Minutes of a Meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 16th April 2024 in the Schoolroom of the Baptist Church, Rose Terrace, commencing at 7.30pm

Prior to the commencement of the formal meeting the Chairman, Mr Guy Banham made a presentation to recently retired Groundsman, Mr David Cullum, who had cut the village greens for 31 seasons.

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. Mr P T Bird (Clerk).one member of public.
2. **Apologies for absence:**
   1. Mr D Sharples, Ms S Southcombe. Cllr D Maxwell (NNC)
3. **Minutes of last Parish Council Meeting:**
   1. The minutes of the March Parish Council Meeting having been circulated were agreed as a true record and signed by the chairman.
4. **Public Participation:**
   1. **Police Comments.** The Clerk had written again to PCSO Burrows (copied to Sgt Goodwin) re traffic monitoring in Mill Road. No response.
   2. **Councillor D Maxwell (NNC).** Not present.
   3. **Electors.** No comments.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
   1. **New Lamp High Street.** Installation was imminent.
   2. **Local Area Partnership.** Mrs Hathaway discussed recent communication re LAP and forthcoming meeting.
   3. **Grant Application for No Parking Signs.** Still no update.
   4. **Bus Service to Rushden Lakes.** Agreed to apply for a trial minibus service to Rushden Lakes. Clerk to complete application and return.
   5. **St Mary’s Churchyard.** The chairman reported on steps the Church would take to continue providing burial sites for the village and had offered his support with completion of various applications.
   6. **Kettering Energy Park**. Councillors discussed Kettering Energy Park and agreed to respond to the consultation continuing to object to the proposal. In particular, objecting against open countryside development, no provision for increased traffic, 70% of development being “B8” warehousing. Mrs Hathway drew attention to a recent CPRE publication and asked that it be circulated to all councillors.
   7. **Women of Woodford.** The clerk had responded in the affirmative to the request from WOW to plant bulbs on Church Green
6. **Planning Matters:**
   1. **Planning Decisions**:
      1. **75 High Street.** Replacement windows and door NE24/00165/FUL. **Approved.**
   2. **New Planning Application(s):**
      1. **None**
   3. **Other Planning Matters:**
      1. None.
7. **New Correspondence / Clerk’s announcements:** 
   1. **Complaint re Car Parking in High Street.** Haphazard parking between Eady’s Row and the phone box was raised. Clerk to write to Highways and Police.
   2. **Complaint re Speeding.** A complaint re speeding in Mill Road was read out. Cllrs agreed that the Safer Roads Team be contacted again with a view to participating in the scheme. Clerk to respond to correspondent advising of the proposal.
   3. **Request re Pound Lane**. A request to weedkill footpath in front of a dwelling in Pound Lane was received. Whilst not a Parish Council matter clerk was asked to advise householder that contractors should follow manufacturers recommended practice.
   4. **Use of Playing Field**. Temporary storage of hardcore for creating a base for storage containers now appeared to extend into a builder’s store together with skips. Mr Chapman said he would investigate. Clerk to write a letter to the Club reminding them of the contents of the lease if allegations were true.  
      Discussion also took place regarding the gates into the neighbouring field. Councillors agreed that access could, on a day-to-day basis be managed by the Club, but as the land owner the council, would write to the owner of the field advising that whilst permissive occasional access would be allowed, a legal “Right of Access” would not be permitted.
   5. **Feast Fair.** Taylor’s Fair would visit on 7th July, opening towards the end of that week.
8. **Accounts For Payment:**

Balance brought forward **£12,591.25**

**Plus residual 2023/24 transactions**

Interest £0.07

NNC Verges Refund £442.65

HMRC Vat Refund £1,794.08

**YEAR END BALANCE 31 March 2024 \* £14,828.05**

\* Invoices for work ordered in 2023/4 total £1,805.45 resulting in a cash balance of £13,022.60 plus VAT refund

**Less**

2563 Mr P Bird - Clerk £425.00

2564 Mrs D Bosworth Litter Picker £91.52

2565 E.on ¼ maintenance contract 245.40

2566 Gallagher Insurance 534.25

2567 R&G Landscape 387.90

2568 P J Brett Village Green Maintenance 190.00

DD118 Yu Energy £47.24

DD119 Yu Energy Lighting Power £378.05

£2,299.36 **£12,528.69**

* 1. It was resolved that these invoices and amounts be approved for payment.
  2. It was noted the true carry forward of just over £13,000 of which £1,000 was allocated to balance the Budget (difference between budgeted expenditure and Precept resulting in a contingency / emergency fund of £12,000 equalling of 50% of the Council’s Budget in line with recommended levels. See December 2023 para 9 et seq.

1. **Discuss and approve Risk Assessment Document**
   1. Councillors approved the addition of clauses relating to Business Continuity being included in the Councils Risk Assessment.
2. **Discuss NNC Community Governance Review**
   1. The opportunity to take part in a community governance review was discussed. This covered matters such as number of councillors, name and extent of parish boundary. Councillors agreed not to participate unless legally required to do so.
3. **Format of Annual Parish Meeting**
   1. Agreed an open invitation be offered to village organisations who would like to participate in the meeting by providing a report, written or verbal. Agenda to be based upon previous year.
4. **Playing Field Report**
   1. Mr Chapman had nothing to report.
5. **Report from Joint Action Group**
   1. Mr M Vaughan had nothing to report
6. **Other Business for future meetings**
   1. None

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:05pm.

Signed Date