

Minutes of a meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th March 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 Hackney, Mr M Hurst, Mr J Mead, Mrs S Robinson, Mr D Sharples, Mr I Vaughan, Mr M Vaughan, Mrs D Winn.
- In attendance:** Mr P T Bird (Clerk)
- Apologies for absence:** Cllr D Hughes (ENC), Cllr A Langley (NCC), Police
- Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the February 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 informed the meeting that he had succeeded in obtaining a grant of £200. The number of interested young people was increasing. Parental Consent forms were presently being circulated to parents.
- Police Report:** 2: A Police Officer was not present. The Clerk reported that recorded crime in February comprised one burglary (other), one sexual offence, one theft / handling and two violent offences. Total of 35 offences since April 2012.
- Comments from Electors:** 3: No members of the electorate were present.
- Cllr Langley's Comments:** 4: Cllr Langley was not present
- Cllr Hughes Comments:** 5: Cllr Hughes was not present
- Matters arising from the minutes:** 6: **Jubilee Tree.** The Holm Oak had been ordered and the invoice was to hand. Clerk to arrange planting date and inform councillors when known.
7: **Trees in High Street.** The Clerk's response to Mr Sawford MP and Mr Coles was read out. A quote to carry out the work had been received for £250 which was highly competitive compared to previous quotations received. A response from Drayton Estate was still awaited.
8: **Replacement street lamps.** A quotation for replacing street lamps in Rose Terrace, and Bakers Lane was to hand. Mr Sharples proposed and Mr I Vaughan seconded, all in agreement, that the work be carried out
9: **Shooting Shrubbery.** The shooting previously reported had been forwarded to the Police and Drayton Estate. Those involved were apparently licensed by Drayton Estate, however the Estate had agreed to remind all gun users of the guidelines and laws.
10: **Village Plan.** Two meetings had taken place with good levels of support. Due to booking arrangements at the Community Club, the next few meetings would be held at the Dukes Arms.
- Planning Issues:** 11: Plans commented upon since last meeting
a) No planning matters had been received since the last meeting.
12: East Northamptonshire Council Decisions
a) No decisions had been made by East Northants Council
13: New Planning Applications
a) **River View, Addington Road.** - Extension of existing stores to form sunroom / studio. - **13/00335/RWL** Councillors raised no objections to the renewal suggesting that the conversion should be retained as an annex

- to the main dwelling only
- b) **13 Club Lane** - Erection of detached store / playroom – **13/00334/RWL** – No Objection.
- c) **Woodford Mill Ringstead** – Extension to tea room **12/01474/FUL** –.An extension to the southern gable end of the property to accommodate larger tea room. **No Objection**

14: Other Planning Matters

- a) None

- New Correspondence:**
- 15: **Seats in High Street.** Residents, Mr Aldridge and Mr Rose of the High Street had each written expressing concern regarding the placing of a seat in the High Street near the former bus shelter site, suggesting that the seat would escalate the present levels of anti-social behaviour. Mr Rose also drew attention to the abandoned caravan and also queried the ownership of the land. Clerk to query anti-social behaviour statistics with police, report the caravan to “Elvis” and respond to both correspondents.
- 16: **Council Tax Base.** ENC had written advising that following amendments to Finance regulations the way the number of “Band D equivalent properties” known as “the Tax Base” for all councils was now lower. Parish Councils that had agreed during budgeting not to increase individual property’s Council Tax, would receive a lower precept than previously received. As a result the Government had provided a grant for one year only to meet this calculated reduction in income, consequently Woodford PC would receive £1,160 extra funding in September. Conversely should the Council have chosen to retain the same level of precept, as this was divided by fewer “properties” than in previous years, each property would see a minor increase in the council tax they paid, however, the Council would still receive the grant as additional funding.
- 17: **Road Closure** – Rectory Lane. Notification had been received that Rectory Lane would be closed on 13th May for Anglian Water works. The diversion would be via Church Green.

Finance:

Account balances brought forward

Current Account		£2,086.14
High Interest Account		£4,049.56
Total		£6,135.70

Less

790 Mr P Bird Clerk salary	£208.00	
791 Mrs D Bosworth Litter Picking	£71.76	
792 E.on Lighting Power	£202.72	
793 Woodford Baptist Church use of room	£72.00	
794 James Coles and Sons Ltd jubilee tree	£252.00	
795 Post Office (HMRC)	£213.60	
796 Mr D Cullum Hire of Mower	£530.00	
797 Mr P Bird Clerks expenses 12 months	£64.57	
798 W’ford Community and Soc. Club (Plan mtg)	£10.00	£1,624.65

Balance Carried forward £4,511.05

- 18: Mrs Cook proposed, Mr M Vaughan seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the above accounts be settled.

Appointment of Auditor:

- 19: The Clerk reported that Mrs S Davies would be willing to continue to continue as the Councils internal auditor. Mr M Vaughan proposed, Mrs Chapman seconded and all agreed that Mrs Davies continue in the role.

- Co-option of Parish Councillors:** 20: The Clerk reported three members of the public had come forward to be considered for co-option. Mr Briggs, Mr Burt and Mr Mearns. It was agreed that all be considered. The first round of voting resulted in Mr Briggs being the outright winner with Messrs Burt and Mearns scoring equal votes in second place. Following a second vote Mr Burt was duly elected. Clerk to advise all candidates.
- Review Risk Assessment:** 21: The Clerk drew attention to the need to review the Council's Risk Assessment Document and suggested that reference to CRB checks for Councillors working with young people or children should be included in the document – to be carried out in accordance with latest guidelines.
- Any other Business:** 22: **Hole in Pavement High Street.** Mr Hurst drew attention to pothole in pavement near Highfield / Mill Road junction. Clerk to report to Street Doctor.
23: **Overgrown Hedges.** Mr Hackney drew attention to a number of overgrown hedges in Highfield. Clerk was to include in "press articles".

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed

Dated