Minutes of a Meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st February 2023 in the Schoolroom of the Baptist Church, Rose Terrace, commencing at 7.30pm

1. **Present:**
   1. Councillors: Mr G Banham (chair), Mr I Vaughan, Mr N Chapman, Mrs A Fothergill, Mrs C Hughes, Mr M Hurst, Mrs S O’Donnell, Mr D Sharples, Mr C Swiecicki, Mr M Vaughan.
   2. Mr P T Bird (Clerk)
2. **Apologies for absence:**
   1. Mrs J Hathaway, Cllr D Maxwell
3. **Minutes of Previous meeting:**
   1. The minutes of the January 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. No Electors present.
5. **Comments from Cllr D Maxwell NNC**
   1. None
6. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
   1. **“Think Before You Park” Scheme.** The Police Sergeant advised she was not a supporter of this scheme although offered other solutions. Clerk to take up suggestions.
   2. **Layby at Woodwell.** Clerk had responded to the resident that the council’s views were unchanged but would request that NNC install covert cameras. It was suggested installing our own CCTV. Mrs Hughes advised from her experience the regulations involving data security and licencing would be too onerous.
   3. **Speed Limit - Woodford to Addington.** NNC had acknowledged the council’s request, but a full response was still awaited.
   4. **Local Area Partnership.** This information had been circulated to councillors. Mrs Hathaway and Maxwell were attending an NNC briefing this evening.
   5. **Jubilee Sign.** Jubilee Committee had no objections to a sign being installed commemorating the late HM Queen. Councillors discussed wording and agreed “HM Queen Elizabeth II 1952 – 2022”.
   6. **Empowerment Fund Application.** NNC had approved the award of £500 towards the cost of painting the children’s playground equipment. Clerk to sign agreement on behalf of the Council and return with appropriate documents.
7. **Planning Matters:**
   1. **Planning Decisions:**
      1. **2 Pleasant Row Single.** Storey Rear Extension and demolition of conservatoryNE/22/01075/FUL **Permitted.**
      2. **Rear 75 High Street.** Reduce crown of Corkscrew Hazel. NE/22/01372/TCA **Permitted.**
   2. **New Planning Application(s):**
      1. None.
   3. **Other Planning Matters:**
      1. **1 Rectory Lane**. Extension to dwelling – 3rd property. Advice received that this application had been submitted to appeal. Council had previously not objected to this application. Councillors had no further comments to make.
      2. **Traveller Site**. This appeal was to be held on 24th May at Thrapston. It had been previously reported that NNC had decided not to contest the appeal for a Traveller Site in Middleton. The Clerk had asked Councillor Maxwell to seek assurance that NNC would not drop the defence of the Woodford site at the last minute.
8. **New Correspondence / Clerk’s announcements:**
   1. **Wedding Parking 13th May on Church Green.** Request received. Agreed with normal conditions.
   2. **Christmas Trees on Village Green.** Query received from a resident when the trees would be moved from the village green. Clerk asked to make enquiries.
   3. **Garden Waste Collection Scheme.** Garden waste collection will now be charged at £40 with a 50% discount for existing customers in the former East Northants Area for the first year.
   4. **Parking near Cattle Grid in Church Street.** The Clerk had informed the correspondent of the history relating to enforcing parking in this area and advised he had created a sign to deter motorists from doing so.
   5. **Trees on Church Green.** The Clerk reported that he had been advised during a recent weekend that a resident had been pruning trees at the top of Church Green despite previously not being given permission by the Council. He had emailed her advising the work must stop with immediate effect as the trees were publicly owned and additionally such action was a breach of planning law due to conservation area status.
9. **Accounts For Payment:**

Current Account £6,023.05

Interest Account £6.05

**Total £6,029.10**

Less

2483 Mr P Bird – Clerk (22 hrs) £400.00

2484 Mrs D Bosworth Litter Picker (12 hrs) £105.20

DD87 Yu Energy £49.50

DD88 Yu Energy £930.31

£1,485.01

**£4,544.09**

Resolved that the above payments be noted and authorised.

9.1 A request for financial assistance from the Reading Room / Snooker Club was read out and discussed. The club also mentioned that they had been advised the parish council could precept a sum through the council tax to assist with their running costs. (The Clerk had already advised the organisation of potential grant sources). Councillors agreed that due to the council’s own financial position and the fact that the request was for assistance with running costs the Council could not assist. Some councillors also voiced concern that the ratepayer should be requested to assist a private organisation with running costs.

1. **Discuss Local Area Partnership**
   1. Deferred until next meeting.
2. **Minor Amendment to Grounds Maintenance Contract**
   1. The Clerk advised that R&G would spray the children’s playground at £40 per event. This was welcomed and councillors resolved that this be made part of the contract.
3. **To Co-opt two Parish Councillors**
   1. The Clerk reported three persons had expressed an interest, however when invited to provide further information one candidate had withdrawn and no response was received from the other two persons.
4. **To Decide upon holding the Annual Litter Pick**
   1. Agreed Clerk find availability of equipment from NNC and then consult by email before booking avoiding Easter Weekend.
5. **JAG Report**
   1. Mr M Vaughan reported on some of the Neighbourhood alert messages he had received.
6. **Playing Field Representative.** 
   1. None.
7. **Other Business for future meetings**
   1. Mr M Vaughan advised as a Rose Terrace resident he was pursuing a Public Space Protection Order to hopefully reduce the number of commercial vehicles parking on the street.
   2. It was understood a public defibrillator had been installed at the Sports Club.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm.

Signed Date