Minutes of a meeting Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 16th November 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 N Chapman, Mrs A Fothergill, Mrs J Hathaway, Mrs C Hughes, Mrs R Hancock, Mr M Hurst, Mr D Stevens, Mr D Sharples, Mr C Swiecicki and Mr M Vaughan
   2. Cllr D Maxwell (NNC)
   3. Mr P T Bird (Clerk)
2. **Apologies for absence:**
   1. Mr G Banham, Mr I Vaughan
3. **Minutes of last meeting:**
   1. The minutes of the October 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. None.
5. **Cllr D Maxwell Comments:**
   1. Cllr Maxwell reminded those present a meeting for Councillors with the Chief Constable and Police/Fire Crime Commissioner would be held in Thrapston on 13 December.
   2. Cllr Maxwell advised she was continuing to lobby senior officers at NNC the MP re the development in Thrapston Road.
   3. Additionally, Mrs Maxwell was continuing to lobby the Doctors practice to fully re-open. It was understood a limited number of appointments were now available at Woodford.
6. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
   1. **Fence Paddock Road Play Area.** The completion report had been sent to FCC in order to claim the grant. A letter of thanks had been received from a resident in respect of the work, and the way in which it was carried out. Clerk to forward a copy to the contractor.
   2. **Seating in Paddock Road Play Area.** Whilst Councillors had agreed not to pursue the seating aspect of the plan, following further consultation with FCC the Clerk had spoken to Mr Swiecicki re other improvements which might be agreeable to residents, e.g., a noticeboard. Mr Swiecicki carried out a “straw poll” but there was little support for such an idea. Agreed that the Clerk cancel the remainder of the grant application.
   3. **Lamp Upgrades Mill Road**. A new supply certificate had been received from Western Power and which had been forwarded to Opus Energy for recalculation of our usage / invoices.
   4. **Waste Recycling Plant Cranford Road Woodford.** No further information had been received regarding this matter.
   5. **Parking Village Greens.** The Clerk had emailed Miss Burgess re an update but a response had not been received. NNC had advised there might be an opportunity to redesignate the area as “non-highway” enabling the Parish Council to install bylaws. As this would not be classed as a road safety issue it is likely the legal costs of approximately £4,000 would fall to the Parish Council.
   6. **Neighbourhood Plan Training.** A meeting with Planning officers had taken place (see below)
   7. **Gate near Woodford Mill**. The gate had now been repaired and thanks expressed to the Chairman for carrying this work out at no cost.
   8. **School Warning Sign**. Highways advised that relocating this sign to a more appropriate licence was still on the to do list.
7. **Planning Matters:**
   1. **Planning Decisions**
      1. None
   2. **New Planning Application(s)**
      1. None.
   3. **Other Planning Matters**
      1. **Thrapston View** 21/00940/FUL. The Clerk reported that a statement dated 28 October on the NNC website advised that revised plans were expected in near future.
8. **New Correspondence / Clerk’s announcements:**
   1. **Operation London Bridge**: NNC requested that the county proposals be reviewed and the Council identify which items they might wish to adopt. Following discussion certain provisions were agreed and these would be noted separately.
   2. **NNC Clerks Briefing**. The Clerk reported on a recent briefing from NNC re Planning Services, Corporate Plan, disparity of funding, devolution of services to parishes, amongst the items being discussed. NNC will circulate formal record for dissemination to Parish Councillors.
   3. **Precept / Budget.** NNC had written requesting Parish Precepts be submitted by early January 2022 consequently the budget would need to be set at the December Meeting. Initial calculations revealed the Council’s reserves were below the suggested level and that expected expenditure for 2022/3 was likely to exceed the value of the present precept, consequently it would either be necessary to raise the precept or cut expenditure.
9. **Accounts For Payment:**

Current Account £3,083.56

Interest Account £6.05

Total **£3,089.61**

**Less**

DD70 Opus Energy (Lighting Power) £329.74

2400 Mr P Bird – Clerk (35hrs 20mins) £370.00

2401 Mrs D Bosworth Litter Picking (9hrs) £77.99

2402 Saints Alive (Donation) £100.00

2403 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal (Donation) £100.00

2404 Help for Heroes (Donation in lieu of audit fee) £60.00

2405 R&G (monthly verge cut) £346.80 £1,384.53

**£1,705.08**

Resolved that the above payments be noted and authorised.

1. **Police Joint Action Group Report:**
   1. Mr M Vaughan once again drew attention to what he considered was a shortcoming with the revised methods of agreeing Neighbourhood Priorities. Agreed this should be raised at meeting with Crime Commissioner (para 5.1).
2. **Highway’s Warden Report**
   1. Mr Stevens had no further matters to report.
3. **Playing Field Representative:**
   1. Mr Chapman had nothing new to report.
4. **Discussion re Neighbourhood Plan**
   1. A brief discussion took place as a result of the briefing session held with NNC officers, but due to time constraints it was agreed the matter would be deferred and voted upon at a future meeting.
5. **Other Business / Items of Interest**
   1. A query regarding who was responsible for assessing the trees adjacent to the road near Woodford House was made. Clerk to query with “Highways”.
   2. A dead tree in Rose Terrace previously reported to NNC in May had now been toppled by a recent storm. The Clerk had cut the trunk back clear of the footpath and reported the matter to NNC. The large stump would need mechanical removal.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm

Signed Date