

Minutes of a meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th June 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, Mr J Mead, Mrs S Robinson, Mr D Sharples, Mr I Vaughan, Mr M Vaughan.
- In attendance:** PC M Tomlinson, Mr P T Bird (Clerk)
- Apologies for absence:** Cllrs D and S Hughes
- Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting:** The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting were agreed as a true record subject to Mr Mead and Mr M Vaughan being recorded as present.
- Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the May Parish Council meeting having been circulated, were agreed as a true record by those present subject to minor textual errors. It was unanimously agreed that the Chairman sign them as such.
- Youth Forum Update:** 1: Mr M Vaughan said he was currently planning the launch of the Youth Forum and was looking to maximise press coverage.
- Police Report:** 2: PC Tomlinson reported that the reported crime in Woodford during May amounted to three crimes, one act of criminal damage, one of verbal offence and one violent incident. All were of a domestic nature.
3: The Clerk informed that he had received reports that wild birds were presently being shot with airguns in the Shrubbery. The officer asked that if anyone had more information please contact the police on 101.
4: The PC reported that by the end of June the Police house in Thrapston would be closed and the police would be operating from the Fire Station in the High Street.
- Comments from Electors:** 5: No members of the electorate were present.
- Cllr S Hughes' (NCC) Comments:** 6: Cllr S Hughes was not present
- Cllr D Hughes' (ENC) Comments:** 7: Cllr Hughes was not present
- Matters arising from the minutes:** 8: **Village Plan.** Mr Mead provided an update on the Village Plan Project. He asked whether the Clerk could obtain Census data, and whether the Plan could be included as a standing item on the agenda. This was agreed. The plan group also suggested a "village diary" which could be used by event co-ordinators to avoid clashes. Councillors agreed to publicise this initiative and have a list on the website and the Parish Noticeboard.
A draft of the survey would be available at the Church Fete on 6th July. The Clerk confirmed that the funding application form had been completed.
- 9: **Trees in the High Street.** The Clerk presented a quotation for the pruning or pollarding of the trees in the High Street. Crown thinning and general tidying of the trees amounted to £460, or re-pollard the trees to the previous pollard points totalled £660. This latter price was lower than other prices previously received and Councillors agreed that an order be placed with Wilby Tree Services to carry out the pollarding of the four trees. Mr Hurst proposed, Mrs Cooke seconded that the trees be pollarded, and all agreed. The Clerk was asked to update Mr Coles, seek approval from Drayton Estate and place the order with Wilby Tree Services.

- 10: **Painting of the Bus Shelter and Telephone kiosk.** The Clerk had written to Mr Cattell as requested at the previous meeting, who had responded that he was too busy at present to take any further work on. The Clerk was pursuing other contractors.
- 11: **Seat Church Green.** This seat had now been turned around to face the Green.

Planning Issues:

- 12: Plans commented upon since last meeting
a) No planning matters had been received since the last meeting.
- 13: East Northamptonshire Council Decisions
a) No decisions had been made by East Northants Council
- 14: New Planning Applications
a) No new planning applications had been received
- 15: Other Planning Matters
a) The Clerk's letter to the Planning Department at ENC objecting to the Warehouse Development on the Furnace Site was read out.
b) Mr Sharples asked whether it was possible for the Council to object to the Prince of Wales being taken out of use as a Public House (n.b. rumour only). The Clerk was of the opinion that this was not possible but agreed to seek advice.

New Correspondence:

- 16: **Closure of Addington Road.** NCC had obtained a road closure order to close Addington Road from 6th – 14th July in order to replace a culvert. Councillors noted the dates and suggested that the work be delayed until the school summer holidays. The Clerk was asked to write to NCC requesting such a delay.
- 17: **Village Diary.** Mr Hawes had written suggesting a diary be located in the telephone kiosk detailing major village events in order that clashes might be avoided. Councillors agreed the idea would be worthwhile; however, the location would be better on the village website and the notice-board, both established information points. (see para 8)

Finance:

Account balances brought forward		£9,511.30
Plus		
VAT Refund		£3,080.33
		£12,591.63
Less		
811 Mr P Bird – Clerk	£216.00	
812 Mrs D Bosworth Litter Picking (14 hrs)	£69.46	
813 E.on Lighting Power	£224.83	
814 Mr D Cullum Grasscutting (14 hrs)	£80.80	
815 Mr D Cullum (Fuel - reimbursement)	£26.32	
816 Post Office (HMRC)	£275.40	£892.81
Balance Carried forward		£11,698.82

- 18: Mrs Robinson proposed, Mr Burt seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the above accounts be settled.
- 19: The Clerk circulated a report to all Councillors detailing budgetary figures, expenditure to date, committed expenditure and balances. The contents were noted.

Ratification of Accounts 2012-13

- 20: The relevant pages of the Audit return had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. The Clerk reported that the accounts and return had once again been audited by Mrs S Davies and found to be correct. Mr I Vaughan proposed that Section 1 be approved, seconded by Mr Sharples and

unanimously agreed by those present.

- 21: The chairman drew attention to the statements in Section 2 of the return. Councillors unanimously approved each statement as “yes” with the exception of number 9 which was not applicable.
- 22: Resolved that the Chairman answer questions 1 – 9 in Section 2 and countersign Sections 1 and 2.
- 23: The Clerk reported that Mrs Davies had once again waived her fee, but asked that a donation be made on her behalf to the “Help the Heroes” Charity. The sum of £50 was suggested. To be included as an agenda item for ratification at the July meeting.

Co-option of Parish Councillor:

- 24: The vacancy of Parish Councillor had been formally advertised, but an election had not been called. Councillors were free to co-opt. Given that the selection process at the previous co-option (two months previous) was so close Mr Sharples proposed, Mrs Cooke seconded and all councillors agreed unanimously that the unsuccessful applicant – Mr B Mearns be given first refusal. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Mearns, but if he declined the offer then the vacancy should be advertised.

To Discuss the Parish Review:

- 25: The Clerk produced statistics regarding parish electorate details and numbers of Parish Councillors. Excluding the parishes which had seven councillors (recommended minimum) or less, and town councils, the number of Woodford Parish Councillors was in line with other villages (electors per councillor), especially since the recent population growth. The Clerk drew attention to the fact that there had been insufficient nominations for an election for at least the past 20 years, and for the last two elections nominations were so low that the Council could not qualify for the Quality Council scheme or for dispensations under the Localism Act. Following discussion it was resolved that the Clerk write to East Northants Council requesting that the number of Councillors remain unchanged and to widely publicise the nomination procedure for Parish Councillors in 2015 (next election year).

Any other Business:

- 26: Mr Hackney drew attention to a number of hedges which were overgrown in Highfield and West Street. It was agreed to include a request in the Parish Magazine that owners trimmed them back to the boundaries; additionally Mr Hackney agreed to make a list of the worst examples.
- 27: Mr Sharples asked that details of the next meeting be included in the Parish Magazine article and also mention that the public are welcome to attend.
- 28: Mr Hurst drew attention to a deep pothole on the pavement outside 11 Mill Road. Clerk to report to Street Doctor.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed

Dated