83
G Ager Refreshments(meetings)	Chq 615 - £8.15
H Barnell – Refreshments(meetings)	Chq 616 - £41.95
Mid Northants Parishes membership	Chq 617 - £20.00
Roade School newsletter printing	Chq 618 - £36.92

\*½ annual salary from 31.10.08 – 18 hours at SP24, 18x£10.702x6 = £1155.82, pension £69.35, petty cash £27.17 – Total £1252.34.

Bank Balances at 8.9.09 – Deposit A/c - £7132.25,  
Current a/c - £4612.97

- iv) The funding of the publicity to contest the WNJPU proposals was discussed. It was proposed by Gill Morgan and seconded by Ruth Kentigern–Fox that £800 from Section 137 should be set aside as a maximum fund. **This was carried by the council.** As there is considerable support from the village against the proposals - evidenced by attendance records at the public meetings and the number of copies of letters submitted, expenditure under Section 137 is justified.

### **2009/67. Parish Website Development**

Terry Barnell reported that the number of hits on the Website had increased since the WNJPU proposals had come to the fore and he has placed a counter on this issue. It has proved how useful a website can be and there is evidence that the WNJPU have also monitored the site! The Horticultural Show has yet to go on the website.

It was suggested that a Parish computer could be purchased by the Council and put in a place accessed by a lot of people such as in the Working Men's Club for community use. It was agreed this is something that could be considered as a project for which the Councillors

Empowerment funds could be used for.

**2009/68 and 2009/69– Precis Items for Newsletter and Action Points**

These were confirmed agreed.

**2009/70. Councillor Comments**

- i) Gill Morgan reported that the motorcyclist had returned to the cleared lay by on the Bedford Road. As the greenery is growing again she agreed to contact the Tree Officer from NCC – Rob Payne, and ask him if he could arrange for it to be cleared back again.
- ii) Gill Ager suggested the Village Tidy Up should be held on 31.10.09. This date was agreed and she and Dawn Allingham will arrange it.

**GM**

**GA/DA**

**2009/69. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS AT 7.30**

Tuesday 24.11.09

Meeting closed at 10.00pm.