Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th May 2022 in the Schoolroom of the Baptist Church, Rose Terrace, commencing at 7.30pm

1. **Present:**
   1. Councillors: Mr P J Bird (chair), Mr G Banham, Mr N Chapman, Mrs A Fothergill, Mrs J Hathaway, Mr M Hurst, Mr D Sharples, Mr C Swiecicki, Mr I Vaughan, Mr M Vaughan, and Mrs S O’Donnell
   2. NNC Cllr D Maxwell, Mr P T Bird (Clerk)
   3. Mrs O’Donnell signed her Declaration of Office and was welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman, followed by introductions.
2. **Apologies for absence:**
   1. Mrs C Hughes
3. **Minutes of last meeting:**
   1. The minutes of the April 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. **Election of Chair**
   1. The outgoing Chairman in standing down thanked Councillors for their support. Nominations for position of Chair were sought and Mr P J Bird was nominated by Mrs Hathaway, seconded by Mrs Fothergill. No other nominations were forthcoming and with Mr Bird being willing to continue, he took the Chair.
5. **Election of Vice Chair**
   1. Nominations for Vice Chair were sought and Mr I Vaughan was proposed by Mr Chapman, and seconded by Mrs Fothergill. There being no other nominations, and Mr Vaughan being willing he accepted the position
6. **Comments from Electors:**
   1. None.
7. **Comments from Cllr D Maxwell NNC**
   1. Cllr Maxwell discussed the traveller site in Thrapston Road. The Forestry Commission had now issued a restocking order for the area.
   2. Cllr Maxwell suggested that the play area could do with updating. Mr Chapman said he would inspect the site. The Clerk advised that weed growth around the safety matting would be sprayed shortly.
8. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
   1. **Vacancy of Parish Councillor.** A casual vacancy had been advertised and the timescale had a further week to run. If no one came forward the Council would be free to co-opt at a future meeting.
   2. **Security of village green.** Further to comments raised at April meeting the Clerk had enquired of the NNC Highways what steps they could suggest to secure the boundaries of the village greens in order to prevent misuse, damage or the site becoming a “pop up” traveller site. Highways responded that “dragon’s tooth bollards” would be permitted with the proviso that the Parish Council paid the installation cost, future maintenance cost, and used a Highways Registered contractor or NNC. Clerk requested to find out an estimate of the cost involved.
   3. **Woodford Feast Fair.** The advertisement placed on a “Fairground Forum” for a fair in July had been answered by Ian Taylor Family amusements and Mr Taylor would visit the site in early June to confirm suitability. When the time of the meeting was known the Clerk agreed to notify councillors.
9. **Planning Matters:**
   1. **Planning Decisions:**

None received.

* 1. **New Planning Application(s):**
     1. None received.
  2. **Other Planning Matters:**
     1. **Thrapston View.** NNC had advised that due to the number of cases currently being assessed the application would be unlikely to be presented to a Planning Committee before July.

1. **New Correspondence / Clerk’s announcements:**
   1. **Loud Music**. The Clerk drew attention to an email he had received regarding the volume of music played at the Dukes Arms on Sunday afternoons. He had advised the correspondent that the issue fell outside the Parish Council’s remit and the steps to be taken were detailed on the NNC website. Cllr Maxwell offered to investigate.
2. **Accounts For Payment:**

Current Account £3,598.91

Interest Account £6.05

Total **£3,604.96**

Plus Precept £22,500.00

**£26,104.96**

Less

DD77 Opus Energy (Lighting Power) £259.57

2435 Mr P Bird – Clerk (29hrs 30mins) £370.00

2436 Mrs D Bosworth - Litter Picking (8 hrs) £74.80

2437 Mr D Cullum - Groundsman (16 hrs) £118.40

2438 R&G Landscapes £426.00

2439 Mr D Cullum Fuel reimbursement £40.10

£1,288.87

**£24,816.09**

Resolved that the above payments be noted and authorised.

The Clerk advised that the end of March Balance confirmed as £5,448.96, plus VAT refund due of £3,521.10, totalling £8,970.06 less cost of new lamps already ordered in March (£780) gave a carry forward of **£8,190.06** which was more in keeping with the sum the council should hold for emergency use.

1. **Salary Review**
   1. The **Litter Picker’s** hourly rate had been increased from £8.91 to £9.50 in accordance with the National Minimum Wage
   2. The **Groundsman’s** hourly rate was £9.25per hour. Following discussion Mrs Fothergill proposed, seconded by Mr Sharples that in order to keep the differential between the Litter Picker and Groundsman’s wage the hourly rate should increase to £10 per hour. It was agreed by all that the increase be paid from the next time sheet (i.e., £9.25ph) The mower hire charge would remain at £5.00 per hour.
   3. The **Clerk** left the room Councillors discussed the hours worked by the Clerk and it was resolved that the monthly salary should rise to £400.
2. **Police / Joint Action Group report**
   1. Whilst there had been no meeting in the previous month Mr M Vaughan reported that one untaxed vehicle had been seized in Woodford and a speed check had also taken place.
   2. The Clerk reported he had noticed a Traffic Warden in the village on a recent Saturday morning and tickets had been issued for vehicles parked on the double yellow opposite Newtown

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

Signed Date