

- 4.2.2 JJ reported that there had been an accident by the school on a recent icy morning. This led to discussion about parking on the roads around the school. GG suggested making further parking available by creating a lay by on the corner of School Lane and Drydens Close. The Chairman asked all Councillors to consider this in preparation for discussion at the next meeting. **ALL**
- 4.3 Underground Cabling
The Clerk had ascertained that the cost of providing underground cabling to the whole village would run into hundreds of thousands of pounds. However, it was possible that areas of the village might be scheduled to have underground cabling provided by the electricity supply company, as part of an ongoing upgrade programme. MA proposed and JC seconded that the Clerk should make enquiries of Powergen in this regard. **CLERK**
- 4.4 Dog Fouling
The Clerk reported that the two dog bins were due to be installed by the end of the week. ENC had printed leaflets entitled "A Guide to Responsible Dog Ownership in Titchmarsh" for distribution to every household, a copy of which was given to each Councillor. The Chairman agreed to speak to John Greig to see if the leaflets could be distributed with the next issue of Titchmarsh Times. **IC**
- 5.0 Finance**
- 5.1 Bills for Payment
- | | |
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| ABB Ltd, public lighting maintenance charges | £128.31 |
| ABB Ltd, supply & installation of new streetlight | £452.38 |
| NALC annual subscription | £108.00 |
| Northants ACRE supporters payment | £ 30.00 |
| Ian Curtis, Chairman's annual expenses | £100.00 |
| Jane Teague, Clerk's salary paid by standing order | £144.00 |
- It was resolved that all accounts be paid. Proposed by GG, seconded by MA.
- 5.2 Review of Standing Orders, Financial Regs. and Banking Arrangements
SP advised that an annual review should be undertaken of the Orders, Regulations and banking arrangements. Details of any proposed amendments to be circulated with the April agenda, with a view to the revised Orders/Regulations being adopted at the next meeting. SP and GG volunteered to undertake the work. **SP & GG**
- 6.0 Correspondence**
- 6.1 A Letter from ENC inviting our representative, JC, to attend the EN Community Safety Wider Partnership Event on 22nd March. JC agreed to attend and will report at the next meeting. The Chairman expressed his thanks to JC for her time and commitment to this subject. JC asked that Councillors report to her any issues that they would like raised within this forum.
- 6.2 The subject of community safety led JJ to raise the issue of overcrowded school buses travelling to Oundle, a known red route. After JJ had complained about this, the bus company provided a larger bus but without seat belts fitted. JC agreed to raise the matter at the forum on 22nd March. The Clerk will also write to the relevant bodies. **JC, CLERK**
- 6.3 A letter from ENC inviting a representative to the EN Tourism Sub-Group Meeting on 8th April. No one was able to attend. Clerk to reply. **CLERK**
- 6.4 A letter from Citizens Advice Bureau thanking the Parish Council for its donation of £50.00.

- 6.5 A letter from the Secretary to the Bishop of Peterborough, acknowledging the concerns of the Parish Council that Reverend Trenchard had not been replaced. The Bishop was on sabbatical so the letter from the Parish Council had been copied to Archdeacon David.
- 6.6 A letter from a resident expressing concern on a number of matters: **CLERK**
- Rubble deposited on Back Lane
This is on the agenda as item 11 Village Improvements.
 - Dog Fouling Penalty Warning Signs missing from Church Field footpath. The Clerk will request these from ENC.
 - Church Field Footpath used by cyclists. The Clerk will look into this with the Footpath Warden.
 - Neighbourhood Watch Sign missing from Islington junction
The Clerk will obtain a replacement.
- 6.7 Information from Northants ACRE about Village of the Year 2004. IC suggested the village enter this competition. The cost is £15 registration fee. Proposed by GG and seconded by JC. Clerk to complete application. **CLERK**
- 6.8 All remaining items of correspondence were listed and placed in the float file for circulation to Councillors.
- 7.0 Planning**
- 7.1 Outcome of previous applications: EN/04/00106/OUT Outline planning permission refused at 87 High Street. SP proposed and MA seconded that the Clerk write to ENC to point out the apparent inconsistency in the decision making process vis-à-vis the application for planning permission at 69 High Street that was granted. Clerk to write to ENC, **CLERK**
- 7.2 New application EN/04/00394/LBC: Listed Building Consent for addition of new windows, doors, en-suite, demolition of car-port and repointing at The Old Bakehouse, High Street. Proposed to support by GG, seconded by VS. Vote taken, all in favour therefore application supported. Clerk to reply. **CLERK**
- 7.3 Amended application EN/03/01450/FUL Amended plans for erection of six houses at Plot 9, Manor Farm Court. The amended plans, having been received only two days prior to the meeting, were not detailed on the agenda and had not been seen by any of the Councillors prior to the meeting. MA, having declared an interest, took no part in the discussion or voting. **CLERK**
- IC reported that he had discussed this proposal with the planning officer at ENC. As it does not breach any planning or government guidelines it is likely to be granted. A vote was taken and the seven participants unanimously agreed to object to the proposal in the strongest terms. The grounds for objection were: *lack of adequate parking provision in a rural area where cars are essential resulting in increased traffic, access for service and emergency vehicles, density of housing out of character in a village setting*. Clerk to reply to ENC.
- IC also suggested that the PC should write to District Councillor Sue North and the members of the ENC planning committee with its views. Proposed by SP, seconded by GG. Clerk to write to all parties. **CLERK**
- 8.0 Youth Bus Service**
- 8.1 Brian Houghton from The Volunteer Centre in Thrapston gave a short presentation on the workings of the scheme: This comes under the umbrella of one of the three transport services provided by the Centre – Ring and Ride, Group Hire, and the Voluntary Transport Scheme.

- 8.2 Membership of the Group Hire scheme costs £25 per year and allows a 16-seater minibus to be hired for transport to specific events. Driver training can be provided by the Volunteer Centre at a cost of £40 per person, which allows more flexibility than hiring a driver with the minibus and contains costs. The costs for minibus only are £7 per hour, £22 for a six-hour period and £45 per day.
- 8.3 Brian stated that the Centre is looking to provide a Youth Bus for hire on a Thursday and/or Friday evening to take groups of 12-17 year olds bowling, to the cinema, swimming etc. The Centre provides a driver for this service and tries to negotiate discounted entry prices for the group. Parental involvement would be essential - another adult would be required on the minibus to supervise the group.
- 8.4 Councillors thought that the scheme could be of interest to the village and it was proposed to include details in Titchmarsh Times and on the noticeboard. Brian told Councillors that the Volunteer Centre is always looking for additional volunteer drivers. The Chairman thanked Brian for attending.
- 9.0 Playing Fields Committee as a sub-group of Parish Council**
- 9.1 Titchmarsh Parish Council is formally taking over responsibility for the Playing Field from 1st April 2004. A Playing Field committee will be formed that will include two Parish Councillors.
- 9.2 Further actions required:
- 9.2.1 After reference to current PFC Chair, Clerk to write to MV to advise them of change of name on lease. MV have agreed to a lift & shift policy should they reclaim part of the Field in future. **CLERK**
- 9.2.2 Another representative from Parish Council is required to join GG on the new committee. GG will speak to DW about this. **GG**
- 9.2.3 GG to advise Derek Ellis that PFC bank account should be closed and the funds transferred into the Parish Council's account. **GG**
- 10.0 Request for donation from Clubroom Committee**
- A letter requesting financial support had been received from Bert Ash, Chairman of the Clubroom Committee. The contribution may not be required but the Committee was looking for assurance that the PC would be willing to donate up to £2,000 if it were needed. Proposed by VS, seconded by GG. All in favour. Funds to be allocated for specified expenditure. Clerk to reply to Bert Ash. **CLERK**
- 11.0 Village Improvements**
- 11.1 Engine House Maintenance
The Clerk reported that the doors are in need of attention, as they are looking very weathered in places. In addition, part of the coping on top of the back wall of The Pound requires replacing. The Clerk referred to correspondence on file that advises the PC of the need for a proper kerb around the Engine House verge, in order to comply with the Highways Act. MA proposed and JP seconded that the Clerk obtain quotes for these repairs. **CLERK**
- 11.2 Rubble beside Back Lane (behind Church Street)
Concern was expressed that the extent of the rubble pile had increased of late. MA volunteered to remove it if required. IC agreed to speak to the neighbouring farmer to try to establish ownership of the rubble. **IC & MA**

- 11.3 Litter Bins
ENC had enquired whether the PC would like an additional litterbin to be installed beside the Jubilee bench in Church Street. Councillors felt that there was not a litter problem in the village and that no further bins were required at this time. Clerk to reply to ENC with thanks for the offer. **CLERK**
- 11.4 JJ reported that the road surfaces in Polopit and The Green were potholed. It was agreed that IC and SP would carry out a further village survey to identify repairs needed. **IC & SP**
- 12.0 Titchmarsh Times Article**
The Chairman distributed copies of the proposed Parish Council contribution for the next issue, for comment. Minor amendments were agreed. **IC**
- 13.0 Welcome Pack**
SP outlined the proposed contents of an information pack to be given to people moving into the village. This included details about the village, local services in Thrapston, and information about the surrounding area. The idea was generally thought to be a good one but that the pack contained too much information. GG proposed and JC seconded that the pack is completed, but on a smaller scale. **SP**
- 14.0 Reports from local organisations**
- 14.1 School
JJ advised that Margaret Cleaver is retiring as headteacher at the end of the school year and suggested that the PC acknowledge this at the appropriate time. All in favour. **CLERK**
JJ also reported that the intake for September currently stands at 12 pupils, which has serious budget implications for the school. **JUNE**
JJ advised that the School will be developing it's own website and would like to have a link from the village website. **AGENDA**
- 14.2 **Village Website**
An email had been received commenting that the PC minutes published on the website were a month in arrears. SP advised that this is because they are not verified until the following meeting. Clerk to reply to sender. **CLERK**
However, in order that website browsers were aware of the matters due to be discussed at forthcoming PC meetings, it was agreed that future agendas would be published on the website. To comply with the Local Council Act, Councillors must receive the agenda at least three clear days prior to a PC meeting. The agenda will therefore be posted on the website in accordance with this requirement. **SP**
- 15.0 Date of next meeting**
Thursday, 15th April 2004, in the Chapel.
- 16.0 Councillors' Review**
GG: Approximately £1,600 in Jubilee Fund to purchase village sign.
MA: Blocked drain in Islington.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50 pm.