Minutes of a meeting Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th August 2021 in the Schoolroom of the Baptist Church, Rose Terrace, commencing at 7.30pm

Those attending observed the latest “Covid 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 I Vaughan.
   2. Cllr Dorothy Maxwell (North Northamptonshire Council, NNC)
   3. Mr P T Bird (Clerk)
2. **Apologies for absence:**
   1. Mr C Swiecicki, Mr M Vaughan
3. **Minutes of last meeting:**
   1. The minutes of the July 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 Comments:**
   1. Cllr Maxwell reported that she had received positive feedback re the provision of a bus service to Rushden Lakes, but NNC funding was still an issue.
   2. The councillor urged Parish Councillors to write individually to the Planning Department at Thrapston to make their own views on the development at Thrapston Road be known. The Planning Application was now being handled by the NNC.
   3. The Councillor had written to Tom Pursglove MP re the lack of a doctor’s service in the village. He had advised he would take up the matter with higher authorities.
6. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
   1. **Fence Paddock Road Play Area.** An order for the fence had been place with R&G and payment for the raw materials made.
   2. **Road Markings.** These had been partially completed.
   3. **Doctors Surgery.** A response from the practice manager indicated that whilst telephone consultation would be the primary method of consultation, face to face consultations were being carried out and this would be extended to Woodford in the very near future.
   4. **Middleton Residents Action Group.** A response from this independent group had detailed their aims and success in raising considerable funds to fight the illegal traveller encampment at Middleton (Ashley and Cottingham). The group had also approached NNC to voice concerns over the lack of approved traveller sites and lack of enforcement of planning laws.
   5. **Lamp Upgrades Mill Road**. The Clerk advised that this work would be carried out within the next few weeks.
   6. **Jubilee Committee Grant** – Thanks had been expressed to the Jubilee Committee for their generous donation.
7. **Planning Matters:**
   1. **Planning Decisions**
      1. None
   2. **New Planning Applications**
      1. **Recycling Plant Near Woodford House.** An application for a **timber recycling plan** was discussed. Councillors unanimously **objected** on the grounds of odours, size of site, site access, road safety, noise, insufficient space for segregation of materials, and turning circle for vehicles within the site
   3. **Other Matters**
      1. Correspondence from the resident of 30 High Street was read out advising that works would be carried out to meet objections raised by the Parish Council. Clerk to acknowledge receipt of correspondence only, and reserve comments for resubmitted application.
8. **New Correspondence / Clerk’s announcements:**
   1. **Burial Ground.** The St Mary’s Church PCC had written advising of plans to extend the existing burial ground to the south of the church – south west of the present “extension”.
   2. **Use of Church Green.** A request to use “Back Green” for wedding parking for two hours on 25th August was considered, and subject to normal provisions Councillors agreed to the request.
   3. **Drayton Estate Land.** The Estate advised that they would be shortly making a declaration under the Highways Act to protest the landowner form claims by the general public for unofficial footpaths. They would also make a similar declaration regarding the village greens under the Commons Act.
9. **Accounts For Payment:**

Current Account £17,823.77

Interest Account £6.05

Total **£17829.82**

**Plus**

Jubilee Committee £450.00

**£18,279.82**

**Less**

DD67 Opus Energy (Lighting Power) £287.28

2380 Mr P Bird – Clerk (35hrs) £370.00

2381 Mrs D Bosworth Litter Picking (10hrs) £85.10

2382 Mr D Cullum – Village Green Maint. (8hrs) £59.20

2383 R&G – Verges £621.60

2384 St Mary’s Church £350.00 £1,773.18

**£16,506.64**

Mrs Fothergill proposed, Mrs Hathaway seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the above payments be authorised.

1. **Other Finance Matters:**

None

1. **Police Joint Action Group Report:**
   1. Mr M Vaughan had provided a written report in lieu of his absence of the JAG meeting advising that the meetings would now be quarterly and priorities would be primarily set by residents responding to quarterly surveys. These priorities would cover the whole of the East Northants Area, rather than be sector based. There was also concern that the “survey” method would also favour the towns, rather than the rural areas.

1. **Highway’s Warden Report**
   1. A comprehensive response to the Council’s concerns raised at the site meeting was read out and whilst support for all issues raised was positive there was a considerable funding problem and it was unlikely that any of the issues would be funded soon.
   2. Mr Stevens suggested a meeting with the person responsible for parking enforcement in order to draw attention to the frequent violation of double yellow lines and seek a solution to the large number of vehicles around the village green which rarely move.
2. **Playing Field Representative:**
   1. Mr Chapman had nothing to report.
3. **Discussion re Neighbourhood Plan**
   1. Deferred due to lack of time available
4. **Other Business / Items of Interest**
   1. None.

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

Signed Date