

Minutes of a meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th December 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, Mr M Hackney, Mr M Hurst, Mr J Mead, Mr B Mearns, Mrs S Robinson, Mr D Sharples, Mr I Vaughan, Mr Vaughan.
- In attendance:** Mr R Goodband, Mr P T Bird (Clerk).
- Apologies for absence:** Mrs S Cooke, Cllr D Hughes (ENC), Cllr S Hughes (NCC), PC M Tomlinson, PCSO G Cross.
- Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the November 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 nothing to report.
- Police Report:** 2: A Police Officer was not present. However, PC Tomlinson had forwarded a comprehensive list of offences which had occurred in the previous six months. Details of successful investigations were not included and the Clerk was asked to follow up.
3: The clerk reported that there had been two thefts from motor vehicles in November and one violent offence.
4: The Clerk drew attention to the Police' Christmas "anti burglary" campaign.
- Comments from Electors:** 5: Mr R Goodband was at the meeting to represent the Church and answer any questions which may arise from his letter (See new correspondence).
- Cllr S Hughes' (NCC) Comments:** 6: Cllr S Hughes was not present.
- Cllr D Hughes' (ENC) Comments:** 7: Cllr D Hughes was not present.
- Village Plan Group:** 8: Mr Mearns reported that "sub-groups" had now formed and would be meeting over the forthcoming period. A feedback session to the whole village would be held at the Community and Sports Complex on the afternoon of 4th January 2014. The session would also to recruit additional assistance.
- Matters arising from the minutes:** 9: **War Memorial.** The Clerk had identified the War Memorial Trust as a possible source of funding for renovation work to the memorial.
10: **Bus Service.** Two letters were to hand regarding the bus service, both of which had been forwarded to NCC. A responses had also been reconceived advising that evidence of ticket sales refuted one set of allegations, however, the other was due to a bus breaking down and affecting services for the rest of the day. Clerk to advise both complainants.
11: **Highfield.** The County Council had now advised that the Highfield approach to Orchard Court would be patched within four months.
12: **Prince of Wales** (see later) although Councillors advised that there were a number of loose / falling slates on the roof. Clerk to advise ENC planning.
- Planning Issues:** 13: Plans commented upon since last meeting
a) No planning matters had been received since the last meeting.

14: East Northamptonshire Council Decisions15: New Planning Applications

- a) **Willy Watt Mill Ringstead.** Single Storey rear extension to Tea Shop. 13/01918/FUL. **No Objection**

New Correspondence:

- 16: **St Mary's Church.** A letter from Mr Goodband on behalf of the church requesting a contribution towards running costs of the graveyard was read out. Income from monuments etc had fallen considerably (£1890 reduced to £90) and the request that an additional sum be included in the Precept when the budget was fixed (see below) was made. Mr Hackney asked the Clerk to investigate whether this was a legally permissible as he was under the impression that such a donation was not allowed if the Churchyard was still in use.
- 17: **Footpath – Shrubbery.** A letter was read out from Mr Hawes asking whether the Parish Council would take steps to improve the footpath in the top of the Shrubbery. Whilst the request did not receive full support the Clerk was asked to ask whether Drayton Estate could use some of the limestone mined nearby to improve the ground or permit the council to obtain suitable stone for improving the surface.
- 18: **Approach Road to Sports Club / Community Complex.** The Chairman said he had been approached requesting details of the ownership of the approach road to the Sports field. The Clerk was asked to find old correspondence relating to the matter.
- 19: **Community Infrastructure Levy.** ENC had advised that the CIL once introduced would benefit local communities far more than the old S106 scheme, however, the consultation process on the implementation process would mean the scheme would not be in place until 2015.
- 20: **Victim Support.** A letter requesting a donation was to hand. Councillors declined to make a donation at this time.
- 21: **Playground Inspection.** The Playground Inspection report had been received and the total repairs were £1,154 plus vat. All matters were either of low (monitor – no action required) or moderate risk which required action within twelve months. Include as an agenda item for next meeting.

Finance:**Account balances brought forward**

| | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-------------------|
| Current Account | | £6,848.77 | |
| High Interest Account | | £3,302.35 | |
| Total | | | £10,151.12 |
| Less | | | |
| 852 Mr P Bird Clerk | £216.00 | | |
| 853 Mrs D Bosworth Litter picking | £65.63 | | |
| 854 E.on Lighting Power | £217.58 | | |
| 855 ENC Verge cutting | £1,908.06 | | |
| 856 E.on lamp repair | £28.16 | | |
| 857 Wicksteed leisure (Playground Inspection) | £54.00 | | |
| 858 The Post Office (HMRC) | £238.00 | | £2,727.43 |
| Balance Carried forward | | | £7,423.69 |

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

Budget and Precept 2014/15

- 23: The Clerk presented a draft budget, based upon expected expenditure for known expense categories, e.g. salaries, lighting, ground maintenance contracts etc. The total budget did not include any leeway for any new

projects or unexpected expenditure. (See also para 16 above). Furthermore any reduction in the precept to reflect the draft budget could result in funding issues in future years if a cap was placed on precept increases for Parish Councils. Following a discussion it was agreed that “miscellaneous” expenditure be increased such that a Precept of £14,300 be required to balance the budget.

- 24: Mr Mead proposed that the Precept be increased from £13,900 to £14,300 which, based upon the draft tax base values, equated to an increase of just under 3%. This was seconded by Mr Sharples and unanimously agreed by those present.

- Replacement Dog Bin** 25: Further to the reported damaged dog bin in Thrapston Road at the November meeting a request from a Mr Moran that the dog bin be replaced was to hand. Proposed Mr Hurst and seconded by Mr Burt that the order be placed with ENC. Agreed by all present. The Clerk advised that the cost would be in the region of £150.

- Nominating the Prince of Wales PH as a Community Asset** 26: The Clerk advised that any Community Group / Neighbourhood Forum or Parish Council could nominate a piece of land or a building as an Asset of Community Value. If the nomination is approved by the District Council and the asset is listed, in the event that the asset is to be sold any local community group will have a six month period to raise finance, develop a business plan and make a bid for the asset on the open market.
- 27: Mr Sharples proposed, Mrs Robinson seconded and there being no counter proposal it was agreed that the Clerk complete the application form and submit to East Northamptonshire Council.

- Any other Business:** 28: The question of the future of the prefabricated buildings previously used by the Ladybirds Pre School was raised. The Clerk was asked to contact the Secretary of the Sports Complex to receive an update.

There being no other business the Chairman wished everyone a Happy Christmas and declared the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed

Dated