

Minutes of a meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 20th May 2014 in the vestry of the Baptist Church, Rose Terrace, commencing at 7.40pm

- Present:** Mr P Bird (chair), Mr R Briggs, Mr C Burt, Mr N Chapman, Mr M Hurst, Mr B Mearns, Mrs S Robinson, Mr D Sharples, Mr I Vaughan, Mr M Vaughan.
- In attendance:** Mr R Goodband, Mr P T Bird (Clerk).
- Apologies for absence:** Mr Hackney, Mr Mead. Cllrs S and D Hughes
- Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the April Parish Council meeting having been circulated, were proposed by Mr Hurst, seconded by Mr Vaughan, and agreed as a true record by those present. It was unanimously agreed that the Chairman sign them as such.
- Police Report:**
- 1: A Police Officer was not present. The Clerk reported that there had been two reported crime incidents in April. Both were acts of criminal damage.
 - 2: The Clerk reported on the Joint Action Group he had attended in April. Policing priorities would be anti social behaviour in the area and also speeding in the villages – especially Denford, Ringstead and Woodford.
- Comments from Electors:**
- 3: No members of the electorate were present.
- Cllr S Hughes' (NCC) Comments:**
- 4: Cllr S Hughes was not present.
- Cllr D Hughes' (ENC) Comments:**
- 5: Cllr D Hughes was not present.
- Village Plan Group:**
- 6: The Chairman urged Councillors to read the circulated plan prior to the next Parish Council Meeting when the plan would be discussed at length.
- Matters arising from the minutes:**
- 7: **Prince of Wales.** The Clerk's letter to ENC confirming the Parish Council would not be seeking to bid for the Prince of Wales was read out.
 - 8: **Sign at Rose Cottage for Emergency Services.** The Clerk's letter regarding a sign directing emergency services to Rose Cottage Nursing Home advising the Parish Council had no objections and advising the owners who best to contact for permission. It was noted the sign was now in position.
 - 9: **Speed indicator Device / Vehicle Activated sign.** The Clerk reminded Councillors that whilst setting the budget for the current financial year an amount had been set aside for a Speed Indicator Device. He had made contact with the County Council and a representative would be willing to attend a future meeting to discuss the matter. The Clerk was asked to request attendance at either the July or August meeting.
 - 10: **CCTV.** The Clerk had enquired of ENC whether they still ran CCTV schemes. The response was that the schemes introduced in the towns had now been handed over to the Town Councils. It was suggested that the level of regulation covering schemes made them uneconomic for rural installations of one or two cameras.
 - 11: **Lighting Children's Playground.** The Clerk had raised the subject of additional lighting at the Children's Playground during the recent JAG meeting (above). The Community Safety Officer and also the Police had recommended against such a scheme as lighting usually attracted people rather than dispersing them elsewhere.
 - 12: **War Memorial.** A response from the War memorial trust confirmed that the Council's plans would fall within the remit of the War Memorial Conservation Grant Scheme. A maximum of 75% of the total costs would be paid, but based upon the pre-application information submitted it was

unlikely that funding for cleaning would be provided, as the memorial was not bad enough. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should submit a grant application based on works covering renovation and cleaning.

- 13: **Playing Field Committee.** Mr Chapman reported on the recent Playing Fields Committee meeting. The Committee was exploring funding options for further changing facilities and an application was likely to be made to Sport England. The old mower is presently being repaired by Mr Chapman, and it is hoped that this will reduce the grass maintenance costs in future. Mr Chapman queried the old grant the Parish Council used to pay to the Club. The Clerk explained that this was not a Parish Grant but the forwarding of funds received from County Council as part of an education sports grant and it covered the use of the field by the school. When education funding changed in the mid 1990's the money was paid to the school direct as part of the school's budget. The Clerk further advised that for a number of years the Sports Club had invoiced the school for use of the field.
- 14: **Jubilee Sign.** The WDJC had supplied a contractor's details to the Clerk and the Clerk had applied to Northants County Council for the licence to continue with the work.
- 15: **Street Lighting.** The Clerk reported he had made numerous calls / emails to E.on regarding the replacement of Alledge Drive lamps, but to no avail.

Election of Chair:

- 16: The Chairman thanked Councillors for their support and co-operation over the past year and vacated the Chair. Nominations were sought for the position of Chair. Mr Peter Bird was nominated by Mr Sharples, seconded by Mr Chapman. No other nominations were forthcoming and with all in agreement and Mr Bird being willing, he took the chair.

Election of Vice Chair:

- 17: The Chairman called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair. Mr Ivor Vaughan was nominated by Mrs Robinson, seconded by Mr Chapman. No other nominations were forthcoming and with all in agreement and Mr Vaughan being willing, he was duly elected as Vice Chairman.

Planning Issues:

- 18: Plans commented upon since last meeting
a) No planning matters had been received since the last meeting.
- 19: East Northamptonshire Council Decisions
a) None
- 20: New Planning Applications
a) **Orchard House, Church Green.** Removal of Mountain Ash Tree. 14/00726/TCA. **No Objection.**
- 21: Other Planning Matters
a) The Chairman reported that he and Mr Hurst had attended a presentation regarding the development of the former Islip Furnace Site. The bespoke building was to be built on a ground level as low as possible and the roof height had also been reduced from the height initially suggested and should be below the horizon. The building would be dark coloured to blend in with the landscape and a landscape bund would surround the site. The developers confirmed a suitably sized conduit existed under the A14 to drain away precipitation which could not be stored on site. A formal application would be submitted shortly.

New Correspondence:

- 22: **Rubbish at 24 Highfield.** An anonymous letter had been received expressing concern that there were a considerable number of rubbish bags at 24 Highfield. Being outside the remit of the Parish Council Councillors asked that the Clerk pass the letter on to East Northants Council.

- 23: **Service 16 Bus Service.** A Mr Newton had forwarded a copy of correspondence sent to Centrebus regarding a service which did not run earlier in the month. Clerk to keep on file.
- 24: **Seat top of Church Green.** A letter from Mr Lindsay of Daventry Close was read out requesting the return of the seat to the top of Church Green The Clerk affirmed that Mr Brown was requested to reinstate the seat last year, and would do so again. The Clerk was asked to respond to Mr Lindsay accordingly.
- 25: **Children's Playground.** A letter from Mr Wrigley was to hand complaining of the weed growth around the playground and also some of the graffiti in the area. The Clerk was asked to investigate the graffiti and respond that the grass around the fence would be attended to before the end of May and that once a licences contractor was found to carry out the spraying this would also be carried out.

Finance:**Account balances brought forward**

Current Account		£377.85	
High Interest Account		£3,303.17	
Total			£3,680.20
Plus			
Precept		£7,150.00	
			£10,830.20
Less			
885 Mr P Bird - Clerk Salary	£216.00		
886 Mrs D Bosworth - Litter Picking	£61.96		
887 Mr D Cullum – Grass cutting	£115.20		
888 E.on energy - Lighting Power	£218.00		
889 East Northants Council – Verge Cutting	£250.09		
890 Wicksteed Leisure - Playground Repairs	£2,201.18		
891 Mr D Cullum – Fuel Reimbursement	£29.08		
892 ENC – Printing Village Plan	£31.97	£3,123.48	
Balance Carried forward			£7,706.72

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

Salary Reviews

- 27: **Groundsman.** Mr Sharples proposed and Mrs Robinson seconded, and all agreed that the Groundsman's hourly rate be increased to £7.50 from June 2014. Agreed by all. It was unanimously agreed that the amount offered for the hire of the lawn mower remain unchanged at £5.00 per hour.
- 28: **Litter Picker.** Mrs Robinson proposed and Mr Hurst seconded that the Litter Picker's wage be increased in line with the National Minimum Wage in October 2014. Agreed by all.
- 29: **Clerk.** The Clerk withdrew from the meeting. A letter from the Clerk was read out, requesting that a training budget be provided instead of considering a pay increase. The CILCA qualification would enable a new elected Council in May 2015 to exercise more powers under the localism act. Mr Hurst proposed and Mrs Robinson seconded that the Clerk should follow up the training / qualification options. Agreed by all.
- 30: Furthermore Mr Sharples proposed and Mr Vaughan seconded that the Clerk's net wage increase to £230 – (£287.50 gross).

- Playground Repairs:** 31: The Clerk drew attention to damage to the playground gate. The matter had been reported as an act of criminal damage to the Police. The gate was presently chained to the adjacent fence for safekeeping. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should approach Tebbutt and Robinson to carry out a repair as had been carried out to the roadside gate.
- Parish Meeting:** 32: There were no matters arising from the Parish Meeting
- Thrapston Town Band:** 33: Mr I Vaughan reported that the Thrapston Town Band had yet to be engaged to play at the Woodford Feast at the Social / Sports Complex. Councillors discussed alternative locations but agreed this was perhaps the best location given the traffic around the village green and the arrival of the fair. It was agreed that the band should be booked and the Clerk should contact the Sports and Social Complex regarding performing there.
- Any other Business:** 34: The Clerk had received a message querying the history of a tree in the former car park of the White Horse. Adjacent to the tree there was a plaque commemorating a visit by US veterans who frequented the establishment during the Second World War. The plaque was undated but given that the tree was estimated to be about 20 years old, it could have been planted in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the end of WW2. No one present had any first hand recollections although Mr Mearns suggested that landlords of the premises in the 1990s did frequently entertain veteran groups.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed

P J Bird

Dated 17 June 2014