

Minutes of a meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 20th August 2013 in the vestry of the Baptist Church, Rose Terrace, commencing at 7.30pm

- Present:** Mr P Bird (chair), Mr R Briggs, Mr N Chapman, Mr M Hackney, Mr M Hurst, Mr J Mead, Mr D Sharples, Mr I Vaughan,
- In attendance:** Mr P T Bird (Clerk)
- Apologies for absence:** Mr Burt, Mrs Cooke, Mr Mearns, Mrs Robinson, Mr M Vaughan, PC Tomlinson. Cllr D Hughes (ENC), Cllr S Hughes (NCC).
- Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the July Parish Council meeting having been circulated, were proposed by Mr Hurst, seconded by Mr Mead, and 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 sent apologies.
- Police Report:** 2: A Police Officer was not present.
3: The Clerk reported that there had been two thefts from motor vehicles and one burglary (other), recorded during the month of July. There had been a spate of catalytic converter thefts in the area.
4: **Playground gate.** The Chairman reported that the playground gate had been removed and left in a nearby garden. This had been refitted with the assistance of the Clerk. Mr Chapman reported that he had reported the missing gate to the Police.
- Comments from Electors:** 5: No members of the electorate were present.
- Cllr S Hughes' Comments:** 6: Cllr S Hughes was not present.
- Cllr D Hughes' Comments:** 7: Cllr D Hughes was not present.
- Village Plan Group:** 8: Mr Mead confirmed that questionnaires were now being distributed around the village and the "return by" date was 6th September.
- Matters arising from the minutes:** 9: **Seat Rose Terrace.** The Clerk reported that having looked at the seat with a local contractor, the most likely reason that the seat was so low was that the seat legs / feet were damaged and as a result the seat had been installed in concrete lower than normal to ensure stability. It would be uneconomic to raise the seat. Replacing the seat would involve breaking out the concrete and installing a new one. Councillors decided not to pursue the matter any further at the present time.
10: **Grass Footpaths.** The Clerk reported that he had spoken to the footpaths team who had confirmed that whilst there are legal requirements to reinstate footpaths across fields with crops, this does not cover the maintenance of footpaths across overgrown grassland.
11: **Letter from Village Plan Group.** The group had responded to the Clerk's letter regarding the contents of the questionnaire and had taken on board all comments raised.
12: **Definitive Map.** The Clerk had written to the Definitive Map Officer regarding the footpath / bridleway designations but had yet to receive a reply.
13: **Daffodil planting** – Mr and Mrs Gill. The Clerk had written to Mr and Mrs Gill confirming the Council's agreement to their proposal to plant bulbs.
14: **Bus Service.** The Clerk had written to the County Council, regarding the

erratic bus service. No response to date.

- 15: **Painting Bus shelter.** The order had been placed with Mr Durrant, who had confirmed the painting of the phone box and bus shelter would take place once school contracts had been completed.

Planning Issues:

- 16: Plans commented upon since last meeting
 a) No planning matters had been received since the last meeting.
- 17: East Northamptonshire Council Decisions
 a) **Field adjacent to Manor Farm Addington Road** Construction of Ménage 13/00404/FUL. **Permitted.** Conditions included that the Ménage could only be used by the occupiers of 39 High Street.
 b) **Land adjacent to Manor Farm Addington Road.** Construction of Tea Room. 13/00582/FUL **Permitted.** Conditions included that the Tea room must always be associated with Manor Farm.
- 18: New Planning Applications
 a) **12 Mill Road.** Construction of front porch 13/01807/FUL. **No Objection.**
 b) **Rear 91 Mill Road** Demolition of existing garage and construction of garage and first floor snooker room. 13/01184/FUL. This was a resubmission of a previously approved application but on a smaller “footprint”. **No Objection.**
 c) **DeCapel House Rectory Lane** Removal of Cherry Tree and thinning of Beech Tree 13/01317/TCA. **No Objection.**
 d) **High Street** Pollarding of four sycamore trees 13/01280/TCA. **No Objection.**

New Correspondence:

- 19: **A510 junction.** Mr Bosworth (Mill Road) had written asking the Council to seek improvements to the Mill Road / A510 junction. Visibility in each direction is limited to about 250 metres however, the road is high speed and there is confusion which route motorists will take due to the close proximity of the Addington junction. The Council discussed the matter and requested the Clerk pursue the matter with NCC highways and respond to Mr Bosworth informing him of the action taken.
- 20: **Library Service Review.** NCC had written with details of the mobile library service for the next twelve months. The revised timings were slightly earlier but the day of each visit would remain on a Wednesday.
- 21: **Open Gardens.** Mr Mearns had written on behalf of the church requesting permission to have stalls on the village green for the Open Gardens at the end of the month. The Council had no objection. The Clerk was asked to respond to Mr Mearns.
- 22: **Grit Bin.** NCC had written seeking the Council’s observations regarding the relocation of the grit bin from Woodwell to Highfield. A request had been received for a bin in Highfield, and as the grit bin near Woodwell was on the junction of a private road and a gritted route it was deemed not to meet the current grit bin location policy. The Council welcomed the decision to locate a bin in Highfield but there was some doubt as to the exact location suggested by NCC. The Parish Council suggested the wider verge at the junction with West Street, or on the ring near the Dog waste bin would be more suitable. The Clerk was requested to inform the County Council, and also request a bin be located within the Paddock Road / Windmill Close area of the village.
- 23: **Street Lamps Paddock Road / Windmill Close.** NCC was seeking to adopt Paddock Road and Windmill Close, which would also mean the Parish Council, would need to take on the responsibility of the street lamps. The

Clerk reported that all lamps were in working order at the moment. The Chairman informed the meeting that an allowance had been made within the budget to cover the running costs of the lamps, and that whilst there would be no funding for the council from the developer the council had specified the lamp locations when the initial plans were drawn up.

- 24: **Parking Newtown / Paddock Road.** The Clerk reported that he had received copies of correspondence between various residents and Cllr Hughes regarding the poor parking within Newtown especially as the former car park of the Prince of Wales had now been closed off. There was concern over the height of the fencing used. The Clerk informed the meeting that the Parish Council has no legal power to provide car parking / car parking schemes, although ENC and NCC could introduce such schemes. It was agreed that it was unlikely that any action would be taken until the value of the ground could be established which itself was dependent upon the anticipated planning application

Finance:

Account balances brought forward

Current Account		£7,252.64
High Interest Account		£3,301.44
Total		£10,554.08
Plus		
Grant for Village Plan		£250.00
		£10,804.08

Less

822 Mr P Bird Clerk	£216.00	
823 Mrs D Bosworth (litter picking 16hrs)	£79.24	
824 E.on Lighting Power one month	£224.83	
825 E N Council (Printing Plan Questionnaire)	£123.82	
826 Thrapston Town Band (Donation)	£100.00	
827 E.on – Lighting Upgrade	£2,124.00	
828 Mr D Cullum Grass Cutting 14 hrs(Jul / Aug)	£80.60	£2,948.49
Balance Carried forward		£7,855.59

- 25: Mr Mead proposed, Mr Chapman seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the above accounts be settled.

Any other Business:

- 26: **Nene Valley News.** The Clerk reported that he understood the Nene Valley News was to stop in March due to publication restrictions being introduced by the government to affect all elected authorities.
- 27: **Community Radio.** A new community radio service was now available and a link was provided from the Woodford website. It was only available via the internet or Smartphone.
- 28: **Street Lamps Alledge Drive.** The Clerk reminded Councillors that a sum had been set aside for street lamp upgrades in this financial year. The only area still needing a mass upgrade was Alledge Drive. Once complete, the only other lamps were odd lamps spread across the village. Councillors asked that the Clerk obtain a price to upgrade the Alledge Drive Lamps.
- 29: **Volunteer Centre.** Mr Hurst reported that this was now being run under the name of the “Voluntary Action” and now received input from “Serve”. Funding had been secured until March 2014.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed

P J Bird

Dated 17 Sept 2013

Woodford Parish Council