Minutes of a meeting Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 15th June 2021 in the Schoolroom of the Baptist Church, Rose Terrace, commencing at 7.30pm

Seating was spaced at 2metres and masks/ shields worn by all in attendance in accordance with national guidelines

1. **Present:**
   1. Councillors: Mr P J Bird (chair), Mr G Banham, Mr N Chapman, Mrs A Fothergill, Mrs R Hancock, Mrs J Hathaway, Mrs C Hughes, Mr M Hurst, Mr D Sharples, Mr I Vaughan, Mr M Vaughan.
   2. Cllr Dorothy Maxwell (North Northamptonshire Council, NNC)
   3. Mr and Mrs N Roberts, Mr P T Bird (Clerk)
2. **Apologies for absence:**
   1. Mr D Stevens
3. **Minutes of last meeting:**
   1. The minutes of the May Parish Council meeting having been circulated, were agreed as a true record by those present. It was resolved that the Chairman sign them as such.
4. **Comments from Electors:**
   1. **Travellers – Thrapston Road.** Mr Roberts drew attention to the recent arrival (11 June) of travellers on a site near the 30mph signs on Thrapston Road and the environmental damage they had caused. The Clerk advised he had informed Planning Enforcement within two hours of their arrival and officers had attended advising work should cease. This request had been ignored and Cllr Maxwell advised that a legal stop notice and an enforcement notice had been served on the Monday and Tuesday the following week. The Forestry Commission had also been advised, and were investigating the unlicensed tree clearance.
   2. The Clerk advised councillors that there was no out of hours emergency contacts at NNC and he had written to the Chief Executive and Director of Planning lamenting this fact. Correspondence had also been sent to Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable and Chief Executive of NNC complaining about the lack of a “joined up service” to deal with such activities and requesting greater Police visibility to reassure residents. The email was also copied to Tom Pursglove MP.
   3. Cllr Maxwell advised that several departments within NNC were now involved in dealing with the situation, although it would be primarily dealt with as a planning issue.
   4. Mr Roberts said he feared for the security of his business, and that this new development could be foot-hold to a much larger development as local landowners would be forced out.
5. **Cllr D Maxwell:**
   1. The Councillor introduced herself and advised of some of her priorities including better bus services offering greater frequency and connectivity, and the full reopening of the Doctor’s Surgery in Woodford. Mrs Hathaway expressed her concerns that Patient Participation Group meetings had not taken place since March 2020.
   2. The Council’s view was sought on the creation of a community shop as an alternative shopping location to the Post Office, and a roadside footpath to Great Addington. Councillors responded that a community shop would make the Post Office less viable and would prefer a footpath to the ford as opposed to Great Addington. A footpath to the ford having been requested both of NCC and separately as a Sect 106 funded project when the Primark Warehouse was constructed.
   3. Cllr Maxwell urged Parish Councillors to reconsider their former decision to not create a Neighbourhood Plan.
6. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
   1. **Fair / Road Closure**. Clerk advised thirteen weeks’ notice was needed for a road closure so was too late for this year. Mr Bugg had advised he still had received no responses to his advertisement.
   2. **Tree planting Shrubbery.** Clerk reported that Mr Stevens had advised that less than 1000 trees had been plated in the shrubbery (1,500 was listed on the felling licence) and had suggested the matter be taken up with Drayton. Councillors responded that unless we knew exactly how many trees had been replanted it was not a valid complaint. Councillors also suggested that some of the 1,500 could be a second phase planting to cope with losses from the first phase.
   3. **Parish Path Warden.** Following a call from NNC for nominations the Clerk advised Mr Robinson had said he would like to be considered for the role. It was resolved that Mr Robinson’s name and contact details be forwarded to NNC.
   4. **Travellers - Old Kettering Road**. These three caravans had moved away in late May to a lay-by on the Aldwinkle Road (near A6116). NNC had removed the debris left behind.
   5. **Fence Paddock Road.** The Clerk advised he had received notification that day of a successful grant application for the full sum we had applied for. The contract would be received within the next month, but in the meantime the “third party donation” would need to be arranged. It was agreed that the Jubilee Committee and the Temperance Hall Charity be approached for a contribution to help meet this amount.
   6. **Heavy Goods Vehicles through Woodford.** These vehicles had been identified as delivering / collecting from “Plants to Gardens” at Manor House Farm in Addington Road.
   7. **Stay and Play Scheme.** The Sports Club had agreed to host this scheme in the summer holidays and contact details etc had been forwarded to the organisers.
   8. **Dog waste bin – Church Street.** Installation had no taken place.
7. **Planning Matters:**
   1. **47 Highfield.** – Two storey side extension. 21/00415/FUL. **Approved.**
   2. **Land adjacent 3A DeCapel Close – Club Lane.** Revision to conditions applying to location of front wall in club lane. Following discussion there was **No Objection.**
8. **New Correspondence / Clerk’s announcements:**
   1. **Code of Conduct.** A new Code of Conduct had been provided by the NNC monitoring Officer and circulated to Councillors. It was unanimously resolved to adopt the code as written.
   2. **Membership of Ncalc.** A further invitation had been received inviting the Council to join Ncalc, with the generous offer of a full refund if by the end of the year, membership had not been thought to be of value. Councillors agreed not to take up the offer.
9. **Accounts For Payment:**

Current Account £20832.83

Interest Account £6.05

Total **£20,838.88**

Less

2366 Mr P Bird – Clerk £370.00

2367 Mrs D Bosworth Litter Picking £85.10

2368 Mr D Cullum – Village Green Maintenance £118.40

2369 R&G - Verge Maintenance £322.80

2370 Mr D Cullum – Fuel £31.06

2371 HMRC – Income Tax £93.80

2372 FCC Grant Contribution £931.49 £1,952.65

**£18,886.23**

Mr Banham proposed, Mr I Vaughan seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the above payments be authorised.

1. **Other Finance Matters:**
   1. **Statement of Governance 2020/1.** Councillors resolved that the Chairman sign the statement and that the questions be answered in the affirmative.
   2. **Statement of Accounts 2020/1.** It was resolved that the accounts having been circulated be formally adopted.
   3. **Exemption from Limited Assurance Audit.** It was resolved that the Council apply for an exemption from this audit as turnover was under the prescribed limit.
   4. **Investigation into internet banking.** Deferred.
2. **Police Joint Action Group Report:**
   1. Mr M Vaughan advised that a meeting had yet to take place. He understood that rather than the JAG identify and set priorities for Community Policing, the priorities would now be initially identified by members of the public via an online questionnaire.
3. **Meeting with Highways Engineer:**
   1. Mr Stevens was not present, but the Clerk advised Councillors that a meeting had taken place and the following items were viewed and discussed: damage to village green, relining and extending Bus Stop in High St, state of footpaths/kerbs in High Street, road markings in general, village gateway in Mill Rd, dangerous access to Right of Way footpath PE1 in Mill Road, prevention of travellers in both Kettering Rd and at General’s Corner, the condition of Newtown Street.
   2. The parking issue at the cattle grid in Church Street had been discussed but not viewed. Mrs Barnwell would respond to the Council.
4. **Playing Field Representative:**
   1. Mr Chapman advised a successful collectors fair had recently been held and the Club was looking forward to reopening “properly”.
5. **Street Lamp Upgrade:**
   1. A list of outstanding lamps requiring upgrade to LED was circulated. There were 41 lamps and the approximate cost was £17,200. Councillors agreed to upgrade the 6 remaining lamps in Mill Road and the remaining lamp in Alledge Drive at a cost of £3,050.
6. **War Memorial Safety Fence:**
   1. As it appeared a Fair was now unlikely it was agreed not to pursue this hire.
7. **Co-option Process:**
   1. Two persons had expressed an interest in being co-opted – Mr Darren Quincey and Mr Cezary (Tish) Swiecicki. Following a vote, Mr Swiecicki was duly co-opted (8 votes to 3). Clerk was asked to inform both gentlemen as appropriate.
8. **Items of Urgent Business:**
   1. **Mr Rodney P Warne – deceased**. The untimely death of former Parish Councillor (1983-91) Rod Warne was mentioned. It was unanimously agreed that condolences be sent to both Mrs K Warne (wife) and former Parish Councillor Sharon Robinson (daughter).

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm

Signed Date