Minutes of a Meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th April 2023 in the Schoolroom of the Baptist Church, Rose Terrace, commencing at 7.30pm

1. **Present:**
   1. Councillors: Mr G Banham, Mr I Vaughan, Mr N Chapman, Mrs A Fothergill, Mrs J Hathaway, Mrs C Hughes, Mrs S O’Donnell, Mr D Sharples, Ms S Southcombe, Mr C Swiecicki, Mr M Vaughan.
   2. Mr P T Bird (Clerk), Cllr D Maxwell (NNC)
   3. Ms Southcombe duly signed her Declaration of Office and was welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman.
2. **Apologies for absence:**
   1. Mr M Hurst
3. **Minutes of Previous meeting:**
   1. The minutes of the March 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. Cllr Maxwell advised NNC had a new fund of £4 million to assist with one off costs facing vulnerable residents. Chair asked the Councillor to forward details to the Clerk and also ensure the school.
   2. The councillor advised she was in discussion with the Councillor who held the Highways portfolio regarding the parking issues in Rose Terrace.
   3. The councillor once again asked the Parish Council to reconsider donating funds to the Reading Room. She was reminded that standing orders prevent Parish Councils from debating issues within six months of a decision being made unless significant new evidence comes to light. Anecdotal evidence was reported that the funding matter had been resolved.
6. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
   1. **Local Area Partnership.** The Clerk had written to the LAP lead at NNC re our concerns regarding the LAP. A response had been received advising the scheme was in its early days and would be developed to increase the level of general public participation and consultation.
   2. **Speed limit between Great Addington and Woodford.** A response outlining the reasons the limits had been installed between Irthlingborough and Great Addington was read out. The reasons being mainly due to developments alongside the road, continuity in order that the limit did not frequently change from restriction to national limit and commercial vehicles attending the site art Little Addington. None of these applied to the stretch between Great Addington and Woodford. The offer was however made to refer the road to the Speed Limit Panel for consideration. Councillors agreed this should be requested.
   3. **Club Lane.** A response regarding traffic issues in Club Lane had been made and the letter forwarded to the Highways Contact.
   4. **Speed Identification Device.** This was now located in Mill Road.
   5. **Plaque on Village Sign.** The Diamond Jubilee Committee had responded with no objections to the plaque being installed so long as it was on the plinth not the post.
   6. **Police Attendance.** PCSO Burrows had been invited to attend any meetings. The invitation had been appreciated and he would attend when a meeting coincided with his shift.
   7. **Christmas Trees.** The trees had now been removed from the green. Disposal had been an issue. Clerk had offered assistance for next year.
7. **Planning Matters:**
   1. **Planning Decisions:**
      1. **Land adjacent to water tower** – erection of sheds for agricultural use **19/01895/FUL. Withdrawn.**
   2. **New Planning Application(s):**
      1. None**.**
   3. **Other Planning Matters:**
      1. **Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan.** A brief discussion took place regarding the draft NNC plan. To be discussed again at May meeting.
8. **New Correspondence / Clerk’s announcements:**
   1. **Use of Church Green for Wedding.** A request to use Church Green for parking for the duration of a wedding service on 2 September was considered and approved with the usual conditions.
   2. **Road Closure Addington Road.** Advance notification received for water connection works near Manor House Farm between 26th and 28th June.
   3. **Care Holidays for parents of disabled children.** Correspondence outlining this new scheme was briefly discussed.
   4. **Use of Village Green for Coronation Celebration.** A request to use the green had been received and was approved unanimously.
9. **Accounts For Payment:**

***NB this section is draft – end of year bank statement still awaited***

Current Account £2,484.30

Interest Account £6.05

**Total £2,490.35**

Less

2494 Mr P Bird – Clerk (24 hrs) £400.00

2495 Mrs D Bosworth Litter Picker (9 hrs) £88.98

2496 Mr D Cullum Groundsman (12 hrs) £96.00

2497 R&G Verge cutting £96.00

2498 Mr D Cullum Fuel Reimbursement £35.78

2499 Lighting Maintenance £275.40

DD91 Yu Energy Street Lighting Power £506.66

DD92 Yu Energy Street Lighting Power (Lamp sensors) £48.88

DD93 Information Commissioner £35.00

£1582.70

**£907.65**

Resolved that the above payments be noted and authorised.

9.1 The Clerk advised that as the Litter picker was always paid the minimum wage he had factored this into the salary payment above following the NMW increase from 1 April 2023. The groundsman’s wage varied from the National Minimum Wage, and would reflect the appropriate values following the salary review at the May meeting.

9.2 Despite completing for forms previously provided by the bank and returning them, the bank had sent further copies out requiring signatories from two councillors only (i.e. not the Clerk). These were duly completed by the Chair and Vice Chair following the meeting, for return.

1. **Kettering Energy Park Masterplan.** 
   1. A brief discussion took place and concerns were raised over this massive open countryside development, the height of the buildings, traffic movements on an unsuitable road from the A14, past two junctions frequently the location of accidents. It was also apparent the original plan for high energy requirements of site occupiers was being dropped in favour of warehouse sheds. Anecdotal evidence suggests there is now a surplus of land set aside for warehousing in NNC area, and if the proposed employment prospects are met by the developers then there is insufficient workforce in the vicinity.
2. **Gipsy and Traveller Draft Policy**
   1. Draft Policy had been circulated via email. Only concern was that the site yet to receive planning approval in Thrapston Road Woodford was listed within the report. On being queried NNC had advised that both legal and illegal sites were included in the plan, however, this was not particularly apparent in the script. Chairman suggested that further thought be given to a response at the next meeting.
3. **Playground Safety Report**
   1. Councillors who had visited the playground agreed that majority of the matters raised were in hand. It was acknowledged the benchs had seen better days and that the shroud on the elephant springer might need replacing in the near future. Clerk to obtain cost for that work.
   2. Mr Chapman raised the issue of the safety floor edging, and it was agreed he would obtain an estimate for removing rotten timber, refilling the gap and securing the edge of the safety matting for consideration at a future meeting. Depending upon the cost this would be one of a number of quotations required.
   3. A quotation for the specialist paint had now been received and would be ordered.
4. **JAG Report**
   1. Mr M Vaughan reported the meeting would be held in early May.
5. **Playing Field Representative.** 
   1. None.
6. **Other Business for future meetings**
   1. The Clerk was asked to investigate the Speedwatch campaign

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

Signed Date