

Minutes of a meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th March 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, Mr B Mearns, Mr D Sharples, Mr I Vaughan, Mr M Vaughan.
- In attendance:** PC M Tomlinson, Mr P T Bird (Clerk).
- Apologies for absence:** Mrs Robinson, Cllrs D and S Hughes
- Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the February Parish Council meeting having been circulated, were proposed by Mr M Vaughan, seconded by Mr Mead, and agreed as a true record by those present. It was unanimously agreed that the Chairman sign them as such.
- Police Report:**
- 1: PC Tomlinson was present and outlined some of the local faced by the local officers.
 - 2: Attention was drawn to the number of catalytic converters stolen in the County and that a campaign was presently being delivered to raise awareness and catch the perpetrators.
 - 3: The PC reported there had been one act of criminal damage and one of theft which occurred in Woodford during February.
 - 4: Mr Bird / Mr Sharples drew the officer's attention to incidents of motorcyclists riding in the shrubbery and also incidents of shooting in the same location (not necessarily connected).
 - 5: A discussion took place as to the merits of a CCTV or improved lighting being placed adjacent to the children's playground (agenda item next month).
- Comments from Electors:**
- 6: No members of the electorate were present.
- Cllr S Hughes' (NCC) Comments:**
- 7: Cllr S Hughes was not present.
- Cllr D Hughes' (ENC) Comments:**
- 8: Cllr D Hughes was not present.
- Village Plan Group:**
- 9: Mr Mead confirmed that the draft plan was presently being drawn together and would be submitted to a future meeting.
- Matters arising from the minutes:**
- 10: **Attendance at Police Joint Action Group.** The Clerk letter to the JAG nominating the clerk to represent the Council was read out. A response had been received that the attendance of a Councillor would be preferred. The chairman asked for further nominations, however, with none forthcoming, he asked the clerk to attend the meeting on behalf of the Council on 25th April.
 - 11: **Revised Bus Timetable.** The Clerk had written to Centrebus expressing concern at the recent changes to the timetabling, requesting that the decision be reconsidered. No response to date.
 - 12: **Removed Hedge in Mill Road.** A letter from the Chief Executive of ENC was to hand advising that the removal of the hedge was being investigated by the Planning Enforcement Officers. This was affirmed in a separate letter from the Officers, who advised that whilst at the time of the complaint action had been taken complaint, the matter had not been followed up.

Planning Issues:

- 13: Plans commented upon since last meeting
 - a) No planning matters had been received since the last meeting.
- 14: East Northamptonshire Council Decisions
 - a) No decisions had been made by East Northants since the last meeting.
- 15: New Planning Applications
 - a) **Land at Islip Furnace Site. 14/00303/FUL.** Revision to Condition 27. An Application to vary the footprint of the building and also the size and make-up of the car / lorry parking. Councillors had no objection to the above but expressed concern that the increase in cars on the site would impact upon the roads through Woodford, and suggested that a footpath in the direction of Woodford be constructed, similar to that in the direction of Thrapston, already detailed in the application. Mr Hackney also asked that consideration be given to a permeable landscape on site to assist with the distribution of rain / surface water, rather than allowing all the water to enter a soakaway system.
- 16: Other Planning Matters
 - a) **Land at Ringstead Road, Great Addington,** (Woodford Parish). **Construction of dwelling** 12/01078/FUL. Appeal ref G2815/A/13/2205933. The planning appeal against the refusal to grant planning permission had been dismissed by the Inspector, the main issue being “the impact of the proposed development upon the character and appearance of the surrounding countryside.”

New Correspondence:

- 17: **Council Tax Support Grant.** Andy Sawford MP had written to the Council with a copy of a letter from Mr D Oliver, Chief Executive ENC outlining why ENC would not forward the Council Tax Support Grant to Parish Councils. The Clerk reminded councillors that when the budget for the forthcoming year had been set this factor had been taken into account. The Clerk also drew attention that the letter suggested ENC would need to make large savings in future years, as the RSG (Government Grant) would be reduced by £726k in 2014/5 and a further reduction of £743k the following year.

Finance:

Account balances brought forward		
Current Account		£2,738.66
High Interest Account		£3,302.35
Total		£6,041.01
Plus		
NCC reimbursement for verge cutting		£442.50
		£6,483.51
Less		
869 Mr P Bird Clerk Salary	£216.00	
870 Mrs D Bosworth Litter Picking 14hrs	£70.74	
871 Mr D Cullum Grass cutting 6 hrs	£34.40	
872 E.on month’s power	£203.08	
873 Mr P Bird Clerks expenses – (2013/14)	£66.64	
874 Mr D Cullum Hire of Mower	£420.00	
875 Woodford Baptist Church – Hire of room	£72.30	
876 Post Office – HMRC Income Tax	£225.00	
877 Mr D Cullum - Fuel	£29.46	£1,337.32
Balance Carried forward		£5,146.19

- 18: Mr Chapman proposed, Mr M Vaughan seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the above accounts be settled.

- 19: The scope of the internal audit having been circulated was reviewed and Mrs Cooke proposed that no changes were necessary. Seconded by Mr Hackney and agreed by those present
- Refurbishment of War Memorial**
- 20: The Clerk presented details and quotations from three stonemasons. The price varied between £3,012 and £7,969, Councillors agreed that the cheapest quotation offered the best value for money and the Clerk revealed that this was from Underwood and Weston. Following further discussion the Clerk was asked to place an order with the company subject to the addition of a further additional quotation for generator / water bowser, being a reasonable sum. The Clerk advised that he would be seeking funding for the work to be carried out. Mr M Vaughan suggested the Woodford General Charity (Temperance Hall).
- Location of Village Sign:**
- 21: Following a site meeting on 1st March councillors discussed the three options for the location of the village sign; two located on the main green and one on the small green adjacent to the telephone box. It was agreed that a simple show of hands initially be employed to ascertain councillor's views. The Chairman advised that if there was not a clear majority then a more formal vote would be required. Eight out of twelve councillors were in favour of a location near the corner of the main green near Addington Road, consequently subject to there being no buried services it was agreed this would be the favoured option. The Clerk advised that despite numerous attempts he still awaited a response from British Telecom and E.on (street lighting power).
- Any other Business:**
- 22: Mr Hurst drew attention to the amount of rubbish recently dumped at General's Corner. Clerk to report to ENC as fly-tipping

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

Signed

P J Bird

Dated 15 April 2014