Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st May 2024 in the Schoolroom of the Baptist Church, Rose Terrace, commencing at 7.30pm

1. **Present:**
   1. Councillors: Mr I Vaughan, (chair), Mrs S Bryant, 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 M Vaughan.
   2. Mr P T Bird (Clerk).one member of public.
2. **Apologies for absence:**
   1. Mr G Banham, Ms S Southcombe. Cllr D Maxwell (NNC) arrived later
3. **Election of Chair**
   1. Mr G Banham was proposed by Mr Sharples and seconded by Mrs Hughes to continue as Chairman. There being no other nominations and Mr Banham (in his absence) having previously expressed his willingness to continue, was duly appointed.
4. **Election of Vice Chair**
   1. Mr I Vaughan was proposed by Mrs Bryant and seconded by Mr Hurst to continue as Vice Chairman. There being no other nominations Mr Vaughan was duly appointed and he took the chair.
5. **Minutes of last Parish Council Meeting:**
   1. The minutes of the April Parish Council Meeting having been circulated were agreed as a true record and signed by the chairman.
6. **Public Participation:**
   1. **Police Comments.** The Clerk understood the Police had carried out speed monitoring that day
   2. **Councillor D Maxwell (NNC).** Reported that NNC would continue providing meals through the holidays to children entitled to Free School Meals and a new Head of Children’s Services was now in place.
   3. **Electors.** No comments.
7. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
   1. **New Lamp High Street.** New street lamp had been installed and invoice was to hand.
   2. **Local Area Partnership.** Next meeting would be in June.
   3. **Grant Application for No Parking Signs.** The grant had been agreed and the contract completed and returned by the Clerk.
   4. **Bus Service to Rushden Lakes.** The application for a minibus to Rushden Lakes had been lodged**.**
   5. **Kettering Energy Park**. The Clerk’s letter had been circulated for approval before submission. Letter had also been copied to Cllr Brackenbury (Chair Planning EAP Committee) and Tom Pursglove MP who had responded welcoming the Council’s stance.
   6. **Complaint re Car Parking in High Street.** Highways advised they would not provide any form assistance to make cars park more orderly, and improvements to the surface could not be considered at the present time. Clerk to advise complainant but seek advice from Police.
   7. **Access to adjoining land via Playing Field.** A letter had been drafted and was read out, advising that no Right of Access could be claimed. Delivered by hand.
   8. **Hardcore at Playing Fields.** The Clerk and Mr Chapman had met with representatives of the Club. The hardcore was being collected to created a hardstanding upon which the goalposts would be stored. The collection of timber will be disposed of when the wind is in the right direction.
8. **Planning Matters:**
   1. **Planning Decisions**:
      1. **1 Addington Road** – Rear Extension NE/24/00176/FUL **Permitted**
      2. **The Old School Church Street** felling of trees NE/24/00253/TCA. **Permitted.**
   2. **New Planning Application(s):**
      1. **9 Long Row** NE/24/00287/FUL **Replacement of roof.** The applicant sort to replace 1960’s concrete tiles with modern “lookalike” slate despite suggesting the original roof would have been pantile. Despite this being a retrospective application, it was resolved to **OBJECT** to the proposal. Not doing so would condone the practice of ignoring the requirements of the conservation area.
      2. **2 Daventry Close** NE/24/00346/VAR **Removal of condition 4 relating to provision of garage door** (NE/23/00958/FUL). **NO OBJECTION** so long as structure remains as a garage and is not used as additional living accommodation. The building is not visible from the public highway.
      3. 2 **Alledge Drive** NE/24/00339/FUL **Creation of vehicular access off Thrapston Road.** Removed from Planning Register at time of meeting – no reason or details available.
      4. **5 Spires, Church Green** NE/24/00304/FUL **Single storey extension and carport (revised). NO OBJECTION** to this application but the construction of a car port obscuring the front elevation windows a strange design facet, creating an unusual street scene as the line of sight from the lower road will cause the car port to obscure much of the front of the building.
      5. **Tree Works Church Green adjacent Riverview House.** NE/24/00442/TCA. Request for permission to NNC to pollard the Oak and Maple tree to the south of the property on Church Green. Councillors **OBJECTED** on the grounds that the trees were not close to the house and would not pose a risk to the boundary wall. No contact had been received from the resident.
   3. **Other Planning Matters:**
      1. None.
9. **New Correspondence / Clerk’s announcements:** 
   1. **Complaint re broken pavement near 47 Highfield.** A resident had reported this to NNC for repair but the NNC state this is not a pavement but a Right of Way which has no prescribed standard of structure Clerk to write to Highways advising this is primarily a pavement linking Eady’s Row to Highfield.
   2. **Use of Village Green for Open Gardens**. The Church had requested the use of the Green for a ticket and plant stall on the days of the Open Gardens. Agreed unanimously.
   3. **Use of Village Green on 22 June for Fundraiser**. Previously agreed but request received to change date to one week later – no objection.
   4. **Parking issues Club Lane / Church Street junction.** Cars in Church Street parked right to the corner with Club Lane against the rules of the Highway Code. Agreed that the Council could request that an extension of double yellow lines around the corner could be made but not a lot of hope the request would be entertained. Clerk to respond to complainant
   5. **Appearance of Post Office and parking on pavement.** A request whether the Council could persuade the shop owner to tidy the forecourt and not park on the pavement had been received. Agreed that as this was private property it was outside the Councils control, but the issue could be mentioned along with the parking which forces pedestrians into the road from the pavement. Mrs Hughes agreed to speak to the shopkeeper about the villagers’ concerns.
10. **Accounts For Payment:**

Balance brought forward **£12,528.69**

**Plus Precept** £23,000.00

**£35,528.69**

**Less**

2569 Mr P Bird - Clerk £425.00

2570 P J Brett Village Green Maintenance £190.00

2571 R&G Landscapes £483.90

2572 Cancelled Cheque £0.00

2573 North Northants Council (Dog Bin emptying Church St 62.90

2574 Mrs D Bosworth Litter Picker £96.36

2575 E.on New lamp High Street £2,166.54

DD120 Yu Energy £45.34

DD121 Yu Energy Lighting Power £337.40

£3,807.44 **£31,721.25**

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

1. **To discuss the Pay Review for Litter Picker, and Clerk** 
   1. The Clerk advised that the Litter Pickers hourly rate had been increased in line with the revised national minimum wage from April 2024 to £ per hour. It as resolved that this should be maintained.
   2. The Clerk’s monthly pay was discussed and ultimately agreed following a vote to beincreased to £460 per calendar month. (The Clerk withdrew from the meeting for this item)
2. **To agree whether to be co-signatory to joint Parish Council letter objecting to Kettering Energy Park**
   1. It was agreed that the Council would add its name to the letter. Clerk to circulate to Councillors once draft had been produced.
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. Mr I Vaughan had been approached about the size of some of the street side trees in Highfield. Clerk to contact NNC to ask under what circumstances they will prune them.

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

Signed Date