Minutes of a meeting Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 20th July 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 D Stevens, Mr C Swiecicki, Mr I Vaughan, Mr M Vaughan.
   2. Mr P T Bird (Clerk)
   3. Mr Swiecicki signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was welcomed to his first meeting by the Chairman
2. **Apologies for absence:**
   1. Cllr Dorothy Maxwell (North Northamptonshire Council, NNC)
3. **Minutes of last meeting:**
   1. The minutes of the June 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. No electors were present.
5. **Cllr D Maxwell:**
   1. Cllr Maxwell had sent a written report in lieu of her absence which was read out. All councillors were urged to send their personal views regarding the planning application in Thrapston Road. The Cllr had continued to request the shop display up to date opening hours (now done) and urge the Medical Centre to re-open fully as soon as possible. The Councillor also was seeking to obtain funds from NNC to provide a bus service to Rushden Lakes.
   2. Councillors agreed that a bus service calling at Nene Park would be advantageous, but due to the appointment system it would need to run more than once a day. Mrs Hathaway asked that the Parish Council also write to Spinneybrook Medical Centre expressing the need to fully re-open Woodford Medical Centre.
6. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
   1. **Fair**. Following the previous meeting Mr Bugg had contacted the Clerk advising that some surplus equipment from Kettering Fair would be brought and set up on Woodford Village Green in tandem with the Kettering operation. It did not arrive, and no reason has been provided. Agreed that this was an ideal opportunity to now engage our “own” fair next year.
   2. **Unlawful Development at Thrapston Road**. A Planning Application had now been received – see paragraph 7.2 below. Responses from NNC Chief Exec and local MP had been received advising of steps taken and that the planning procedure would take its legal course.

Mr Stevens drew attention to the group set up at Middleton representing several parishes in that area and suggested we contact them to share information. The group appeared to be set up to exert pressure on NNC to address the many “Traveller Camps” springing up across the area. Mr M Vaughan offered to represent the Council should the need arise.

* 1. **Fence Paddock Road.** The Clerk advised that fence costs (raw material) had increased and details had been forwarded to FCC, but a contract was still awaited. The order could only be placed once this had been signed. Councillors agreed that the work should continue despite there now being a shortfall in project funding. Main contractor had advised that an up-front payment to cover materials would need to be placed soon after order was made. Agreed that Chair and Vice Chair sign cheque prior to next meeting  
     A further letter concerning the placement of the seat had been received. Exact location to be agreed at future date.

Mrs Hancock, on behalf of the Jubilee Committee presented a cheque to the value of £450. The Clerk was asked to acknowledge in writing, with thanks.

* 1. **Stay and Play Scheme.** The scheme would go ahead on two days during the summer holidays and would be publicised through the school
  2. **Dog waste bin – Church Street.** An invoice was still awaited.
  3. **External Audit.** A Notification of Exempt Status had been received from PKF Littlejohn.
  4. **Mr R P Warne Dec’d.** The Clerk advised letters of condolence had been sent to Mrs Warne and Mrs Robinson.
  5. **Parish Path Warden.** Mr Robinson’s name had been forwarded to NNC as agreed.
  6. **Neighbourhood Plan.** The Clerk advised he would provide a briefing document for future discussion.

1. **Planning Matters:**
   1. **Planning Decisions**
      1. **Land adjacent 3A DeCapel Close / Club Lane.** Variation of conditions **20/00626/FUL Permitted**
   2. **New Applications**
      1. **Land at Thrapston Road.** Construction of a hard standing for two static caravans and four touring vans with amenity block**. 21/00960/FUL.** Councillors after a lengthy discussion agreed unanimously to **object**. Many basic planning policies had not been met or were directly contravened, including safe access, highway safety, lack of need, open countryside development, fire regulations, lack of “wildlife” surveys. Furthermore, many statements made within the application were untrue; i.e., work had already started, trees had been felled without permission, unregulated access to the highway. Clerk to draft letter of Objection and circulate for comment before submitting.
      2. **Glebe Farm Addington Road.** Demolition of concrete barn and construction of two holiday lets. **21/00940/FUL**. The proposal to create two holiday properties, one for disabled persons on the same footprint as the barn with a lower roofline was discussed. There was **no objection** so long as properties remained ancillary to the farm business and would not be sold as separate dwellings.
   3. **Other Matters**
      1. The construction of a parking space at 30 High Street was raised. Despite planning permission not being awarded onsite work had been carried out in line with the plans. The clerk was asked to write to NNC Conservation Officer again expressing concern that the wall had not been reinstated following the rejected planning application.
2. **New Correspondence / Clerk’s announcements:**
   1. **Burial Ground.** A request from the PCC for financial assistance had been received. Resolved that due to financial pressures re street lighting the value of the donation would be unchanged from last year at £350.
   2. **Use of Church Green.** A request to use “Back Green” for wedding parking on 7th August was considered, and subject to normal provisions Councillors agreed to the request.
   3. **Woodford Village Greens.** Drayton Estate advised that the five-year rental would be shortly due and suggested and index linked increase from £6pa to £8pa. Councillors agreed this was acceptable.
3. **Accounts For Payment:**

Current Account £18,880.18

Interest Account £6.05

Total **£18,886.23**

**Plus**

HMRC VAT refund 2020/21 £2,916.43

**£21,802.66**

**Less**

DD66 Opus Energy (Lighting Power) £14.93

2373 Mr P Bird – Clerk (40hrs) £370.00

2374 Mrs D Bosworth Litter Picking (10hrs) £85.10

2375 Mr D Cullum – Village Green Maint. (20hrs) £148.00

2376 E.on Lighting Maintenance £275.40

2377 Mr David Cullum (Fuel reimbursement) £31.41

2378 R&G - Verge Maintenance £48.00

2379 R&G – Fencing materials (pre authorised) £3,000.00 £3,972.84

**£17,829.82**

It was unanimously agreed that the above payments be authorised.

1. **Other Finance Matters:**
   1. **Statement of Expenditure – Year to date.** Contents were noted and the report will be published on website
   2. **Internet Banking.** The Clerk requested that he be permitted to investigate internet banking and report back to a future meeting. This was approved.
2. **Police Joint Action Group Report:**
   1. Mr M Vaughan advised that a meeting was to take place four days hence. Councillors requested that the increased use of unlicensed off-road motorcycles on the streets and local fields be mentioned.
   2. Mr Vaughan said he would circulate a written report via the Clerk after the meeting.
3. **Playing Field Representative:**
   1. Mr Chapman had nothing to report.
4. **Highway’s Warden Report**
   1. Due to the lack of a response from NNC Highways Mr Stevens suggested that the issues raised with the liaison officer be raised to a higher level.
5. **Other Business / Items of Interest**
   1. **Leaning tree** over former A604 near Woodford House. Clerk to report to Street Doctor.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm

Signed Date