

## THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING JULY 2007

Your Parish Council met on Monday 3 July and received apologies from three councilors, as of course we are now entering the holiday season. However, the audience had increased dramatically from the usual two or three to seven, so we anticipated some lively pre-meeting questions or views in the allowed ten minutes, but none were forthcoming.

After the usual formalities, the Clerk's Report included the good news that at last the door of our red phone box on the Pound had been repaired and also the fact that these historic boxes can now be 'listed'. Information will be sought from English Heritage. Also the parking problems at the junction of Old London Road and Main Road had recently improved, despite the fact that the Highways Department had been carefully monitoring the wrong green triangle – they were observing parking at the Pound!

Mention was also made of the recent conviction of those responsible for our Village Shop burglary, two year sentences to be followed by deportation, hopefully a deterrent to other would be miscreants.

Unfortunately the generally upbeat nature of the report was marred by the news that the Junior Football Team's recently refurbished dugout had been vandalized on the night following their tournament. Please keep a lookout for any suspicious behaviour and report it to our ever vigilant PCSO or to the Clerk.

Among the financial items was a further outgoing for removal of a swarm of bees from the Recreation Ground. Déjà vu perhaps but no, another swarm had appeared with the possibility of a second 'queen' (or perhaps the previous swarm had so appreciated our village that it returned!). Fortunately on this occasion there were no casualties. The quarterly figures maintained a healthy state.

The adjustments to committee memberships were approved, ending the temporary female domination of the Amenities Committee and increased the membership of the Sports & Leisure Committee. Reports were received from all committees with acceptance of relevant minutes.

Recent fly-tipping in Singles Cross and Randles Lane had been reported, but a quantity of items had disappeared from the official clearance – an example of recycling perhaps. Again, please be observant and report any incidents of illegal dumping to the Clerk with as much information as possible. The poor standard of grass cutting on the cricket pitch outfield had been noted and hopefully conditions were much improved after the relevant councilors had spoken to the new contractors.

The website is under review and a relaunch should take place later this year, with the unveiling of a Parish, rather than Parish Council website. Contributions, including photographs and information on forthcoming events etc., will be most welcome. Remember it is **your** village and we need **your** input.

Amongst the police items was the theft of the traffic lights from Main Road – we have all complained about the delays but surely this was an over-reaction! Speed Watch remains in temporarily abeyance but watch this pace. New Code of Conduct and Finance Regulations were reviewed as your Parish Councillors must be seen to be acting appropriately and in your interests.

The next meeting will be on Monday 6 August at 7.45pm in the Village Centre. Please join us as spectator or contributor – you will be most welcome.

***Rita Radford***