

Minutes of a meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 16th April 2013 in the vestry of the Baptist Church, Rose Terrace, commencing at 7.30pm

- Present:** Mr P Bird (chair), Mr R Briggs, Mr C Burt, Mr N Chapman, Mrs S Cooke, Mr M Hackney, Mr M Hurst, Mrs S Robinson, Mr D Sharples, Mr I Vaughan, Mr M Vaughan,
- In attendance:** Cllr A Langley (NCC), Mr P T Bird (Clerk)
- Apologies for absence:** Mrs D Winn, Mr J Mead, Cllr D Hughes, Police.
- Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting having been circulated, were proposed by Mr Chapman, seconded by Mr Hurst, and agreed as a true record by those present. It was unanimously agreed that the Chairman sign them as such.
- Signing of Declaration of Office:** Mr Burt and Mr Briggs signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office and were welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman. Declaration of Interest Forms were also handed to the Clerk.
- Youth Forum Update:** 1: Mr M Vaughan reported that he was still gaining consent forms.
- Police Report:** 2: A Police Officer was not present. A comprehensive report of all crimes committed during the previous twelve months had been received. Two crimes comprising theft from a motor vehicle and a violent offence had occurred in March, taking the total for the year to 37, the lowest for a number of years.
- Comments from Electors:** 3: No members of the electorate were present.
- Cllr Langley's Comments:** 4: Cllr Langley thanked councillors for their support over the past eight years and commended the Council for its efficiency and councillors wished him well for the future. Cllr Langley said that knowing both of the main party candidates he felt both were credible local candidates, who would serve the local community well.
- 5: Mr Chapman queried the resurfacing in Highfield, and Councillor Langley said he was under the impression that the work had been programmed.
- 6: Cllr Langley said he would be supporting the Rushden lakes project, and was continuing as the Chairman of destination Nene Valley in the short term.
- 7: Mr Hurst questioned the closure of the Volunteer Centre in Thrapston. Cllr Langley said this was an ENC funded programme, and had no knowledge of the closure.
- Cllr Hughes Comments:** 8: Cllr Hughes was not present.
- Matters arising from the minutes:** 9: **Woodford Village Plan.** Mrs Cook reported that the meetings were still being well attended and it was proposed to issue a questionnaire to interested persons on 27 April (at the Garage Sale) to generate more ideas for questions which could be included in the survey.
- 10: **Community Radio.** Mr Sharples suggested a local radio station may be a good way of drawing the community together. Local radio stations with a range of a couple of miles were now possible and it was possible to obtain a license from OFCOM which could then be used by any interested party in the position to set up the scheme. Clerk to investigate license issues.
- 11: **Jubilee Tree.** The Holm Oak would be planted within the next few days, and the Clerk agreed to email all councillors once the exact date was known.
- 12: **Land in High Street.** The Clerk's response to Mr Rose regarding ownership

of the land in the High street was read out.

- 13: **Hedge in Mill Road.** Ms Dennis of ENC had written to the Clerk confirming she would investigate the removal of the hedge in Mill Road (originally raised almost two years ago with ENC)
- 14: **Trees High Street.** The Clerk reported that despite a number of emails to Drayton Estate a response was still awaited for permission to prune the trees.

Planning Issues:

- 15: Plans commented upon since last meeting
a) No planning matters had been received since the last meeting.
- 16: East Northamptonshire Council Decisions
a) No decisions had been made by East Northants Council
- 17: New Planning Applications
a) No new planning applications
- 18: Other Planning Matters
a) **Farm Shop, Addington Road, 12/02045/FUL** – This application had now been withdrawn.

New Correspondence:

- 19: **Litter bin near bus shelter.** Mr Sharples confirmed the litter bin near the bust shelter still needed attention and the Clerk confirmed this would be followed up with ENC.
- 20: **River Safety.** A letter had been received from Mr A Sawford MP about safety near the Railway Bridge and lock following last summer's tragic drowning. Councillors were asked for their views on how it could be made safer. It was understood that a life belt had now been installed near the lock by the Environment Agency. Following discussion was agreed that the only potential initiative would be to install some form of memorial plaque either named or not on the railway bridge as a form of deterrent. However, comment was also made that some youths in the future would possibly see this as a challenge. Clerk to respond to the MP as appropriate.
- 21: **Footpaths.** Mr Hawes had written asking if the Council could instigate any improvements to the footpath at the top of the shrubbery. Mention was also made of the footpath from Mill Road to Twywell. The Clerk was asked to contact NCC Rights of Way Team.
- 22: **Bus Shelter.** The County Council had written requesting whether the Bus Shelter was owned by the Parish Council. Clerk to respond in the affirmative. The Clerk informed that he was also in the process of obtaining quotations for repainting the Bus Shelter and Telephone Box.

Finance:

Account balances brought forward

Current Account	£461.49
High Interest Account	£4,049.56
Less	£4,511.05
Cheque 788 (February minutes) understated by £0.01	£0.01
	£4,511.04
Plus Interest (September, December 12, March 13)	£1.88
Balance 31 March 2013	£4,512.92
Less	
799 Mr P Bird – Clerk	£208.00
800 Mrs D Bosworth Litter Picking	£64.47
801 Mr D Cullum Grass Cutting	£67.20
802 E.on Lighting Power	£224.45
803 Broker Network – Insurance	£511.96
	1,076.08
Balance Carried forward	3,436.84

- 23: Mrs Robinson proposed, Mrs Cook seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the above accounts be settled.
- 24: The Clerk circulated a draft Trial Balance of the Council's expenditure was circulated to Councillors.
- 25: **External Audit.** The external audit return was also to hand and the Council would be once again subject to an in depth audit, (last carried out two years ago). This audit is carried out on 5% of all Councils each year.

Any other Business:

- 26: **White Lines – Mill Road.** MR Hurst mentioned the poor state of the white lines between Mill Road and the A510. The Clerk reported this had been previously reported to Street Doctor, but he would do so again.
- 27: **Poor visibility A14.** Mr Briggs reported poor visibility at the top of the eastbound exit slip road from the A14 at Cranford due to overgrown shrubs. Clerk to report to Street Doctor.
- 28: **Daffodils near park.** Mr Chapman suggested planting bulbs around the outside of the playground once the ground along the fence line had been tidied up. Agreed revisit subject in the autumn.
- 29: **Next Meeting.** The Chairman reminded Councillors that the Annual Parish Meeting (Annual Assembly) would be held at 7.00pm prior to the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 21st May.
- 30: **Street Lamps.** Mr Hackney reported that he had been approached by the MP about ownership of the street lamps in Woodford, and the MP was not convinced that the Parish Council owned the lamps. Consequently, the Clerk might receive a letter requesting facts. Councillors suggested that local ownership of lamps was favoured and should be rolled out across the County so that local needs could be addressed locally

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed

Dated