

Minutes of a meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th February 2013 in the vestry of the Baptist Church, Rose Terrace, commencing at 7.30pm

- Present:** Mr P Bird (chair), Mr N Chapman, Mrs S Cooke, Mr M Hurst, Mr J Mead, Mrs S Robinson, Mr D Sharples, Mr I Vaughan, Mr M Vaughan, Mrs D Winn
- In attendance:** Cllr D Hughes (ENC), Cllr A Langley (NCC), Mr P T Bird (Clerk)
- Apologies for absence:** Mr M Hackney, Mrs W Iversen, Cllr Langley, Police.
The Clerk drew attention to a phone call he had received from Mrs Iversen tending resignation. ENC had been informed and if an election was not called then it would be possible at the next meeting to co-opt two persons to fill the vacancies. Mr M Vaughan queried whether the council could exercise “positive discrimination e.g. to require that prospective councillors were long standing residents. The Clerk responded that all Woodford electors are eligible including certain other categories of elector. The co-option process would permit existing Councillors to vote for a new councillor based upon whatever criteria they wished.
- Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the January Parish Council meeting having been circulated, were agreed as a true record by those present. It was unanimously agreed that the Chairman sign them as such.
- Youth Forum Update:**
- 1: Mr M Vaughan had provided his CRB certificate to the Clerk and relevant factors had been noted.
 - 2: A heated debate took place regarding the validity of Youth Forum. Mr M Vaughan reported at the inaugural meeting there had been five attendees, and a further meeting was planned in the near future.
- Police Report:**
- 3: A Police Officer was not present. The Clerk reported that during January two burglaries of non domestic properties had been recorded. Total Crime for last twelve months stood at 40, with 30 occurring since 1 April 2012.
 - 4: **Shooting in Shrubbery.** Mr Sharples reported that he had observed a man and boy both leaving the shrubbery both carrying gun cases immediately after hearing shotgun reports. He was most concerned that this had occurred close to a public footpath and in a wooded area where other pedestrians might not always be visible. The Clerk was asked to inform the Police and Drayton Estate, giving details of the vehicle in which the two persons were seen leaving the scene.
- Comments from Electors:**
- Cllr Langley’s Comments:**
- Cllr Hughes Comments:**
- 5: No members of the electorate were present.
 - 6: Cllr Langley was not present
 - 7: Cllr Hughes drew attention to the fact that NCC would not be increasing their share of the Council Tax this year; however, East Northants planned a small increase, which in turn would generate more funds from Central Government.
 - 8: Judgement on the Lyveden Wind Farm was to be at the High Court within a couple of weeks. There would be a planning enquiry in June for the Rushden Lakes project.
 - 9: Mrs Robinson raised concerns that the Connect Bus was not capable of being lowered for disabled access. Cllr Hughes agreed to follow up.
- Matters arising from the minutes:**
- 10: **Community Plan** Mr M Vaughan complained that the steps taken at the January meeting deviated from the process agreed at the December meeting i.e. an initial report detailing steps to be taken to form a steering group would

be given at the February meeting. Furthermore he suggested that some form of judicial review might be appropriate as due process had not been followed. Mrs Cooke replied that other events had caused the public meeting to be brought forward to 25 February; these had been reported verbally to the January Meeting. The Chairman reminded those present, that the January minutes had already been agreed as a true record and consequently actions taken could no longer be questioned. Mr M Vaughan also expressed concern over the location of the meeting but conceded it was potentially the only location available. Following a number of heated exchanges the chairman concluded this agenda item.

- 11: **Seat in Church Green.** The Clerk reported that he had written to Mr Brown requesting that the seat at the top of Church Green be replaced as soon as possible.
- 12: **Lamps** The Clerk reported he had still not managed to make contact with E.on despite email, letters and a number of phone calls.
- 13: **Community speedwatch.** The Police had written again regarding the community speedwatch having now dropped the £450 fee. The requirements to obtain details of 12 persons who could be trained to use the equipment and also a petition equal to 20% of the electorate by the end of the month was considered to be unachievable.
- 14: **Parking in High Street.** The Clerk reported that he had reported the parking issues in the High Street on the double yellow lines.
- 15: **Playground.** The Clerk drew attention to grass which was growing through the fence at the children's playground, and councillors agreed that Mr Cullum be engaged to remove the grass, and generally tidy the area.
- 16: **Big Lottery Grant.** The Clerk reported that the Playground Fence Project completion notice had been sent to the Big Lottery Fund and this had been acknowledged.
- 17: **Jubilee tree.** The Clerk had written to Mr Blount concerning the provision of a Holm Oak. Mr Blount had agreed to source the tree and would also arrange for delivery/ to the site on a date to be arranged in March.
- 18: **Mr P Colson.** The Clerks letter of thanks to Mr Colson was read out.
- 19: **Hedge Mill Road.** The Clerk reported he had written again to Ms Dennis at ENC regarding the hedge which was removed adjacent to footpath PE1.
- 20: **Highfield Road Resurfacing.** The Clerk reported he had still not had a definitive reply regarding the resurfacing of the remaining part of Highfield (Adjacent to Orchard Court).
- 21: **Noticeboard.** The Clerk reported on prices for additional noticeboards and after general discussion, councillors agreed the cost / benefits were a poor ratio and the subject discounted.

Planning Issues:

- 22: Plans commented upon since last meeting
 - a) No planning matters had been received since the last meeting.
- 23: East Northamptonshire Council Decisions
 - a) **30 Church Street Woodford EN12/01908/FUL Side garage extension. Permitted.**
- 24: New Planning Applications
 - a) **Relocation of Farm Shop (retrospective) and extension comprising a Coffee Shop. EN/12/2045 – Addington Road.** Councillors raised **No Objections** but asked Clerk to query whether the location was outside of the Village Development Zone.
- 25: Other Planning Matters
 - a) None

- New Correspondence:**
- 26: **Trees in High Street.** Mr A Sawford MP had written on behalf of Mr Coles expressing concern over the size of the trees in the High Street. The Chairman outlined the difficulties over land ownership and obtaining permission to prune trees in a conservation area. The Clerk as asked to ask Mr Blount to prepare a proposition regarding the trees, and additionally discuss options with the County Council, Drayton Estate and East Northants Council. The clerk was also asked to respond to the MP.
- 27: **Inspector V Clarke.** Inspector Clarke had written informing that he would be leaving the local sector to take a specific county wide project. The letter also drew attention to the increases in officers, both Constables and Community support officers.
- 28: **Grass cutting – Verges.** NCC had written offering a grant to the Council of £442.65 if the Council took on board the verge cutting in the 30mph zone. This was unanimously agreed. The clerk was asked to complete the relevant documents. Also a contract from ENC was to hand for carrying out the grass cutting of the verges within the 30mph zone, and Councillors agreed that the Clerk should sign on behalf of the Council.

Finance:**Account balances brought forward**

Current Account		£1,745.81	
High Interest Account		£5,049.56	
Total			£6,795.37
Plus			
Working Men's Club (Peppercorn rent)			£1.00
			£6,796.37
Less			
786 Mr P Bird Clerk	£208.00		
787 Mrs D Bosworth	£84.23		
788 E.on Lighting power	£224.44		
789 Pendred's Signs (No Parking Back Green)	£144.00	£660.67	
Balance Carried forward			£6,135.70

- 29: Mr Chapman proposed, Mrs Robinson seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the above accounts be settled.

Any other Business:

- 30: **Commemorative Seat.** Mr M Vaughan said he would like to purchase a seat for locating in the village commemorating his parents. Councillors agreed to follow up later in the year.
- 31: **Bollard near Post Office.** Mr I Vaughan drew attention to the missing bollard outside the Post Office.
- 32: **New Lamp in West Street.** Mr M Vaughan suggested a location for a new street lamp might be in the lower part of West Street. Agreed to consider once all mercury lamps had been replaced.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:30pm.

Signed

Dated

Woodford Parish Council