Minutes of a meeting Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st December 2021 in the Schoolroom of the Baptist Church, Rose Terrace, commencing at 7.30pm

Advice at the time was that only meetings of an urgent nature should be held. In order to keep meeting length short a minimal agenda comprising time sensitive matters only was compiled

1. **Present:**
   1. Councillors: Mr P J Bird (chair), Mr N Chapman, Mrs J Hathaway, Mrs C Hughes, Mr M Hurst, Mr D Sharples, Mr C Swiecicki, Mr I Vaughan and Mr M Vaughan
   2. Mr P T Bird (Clerk)
2. **Apologies for absence:**
   1. Mr G Banham, Mrs A Fothergill, Mrs R Hancock and Mr D Stevens
   2. A letter of resignation from Mr Stevens was read out, and noted with regret. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Stevens to thank him for his services and advise NNC elections team of the resignation.
3. **Minutes of last meeting:**
   1. The minutes of the November 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. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
   1. **Operation London Bridge.** A Book of Condolence had been ordered.
   2. **Tree Stump in Rose Terrace.** After initially “closing” this matter an apology for not dealing with the remains of the tree had been received from NCC. Warning cones now stood around the stump.
   3. **Police, Crime Commissioner Briefing.** Five members of the Council had attended the briefing / discussion.
   4. **Speeding Mill Road.** Safer Roads Team advised they were still trying to identify a suitable location for the vehicle.
   5. **Waste Recycling Plant Cranford Road Woodford.** No further information had been received.
   6. **Parking Village Greens.** No further update.
6. **Planning Matters:**
   1. **Planning Decisions**
      1. None
   2. **New Planning Application(s)**
      1. None.
   3. **Other Planning Matters**
      1. **Traveller Site in Thrapston Rd**. NNC had advised that they were expecting a revised application for consideration in mid-January addressing the shortfalls of information missing from the original submission.
7. **New Correspondence / Clerk’s announcements:**
   1. **Speeding Mill Road**: Mr Swiecicki drew attention to the speeding issues in Mill Road. The chairman responded detailing the many lines of action the previously taken. The Clerk advised that NNC now offered community grants of up to £5,000, closing dates of 31 December and 31 January. Initial thoughts were that an application could be made to cover the cost of a new electronic speed sign, subsequent investigation revealed the grant conditions would not cover such an item, however, it would be possible to apply to the Police and Crime Commissioner for funding. The Clerk was requested identify suitable signs and pursue this application.
   2. **Warehouse development between Thrapston and Titchmarsh**. Large scale warehouses were planned and the Parish Council was invited to be included in the campaign against the development. Councillors agreed that although unlikely to be affected by the development it would be beneficial to be kept advised.
   3. **Verge maintenance 2022 within Woodford.** Highways had written offering the Parish Council opportunity to continue to maintain verges within the 30mph zone. Councillors unanimously agreed to continue to provide this service.
   4. **Electric Charging for Vehicles.** NNC had requested suggestions for trial charging points for Electric Vehicles. Councillors agreed that the road through the centre of the village green might be a suitable location. Clerk to respond accordingly.
8. **Accounts For Payment:**

Current Account £1,699.03

Interest Account £6.05

Total **£1,705.08**

**Plus**

FCC Grant for Paddocks Fencing project £7,765.00

£9,470.08

**Less**

DD71 Opus Energy (Lighting Power) £358.66

2406 Mr P Bird – Clerk (28hrs 45mins) £370.00

2407 Mrs D Bosworth Litter Picking (4hrs) £35.64

2408 Mr D Cullum (8hrs) £59.20

2409 HMRC Income Tax £31.80 £855.30

**£8,614.78**

Resolved that the above payments be noted and authorised.

1. **Budget / Precept 2022/23:**
   1. A report concerning projected existing expenditure, and potential “new” expenditure including accelerated street lamp upgrade, membership of professional bodies, election expenses provision, training, additional audit costs, low reserves, and the Platinum Jubilee had been circulated. Councillors noted that the Precept for the current financial year was unchanged from 2020/21, and by freezing the Precept again it was likely cuts in expenditure would be required.
   2. Following discussion, it was agreed (by a majority) that the revised budget be accepted and that the Precept be increased by £2,000 to cover the projected expenditure and use the balance to increase the level of reserves/contingency. (The amount equates to a Band D increase approximately £3.96per annum or 8 pence per week)
   3. Clerk to submit Precept of £22,500, by 14th January 2022
2. **Other Business / Items of Interest:**
   1. None

There being no further business the Chairman wished those present a Happy Christmas, a Peaceful New Year and closed the meeting at 8.35pm

Signed Date