Minutes of a Meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th March 2024 in the Schoolroom of the Baptist Church, Rose Terrace, commencing at 8.15pm

Prior to the formal Parish Council meeting a briefing took place by representatives of “First Renewables” detailing the latest proposals for the Kettering Energy Park. A brief list of the major facts mentioned are appended to these minutes on page 94.   
The Council made no formal response but did stress that if permission for the development was given, it was essential that the General’s Corner Junction was upgraded.

1. **Present:**
   1. Councillors: Mr G Banham, (chair), Mr N Chapman, Mrs A Fothergill, Mrs J Hathaway, Mrs C Hughes, Mr M Hurst, Mr D Sharples, Mrs S O’Donnell, Mr C Swiecicki, Mr I Vaughan.
   2. Cllr D Maxwell, Mr P T Bird (Clerk).
2. **Apologies for absence:**
   1. Mrs Bryant, Ms S Southcombe.
3. **Minutes of last Parish Council Meeting:**
   1. The minutes of the February Parish Council Meeting having been circulated were agreed as a true record.
4. **Public Participation:**
   1. **Police Comments.** The Clerk had written to PCSO Burrows re traffic monitoring in Mill Road, promised on his visit to the PC – No response.
   2. **Councill D Maxwell (NNC).** Cllr Maxwell left the meeting following the “First Renewables” presentation.
   3. **Electors.** None
5. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
   1. **No Parking Signs – Village Green Grant Application.** Receipt of application acknowledged.
   2. **New Lamp High Street.** Receipt of order acknowledged and fitting would take place as soon as practicable.
   3. **Local Area Partnership.** Mrs Hathaway reported on the LAP meeting she had attended. Whilst it had been well attended by local councils, it was still evident that the agenda was being driven by service providers, rather than service users. In future meeting will alternate between online and in person.
   4. **Tree for Church Green.** The Evergreen Oak had now been obtained and would need to be planted. The clerk was still trying to obtain a suitable tree guard.
   5. **St Mary’s Churchyard.** A meeting with the PCC had been arranged for 12 noon on 13th April.
   6. **Recognition of Former Groundsman.** Several ideas were discussed, and the clerk was asked to implement. Mr Cullum to be invited to the next meeting for a brief presentation.
   7. **Traveller Site Thrapston Road.** The Clerk advised at a recent briefing by NNC he was advised that the works carried out on site were in accordance with submitted plans. Works to the verge and highway were outside of the Planning remit and were being addressed by the Highways Department.
6. **Planning Matters:**
   1. **Planning Decisions**:
      1. **None**
   2. **New Planning Application(s):**
      1. **1 Addington Road** – Rear Extension and interior remodelling – NE24/00176/FUL. **No Objection.**
      2. **75 High Street –** Replacement windows and door – NE24/00165/FUL. **No Objection**
      3. **Old School Church Street** – Felling of two trees (conservation area) **No Objection.**
   3. **Other Planning Matters:**
      1. None.
7. **New Correspondence / Clerk’s announcements:**
   1. **Bus Service to Rushden Lakes.** This transport issue was part of the LAP remit and was presently being trialled from Little and Great Addington, (Devoid of all other bus services). Questionnaire to be completed at next meeting.
   2. **Request from School Re Litterpick.** The school had requested information re the (former) annual litterpicks and how they had been organised. Clerk reminded councillors that when children had been involved previously the risk assessment required that they been closely supervised i.e. 1 adult to 2 children. It was agreed that the Council did not have the manpower to organise such an event but would pass on all relevant information to the school.
   3. **Woodford Community and Sports Complex.** Mr Pursglove MP had written drawing attention to and congratulating the WCSC on receipt of Government Funding. Clerk offered to pass on the Parish Council’s congratulations.
   4. **Women of Woodford.** WOW had requested permission to plant spring bulbs around trees on Church Green. All in favour.
   5. **Use of Main Greens.** A request to use the village green for charity events, on 1 & 2 June for Open Gardens, 22 June Fete for “style” event, 27 July for Dog Show, 1 December for Christmas Lights. Request Approved. No details re visit of Fair received yet.
8. **Accounts For Payment:**

Balance end of February 2024 **£14,598.36**

**Less**

2554 Mr P Bird - Clerk £425.00

2555 Mrs D Bosworth Litter Picker (5 hrs) £52.10

2556 Mr P Bird – Reimbursement of expenses for year £212.00

2557 Woodford Baptist Church (use of premises) £72.00

2558 Mr D Cullum (use of mower 2023) £385.00

2559 HMRC Income Tax £14.00

2560 Help for Heroes (in lieu of audit) £70.00

2561 Mr P Bird Reimbursement for Oak tree £67.50

2562 Saints Alive Donation £200.00

DD115 Yu Energy £45.42

DD116 Yu Energy Lighting Power £429.09

DD117 Information Commissioner (Data Protection Registration) £35.00

£2,007.11 **£12,591.25**

* 1. **Cheque payments 2560 and 2562**. It was resolved that payments be made to Help for Heroes (£70) in lieu of the internal audit fee (Accounts y/e March 2023) and following receipt of a request for subsidy from the Saints Alive Editor it was resolved to pay the requested £200.
  2. It was resolved that these invoices and amounts be approved for payment.

1. **Village Green Maintenance**
   1. Mr Brett had confirmed he would cut the village greens for £95.00 per cut. Two other local contractors advised they did not have the capacity to take on additional work. Councillors agreed that Mr Brett be requested to carry out the work to be reviewed in twelve months’ time.
2. **Appointment of Internal Auditor**.
   1. Councillors agreed to appoint Mrs S Davies to continue in her role as Internal Auditor
3. **Playing Field Report**
   1. Mr Chapman had nothing to report.
4. **Report from Joint Action Group**
   1. Mr M Vaughan had nothing to report
5. **Other Business for future meetings**
   1. None

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:20pm.

Signed Date

**Addendum to Parish Council minutes for March 2023.**

The following notes were taken during a presentation by First Renewables to Woodford Parish Councillors in connection with Kettering Energy Park. They are for **information only** and do not form part of the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held that same day

* All documentation including background papers will be released on new website scheduled for launching in April
* Admitted that previous masterplan website did not contain sufficient background information which led to much supposition
* Revised masterplan takes into account 50 of the 54 recommendations / subjects raised in the original consultation last May and comments made at the autumn EAP meeting. (Remaining 4 recommendations are apparently impossible)
* The size of the site is slightly smaller than originally planned down from 390,000 square metres to 302,000 square metres
* Height of tallest buildings has been scaled back to 25m which is in line with standard warehouse scaling.
* Amount of “B8” will be reduced from 70% to less than 50% of development
* Buildings near entrance and in vicinity of Roundhouse will have lowest rooflines.
* All buildings will feature solar on their roofs
* Future tenants must be high energy users (this will be a “planning condition”)
* Planning application will be initially “outline” in order to install drainage roads and other services. Actual building construction will be applied for at a later date and will probably be dealt with as “Reserved Matters”. Applications will be specific to future occupiers who will have buildings constructed to their specification.
* There is a lot of commercial interest in occupying the site although no specific names were mentioned – some companies looking to expand into new premises, others looking to consolidate on one site
* There seems to be a move back to the site being occupied by companies either requiring high energy or those within the energy sector, be it research or manufacturing.
* Access to the A510 will be via a roundabout which will be off the line of the current road. Link to the proposed J10A on A14 not currently being considered.
* Other junction improvements, e.g. A14, Woodford, Great Addington, Finedon were (at time of the meeting with WPC) still being evaluated.
* Traffic modelling is being carried out by Highways England in conjunction with NNC – not the developer
* Consultation at Finedon 20th April is non statutory, and does not involve NNC. Closing date of middle of May for responses (I believe) is so that comments can be considered and incorporated into the planning application which they are seeking to submit in the summer. Once the Planning Application is finalised statutory consultations will then take place as part of the planning process. Hoping for a planning decision during first half of 2025 with ground works commencing autumn / winter 2025
* Scale of the development is small enough to not warrant government intervention unless there is significant pressure on the secretary of state to “call it in”.
* There is no government funding involved of any kind consequently a change of government is unlike to have any consequences. Potentially local government elections next year could have a greater impact.
* Employment was contentious point – FR raised the fact that another 5000 houses are to be built at Hanwood Park so unlikely to be an issue as well as Wellingborough and Rushden East.
* 4,000 jobs likely to be created both in high and low skilled capacities. R & D will drive high skilled sector whereas the new agricultural infrastructure will drive lower skilled opportunities
* The need for more B8 was questioned citing the vacancies and lack of action at the Isham site. That site is apparently on hold as the developer has gone bankrupt or is in financial difficulties. FR once again drew attention to the specific requirements which will form part of the planning conditions as to the specialist occupiers of the site.
* Looking for improved energy and food security. Food miles will be the next “Big Thing” having dropped off the radar in recent years. Must be less reliant on food imports.
* Loss of farm land but anticipated food output will increase due to new practices, glasshouses, hydroponics etc.
* Whole site once complete is likely to be to be Carbon neutral
* Bio diversity – net gain target will be 15%
* 4km extra hedges and 1400 new trees