Minutes of a meeting Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 15th March 2022 in the Schoolroom of the Baptist Church, Rose Terrace, commencing at 7.30pm

1. **Present:**
   1. Councillors: Mr I Vaughan (chair), Mr G Banham, Mr N Chapman, Mrs A Fothergill, Mrs J Hathaway, Mr M Hurst, Mrs C Hughes, Mr D Sharples, Mr C Swiecicki and Mr M Vaughan.
   2. NNC Cllr D Maxwell, Mr P T Bird (Clerk)
2. **Apologies for absence:**
   1. Mr P J Bird, Mrs R Hancock
3. **Minutes of last meeting:**
   1. The minutes of the February Parish Council meeting having been circulated, were agreed as a true record by those present. It was resolved that they be signed by the Chairman.
4. **Comments from Electors:**
   1. None.
5. **Comments from Cllr D Maxwell NNC**
   1. Cllr Maxwell advised she was still pursuing the idea of a bus service to Rushden Lakes via Irthlingborough Nene Park
   2. The councillor also advised that she was pursuing the enhanced DBS checks to be carried out at regular intervals for all Taxi Drivers.
   3. “Thrapston View” planning application was now being assessed by Planning Officers.
6. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
   1. **Waste Recycling Plant Cranford Road Woodford.** No further information received.
   2. **Verge Maintenance agreement.** Payment for cutting the village verges during 2021 had been received.
   3. **Asset Mapping Project**. The Clerk had claimed the grant of £306.83 to be spent by June in conjunction with this project. All NNC assets and services had now been listed and would be put onto the online database. The purpose of the exercise still seemed vague as there appears to be no standardised list or method of recording information.
   4. **Replacement lamps in Bakers Lane and Addington Road.** Order not yet fulfilled.
   5. **Co-option of Parish Councillor.** The vacancy had been advertised but no one had come forward for co-option.
   6. **Speedsigns.** See below.
   7. **Rectory Lane Junction.** NNC advised they would write to the landowner requesting the vegetation was cut back.
   8. **Tree Pruning on Church Green.** Further to a request made some months ago regarding the pruning of two trees at the top of Church Green, the Clerk had sought advice from various parties which was reported to the meeting. Councillors present agreed that the Council did not presently have the funding to carry out cosmetic tree pruning, to increase the light reaching a resident’s property or improve the “view from the property”.
7. **Planning Matters:**
   1. **Planning Decisions:**

**5 Spires, Church Green**. 22/00016/FUL **Revised internal layout and extension** to rear. **Approved** except for the car port.

* 1. **New Planning Application(s):**
     1. **Ringstead Road Great Addington** (Woodford Parish). **22/00291/FUL** Erection of Stable Block. **No Objection**
     2. **Manor Farm Addington Road** **22/00241/FUL.** Change of Use of Commercial /unit to B8 classification with Office. Noting that there would not be an increase in traffic **No Objection** was raised.
  2. **Other Planning Matters:**
     1. None.

1. **New Correspondence / Clerk’s announcements:**
   1. **Playground Inspection.** The safety report had now been received. Two low priority matters should be monitored, and weed growth around safety matting should be removed.
   2. **Verge Cutting Costs.** R&G had advised that due to increased operating costs the verge cutting price would need to increase to £275 per cut. Councillors agreed not to obtain alternative quotes for the work as fuel price increases would have affected all contractors.
   3. **Thrapston Road Closure.** Advance notice that Thrapston Road would be closed for water connection works on 3rd / 4th May was noted.
   4. **Police Surgery.** PCSO Norman would be on the village green from 1pm to 2pm on 19th March and again at the same time on 16th April.
   5. **Church Green Parking.** A Rectory Lane resident had requested that visitors might be permitted to park on the Church Green on 2nd June whilst attending a brief lunchtime birthday celebration. Agreed to permit with the usual proviso.
2. **Accounts For Payment:**

Current Account £6,901.80

Interest Account £6.05

Total **£6,907.85**

Less

DD74 Opus Energy (Lighting Power) £286.67

2418 Mr P Bird – Clerk (17hrs 30mins) £370.00

2419 Mrs D Bosworth Litter Picking (8 hrs) £70.88

2420 Mr D Cullum (Mower hire) £500.00

2421 North Northants Council (invoice balance) £34.75

2422 Wicksteed Leisure Playground Inspection £122.40

2423 Mr P Bird Clerk Expenses for year – reimbursement £274.46

2424 HMRC income Tax £6.40

2425 E.on Lighting Repairs 28.16

2426 Woodford Baptist Church (Room Hire) £72.00

£1,765.72

**£5,142.13**

Resolved that the above payments be noted and authorised.

The Clerk Drew attention to the fact the Council was not registered with the Information Commissioners Officer, which was a legal requirement as the Council held personal data. This was a £35.00 annual charge and the Clerk was requested to resolve the matter

1. **To agree future action re the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan Working Party:**
   1. After a further debate regarding this matter a vote was taken. For: 2; Against: 6; Abstentions: 2.
   2. Resolved not to pursue this matter at present.
2. **To agree to apply for funding for speed signs from Police, Fire Crime Commissioner**
   1. The Clerk advised that three quotations had been obtained ranging from £4,200 to £5,800. These prices were for signs only of varying designs and did not include data capture. The lowest price sign could include data capture at an additional cost of £300 per unit.
   2. Resolved that the Clerk apply to the PFCC for £5,000 Road Safety Funding.
3. **To agree on actions to be taken regarding commemorating the Platinum Jubilee**
   1. Based on the idea previously raised the cost of a flag pole would be £300-£500 depending on design and level of “goodwill” regarding the installation costs; Playground equipment, would cost £3,000 upwards depending upon type of equipment and amount of safety surfacing required; and a “Jubilee Tree would cost in the region of £200 depending upon variety and size. It was agreed that the “tree” option be followed up and prices obtained for a tree to be planted in the autumn.
4. **To receive verbal update on Council’s assets / risk assessment**
   1. The Clerk reported on the state of the council’s assets. There was minor damage to the fence at the children’s playground, and the seat in Mill Road needed to be monitored as the wooden slats were starting to degrade.
   2. Additionally, the seat in the children’s playground whilst still safe to use, was looking a little “worse for wear”
   3. Agreed to note and monitor.
5. **To agree whether the Annual Litter Pick should be held – potential date etc**
   1. Councillors agreed to hold the Annual Litter Pick and the Clerk to arrange the collection of equipment and organise on the day. Date to be governed by equipment availability.
6. **To receive JAG report:**
   1. Mr M Vaughan reported that the Police priorities would remain unchanged with ASB being the focus for community policing.
7. **To receive Playing Field Representative Report:**
   1. Mr Chapman had nothing to report
8. **Other Business / Items of Interest:**
   1. Mr Hurst mentioned the lack of newspapers at the village shop. Mrs Fothergill pointed out that it was possible to have them delivered direct, for a small fee and would forward information for Clerk to include in Saints Alive.

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

Signed Date