

**Minutes of a meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014 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.
- In attendance:** Cllr D Hughes (ENC), Cllr S Hughes (NCC), Mr P T Bird (Clerk).  
Mrs S Coyle (Jubilee Committee), Mr D Stevens (Woodford Plan Group)
- Apologies for absence:** Mr B Mearns, Mr M Vaughan, PC M Tomlinson, PCSO G Cross.
- Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the December Parish Council meeting having been circulated, were proposed by Mr Briggs, seconded by Mrs Robinson, 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. The Clerk reported that the reported crime figures for December were one burglary (dwelling) one burglary (other) and two thefts from motor-vehicles.  
3: Mrs Cooke asked whether there was any information regarding solved crimes. The Clerk responded that he had queried this with PC Tomlinson who had responded that no one had been apprehended for burglaries or car crimes committed (the latter being a widespread issue), but the incidents of violence and drug related offences were classed as “solved”.
- Cllr S Hughes’ (NCC) Comments:** 4: Cllr S Hughes reported that despite saving of £128m a further £178m would need to be saved over the next five years despite increases in the cost of providing Children’s Services, Increased employee pension contributions, and statutory provisions for the aged. The Council proposed a Council Tax increase of 1.99%. Despite the increase the charge would still be one of the lowest in the country.  
5: The new county street lamp scheme was also gaining momentum with over a third of the country having had new lighting schemes installed.
- Cllr D Hughes’ (ENC) Comments:** 6: Cllr D Hughes reported that the Lyveden Wind Farm decision would be made within the next week. The Rushden Lakes decision was due in the middle of February. A new Chief Planning Officer had been appointed.  
7: East Northants Council were anticipating a 1.9% increase on the Council Tax this year.  
8: Mr Sharples queried the clampdown on what can and cannot be put in the recycling bins e.g. lightweight aluminium cans but not an aluminium saucepan. It was suggested that certain parameters had to be met in order that the automated sorting equipment at the depot was not jammed. Mention was made that the village scouts are always willing to collect metal which they recycle for fundraising.  
9: Mr Sharples also queried who would be responsible for damage caused by an empty wheelie bin if it was blown over. Cllr Hughes offered to investigate.
- Comments from Electors:** 10: Mrs Coyle, Chair of the Woodford Jubilee Committee was present. Mrs Coyle asked whether the Parish Council had any objections to a “socket”

being fixed into the ground to hold the Christmas tree in future years. It would be capped off when not in use. Councillors had no objection but suggested the Clerk contact the County Council as the green was classified as highway.

- 11: The group would advise the Council of the proposed site of the village sign following their next meeting in early February although presently favoured the main green. The sign would have a stone plinth around the base and it was now proposed to install a “time-capsule” in the stone work for future generations. Councillors commended the idea.

**Village Plan Group:**

- 12: Mr Steven reported on the progress of the Village Plan Group in the production of the Village plan. It the target date for completion of the plan was the end of March. The public meeting held at the Sports and Community Complex on 4 January was well supported and had generated more assistance for the group. The group was concentrating on Rights of Way, Traffic, Environment and Community Issues.
- 13: The text of the report is recorded in the minute book as page 102a.

**Matters arising from the minutes:**

- 14: **Hedge Removal – Mill Road.** The Clerk reported that as he had not received a response from the conservation team at ENC, he had now written to the Chief Executive requesting the matter be investigated.
- 15: **Donation to St Mary’s Church.** The Clerk confirmed that so long as the cemetery was “open to all” then there was no problem making a donation towards the upkeep.
- 16: **Footpath – Woodford Shrubbery.** Drayton had responded negatively to the Council’s request to either improve or allow a third party to improve the footpath in the “top” of the Shrubbery citing that it may encourage the wrong type of user; it would set a precedent; it is the countryside and has been very wet; and lastly the question of liability should an injury occur. The Clerk was asked to convey the response to Mr Hawes.
- 17: **Bus Stop at Woodwell.** Centrebus had confirmed that the lay-by at Woodwell could be used as a “hail and ride” stop.
- 18: **War Memorial.** A second quotation had been received but a further quotation was still awaited.
- 19: **Access Road to Sports and Community Complex.** The Clerk had found correspondence relating to the maintenance of the private road and forwarded a copy to Mr C Allen.

**Planning Issues:**

- 20: Plans commented upon since last meeting  
a) None
- 21: East Northamptonshire Council Decisions  
a) None
- 22: New Planning Applications  
a) None

**New Correspondence:**

- 23: **Use of Village Green.** The school had written requesting the use of the village green on the afternoon of 21 May for the annual Mayday. Councillors had no objections.

**Playground Maintenance:**

- 24: **Children’s Playground - Highfield.** The inspection report was discussed in detail and Mr Sharples proposed and Mrs Cooke seconded that the work be ordered with a request that it be carried out as and when the weather improves. All items were classified as medium term requiring action within twelve months.

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|-----------------|---|------------------|
| <b>Finance:</b> | <b>Account balances brought forward</b>   |                  |
|                 | Current Account                           | £4,121.34        |
|                 | High Interest Account                     | £3,302.35        |
|                 | <b>Total</b>                              | <b>£7,423.69</b> |
|                 | <b>Less</b>                               |                  |
|                 | 859 Mr P Bird Clerk Salary                | £216.00          |
|                 | 860 Mrs D Bosworth (15hrs litter picking) | £75.85           |
|                 | 861 E.on Month Power                      | £224.83          |
|                 | 862 E.on quarterly maintenance            | £306.49          |
|                 | 863 ENC (printing village plan flyer)     | £20.14           |
|                 |   | £843.31          |
|                 | <b>Balance Carried forward</b>            | <b>£6,580.38</b> |

25: Mrs Cooke proposed, Mrs Robinson seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the above accounts be settled.

- Any other Business:**
- 26: The chairman said he had been asked if the Council would provide a dog waste bin on Church Green. Agenda item next meeting.
- 27: Mr Sharples queried the legality of the parking of a van close to the junction of Newtown with High Street. Clerk to ask Police.
- 28: The Clerk reported ongoing problems with a street lamp in Constable Walk. Despite numerous calls the lamp still remained unrepaired. It was suggested that as the lamp was a mercury lamp it would be worth obtaining a quotation for the replacement of the lamp (37) and also lamp (35) at the junction of Newtown Street and Newtown.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed

P J Bird

Dated 18 Feb 2014