**Minutes of a Meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 16th July 2024 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 J Hathaway, Mr M Hurst, Mrs S O’Donnell, Ms S Southcombe, Mr D Sharples, Mr C Swiecicki, Mr I Vaughan and Mr M Vaughan.
   2. Cllr D Maxwell, Mr P T Bird (Clerk).
2. **Apologies for absence:**
   1. Mrs Fothergill, Mrs Hughes
3. **Minutes of last Meeting:**
   1. The minutes of the June Parish Council Meeting having been circulated were agreed as a true record.
4. **Public Participation:**
   1. **Electors.** None
   2. **Police Comments.** The Police were not in attendance however, PCSO Burrows had reported that the speed monitoring on all three approach roads had resulted in no offences being committed.
   3. **Councillor D Maxwell (NNC).** Councillor Maxwell outlined some of the actions NNC were taking in the school holidays for children who received free school meals.   
      NNC had been advised they would be responsible for housing up to 1,800 immigrants over the next five years.  
      The Police and Crime Commissioner had appointed a deputy without advertising or apparently appropriate vetting against the wishes of the Councillors Crime Panel  
      The recently sacked Chief Constable was being encouraged to repay the salary he received whilst suspended.  
      The Councillor drew attention to the recently elected Lee Baron MP and the previous MP Tom Pursglove who had supported many parish initiatives. Councillors requested the Clerk write to Mr Baron requesting he continue to support the local electorate.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
   1. **No Parking Signs – Village Green Grant Application.** Payment had now been received but the Clerk asked councillors whether the sign to be erected on the main green should be a removable type in a lockable socket. Councillors agreed and approved.
   2. **Kettering Energy Park.** No further developments to report although a request to formalise the “Objectors group” as a separate entity had been suggested by Cranford Parish Council. Councillors agreed to nominate Ms Southcombe and Mr M Vaughan to the steering group. Clerk to pass on contact details.
   3. **Feast Fair.** Ian Taylor Fun Fair had donated £100 to the council for use of the green.
   4. **Overgrown Leys field** was mentioned – Clerk contacted Drayton re cutting.
   5. **Timber for seat in playground.** This had been ordered. Clerk to deliver to Mr Chapman for treatment and fixing. Agreed that to tidy the second bench that the clerk should order “plastic wood”.
   6. **Community Speedwatch.** The Clerk had written requesting details of how to join.
   7. **Blocked Gully Piles Fields SW end Church Street** – blocked drain was still causing flooding of footpath. The Clerk had received no response to his message to the farmer. Noted that incident was also logged with NNC Right of Way Team.
   8. **Trees on Highfield verges** – reported to NNC for pruning / action.
   9. **Bus Service to Rushden Lakes**. A weekly bus service was proposed to Rushden Lakes commencing in October.
   10. **Audit 2024/5**. Mr Serle had advised he was willing to carry out the checks next year.
   11. **Trailer Highfield**. The dumped trailer had now been removed.
   12. **Footpath Highfield**. This had now been repaired
6. **Planning Matters:**
   1. **Planning Decisions**:
      1. **2 Daventry Close** Addition of door to car port NE/24/00346/VAR **Permitted**
      2. **9 Long Row.** Replacement Roof (retrospective) NE/24/00287/FUL **Permitted**
   2. **New Planning Application(s):**
      1. **35A High Street** Replacement windows and iron railings to new front wall. NE/24/00601/FUL **No Objection**
      2. **13 Church Street.** Demolition of stone garage and stables and construction of new garage with games room above NE/24/00661/FUL. **No Objection**

**Declaration of interest**

Mrs S O’Donnell declared an interest and took no part in this matter (6.2.2).

* 1. **Other Planning Matters:**
     1. A meeting had taken place with the NNC tree officer re trees at the top centre of Church Green. The officer had advised that there was no apparent reason to prune the trees, although the decision rested with the council, as owner of the trees. After discussion councillors unanimously agree not to agree to the trees being pruned.
     2. Mrs Hathaway suggested all the trees on Church Green should be reviewed with a view to carrying out works over the winter period. All in agreement.

1. **New Correspondence / Clerk’s announcements:**
   1. **Road Closure Church Green**. A closure order had been granted for the period of 2nd – 6th September in order to carry out a new gas connection
   2. **Road Closure – Club Lane.** A closure order had been granted to Anglian Water for the period 11th – 13th September to repair stoptaps.
   3. **Safe Battery Disposal.** The council was asked whether it would add support to a campaign and legislation to improve the disposal methods of Lithium-ion batteries which were currently the source of two fires per week. Council agreed.
   4. **Skips on Playing Field**. A number of complaints had been received that builder’s skips were sited on the playing field and the builder’s rubble was transferred to them from lorries. Clerk asked to complain to Club as this was unsafe and was also using the field for commercial purposes.
2. **Accounts For Payment:**

Balance end of June 2024 **£30,188.84**

**Plus**

National Grid – Wayleave £22.50

Ian Taylor Funfair £100.00

NNC grant for No Parking Signs £150.00

**£30,461.34**

**Less**

2582 Mr P Bird – Clerk (18.5 hours) £460.00

2583 P J Brett Grounds Maintenance £190.00

2584 R&G Landscapes (verges) £775.80

2585 E.on Lighting Contractor £245.40

2586 Mrs D Bosworth Litter Picking (8 hours) £87.12

DD124 Yu Energy Lighting Power £43.76

DD125 Yu Energy Lighting Power £274.97

£2,077.05 **£28,384.29**It was resolved that these invoices and amounts be approved for payment.

1. **Seat Repairs in children’s playground**
   1. Covered in matters arising para 5.5
2. **Village Car Parking**
   1. A suggestion had been received that the Council look into purchasing for parking the former Prince of Wales car park. Numerous challenges were cited including cost (currently building land), increased traffic into area, need for planning permission, (Highways had previously discounted the idea of using part of the allotments due to traffic and access), monitoring of use and security, relatively small number of vehicles. Agreed not to pursue idea
3. **Meet and Greet.** 
   1. Ms Southcombe advised she was still formulating ideas. Carry forward to next meeting
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 with regard to JAG but reported that there were a number of parking issues causing blocked access in Rose Terrace which had been reported to the police. No action appeared to be forthcoming.
6. **Other Business for future meetings**
   1. None.

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

Signed Date