Minutes of a Meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th December 2023 in the Schoolroom of the Baptist Church, Rose Terrace, commencing at 7.30pm

1. **Present:**
   1. Councillors: Mr G Banham (chair), Mrs S Bryant, Mr N Chapman, Mrs A Fothergill, Mrs J Hathaway, Mr M Hurst, Mrs C Hughes, Mr D Sharples, Mrs S O’Donnell, Mr C Swiecicki, Mr I Vaughan, Mr M Vaughan.
   2. Cllr Maxwell, Mr P T Bird (Clerk).
2. **Apologies for absence:**
   1. Ms Southcombe.
3. **Minutes of last Parish Council Meeting:**
   1. The minutes of the November Parish Council Meeting having been circulated were agreed as a true record.
4. **Public Participation:**
   1. **Police Comments.** Not present
   2. **Cllr D Maxwell NNC.** Cllr Maxwell drew attention to the ever-increasing costs of adult social care (now £330million) within the North Northants Area.  
      The position of Chief Fire Officer had not been ratified.  
      The councillor explained why some potholes were filled and others left.
   3. **Electors.** None
5. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
   1. **Kettering Energy Park.** No further contact or correspondence regarding this matter had been received from either NNC or Mr K Binley’s “protest group” although the clerk was aware that a meeting between Mr Binley and NNC had taken place. NB At the present time the group has no authority to represent Parish Councils.
   2. **Dog Bin Newtown.** The clerk had installed temporary signs regarding the locations of closest bins to the allotments.
   3. **No Parking Signs – Village Green.** The Clerk had received “Empowerment Fund Application” forms that day from Cllr Maxwell.
   4. **Village Green Maintenance.** A solution for the forthcoming year was still ongoing.
   5. **Traveller Site.** The clerk had written to NNC expressing the council’s concerns regarding the perceived inaction and lack of enforcement at the site. The response advised the site was receiving close scrutiny.
   6. **New Street Lamp –** High Street. A quotation for these works was still awaited.
6. **Planning Matters:**
   1. **Planning Decisions**:
      1. **2 Daventry Close –** Construction of shed and paved area NE/23/00958/FUL – **Permitted.**
   2. **New Planning Application(s):**
      1. None.
   3. **Other Planning Matters:**
      1. None.
7. **New Correspondence / Clerk’s announcements:**
   1. **St Mary’s Church.** A letter requesting financial support was read out. This explained a shortfall for the maintenance of the church yard in 2022 as £4,240, but also included one off costs of wall repairs totalling £3,600. Agreed to include on next agenda.
8. **Accounts For Payment:**

Balance ~~end of October 2023~~ **£18,603.13**

**Less**

2544 Mr P Bird Clerk (23 ¼ hrs) £425.00

2545 Mrs D Bosworth Litter Picker (6 hrs) £62.52

2546 E.on Lighting Maintenance £245.40

2547 HMRC Income Tax £23.20

2548 P Bird Reimbursement of new defib pads £71.97

DD109 Yu Energy £47.48

DD110 Yu Energy £486.54

£1,362.11 **£17,241.02**

* 1. It was resolved that these invoices be approved for payment

1. **Budget Setting and Precept**
   1. The clerk had circulated a detailed report and draft budget for the forthcoming year which totalled £23,000. The sums were agreed in principle, but councillors felt an additional sum for inflation should be included. It was resolved that a budget totalling £24,000 be set. (This was still significantly lower than 2023/4 due to the completion of the street light project)
   2. In order to meet this budget, taking into account the anticipated end of year reserves it was unanimously agreed that a Precept for 2024/25 amounting to £23,000 be requested.
2. **JAG Report**
   1. Mr Vaughan reported the priorities of ASB, Road Safety and Burglary would remain unchanged.
3. **Playing Field Report**
   1. Mr Chapman reported that painting of the equipment was on going as and when the weather permitted.
4. **Other Business for future meetings**
   1. The state of the footpath on the corner of Eady’s Row and High Street was mentioned. The clerk was asked to refer to NNC.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

Signed Date