

Minutes of a meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 16th December 2014 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 B Mearns, Mrs S Robinson, Mr D Sharples, Mr I Vaughan, Mr M Vaughan.
- In attendance:** Mr P T Bird (Clerk).
- Apologies for absence:** Mr C Burt, Mrs S Cooke, Police, Cllrs D & S Hughes
- Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the November Parish Council meeting having been circulated, were agreed as a true record by those present. It was unanimously agreed that the Chairman sign them as such.
- Police Report:** 1: The clerk reported there had been a number of shed break-ins within the village. There was still no news on regular crime statistic reporting.
- Comments from Electors:** 2: No members of the electorate were present.
- Cllr S Hughes' (NCC) Comments:** 3: Cllr S Hughes was not present.
- Cllr D Hughes' (ENC) Comments:** 4: Cllr D Hughes was not present.
- Matters arising from the minutes:**
- 5: **Playground Equipment.** A further quotation had been received for "stepping posts". The price was between £95 and £148 depending upon the height. Delivery and installation was extra.
- 6: **Seat Installation Church Green.** The Clerk's letter to Mr Brown requesting re-installation of the seat lower down Church Green was read out.
- 7: **Alledge Drive Street Lighting.** The Clerks letter requesting a definitive installation date from E.on was read out. No response had been received. The Clerk also reported that he had queried street lighting with other Councils. Of those that had replied to date a significant number of parishes did not have street lighting, a large number of the remainder dealt with the Sleaford Office rather than Northampton and had no major problems. A full report would be provided to the next meeting.
- 8: **Declaration of Interest.** Mr M Vaughan queried whether a declaration of interest should have been declared for cheque 932. The Clerk was of the opinion that there was no personal gain involved (i.e. pecuniary interest), the cheque being a reimbursement of publicly advertised hire rates which had been settled by a cash payment.
- 9: **War Memorial.** English Heritage were now satisfied with the paint being used to reline the, names however were still insistent on a photograph showing a comparison between the existing and replacement stone to be used on the steps. The Clerk had taken the matter up with the stone masons.
- 10: **Speed Sign.** The licence application had been sent to MGWSP.
- 11: **Graffiti Removal.** The Clerk had ordered a graffiti removal product, but had not yet had time to use it. The correct weather conditions were required.
- Planning Issues:**
- 12: Plans commented upon since last meeting
a) No planning matters had been received since the last meeting.
- 13: East Northamptonshire Council Decisions
a) None
- 14: New Planning Applications
a) None

- New Correspondence:**
- 15: **Wind and Solar Energy Supplementary Planning Document.** Notification had been received advising that this document had now been adopted by ENC and can be found on the Council's website. This document gave additional guidance as to the siting and style of wind and solar installations within the district.
- 16: **Development of Garage site, The Leys.** Correspondence was too hand from consultants acting on behalf of Spire Homes detailing proposals to develop the garage site in The Leys and the piece of land opposite. The garage site would comprise a development of four houses and the land opposite a bungalow. Whilst acknowledging the Council does not normally respond to pre-application queries Councillors asked that the Clerk write to Spire Homes and also the consultant advising that the development must meet the ENC parking requirements of 1.5 vehicles per property rather than the 1.2 shown on the diagram. Furthermore that all of the garages were not in use at present. Parking in this part of Woodford is at a premium at present and parking must therefore be accommodated off road and the removal of the garages must not worsen the existing parking problem.
- 17: **Path Warden.** No one had come forward to fulfil this role, and a nomination from the Village Plan Group had not been received.

Finance:**Account balances brought forward**

Current Account

High Interest Account

Total**£11,546.36****Less**

933 Mr P Bird Clerk Salary £230.10

934 Mrs D Bosworth Litter Picking £67.70

935 E.on Energy Power one month £218.00

936 The Post Office – HMRC £244.80

£760.60**Balance Carried forward****£10,785.76**

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

Budget 2015/16

- 19: The Clerk provided a draft budget for the next financial year. To enable current level of spending to be maintained and also allow for an election in May an increase in the precept from £14,300 to £14,600 was suggested. A discussion took place and afterwards Mr Chapman proposed that the current precept (£14,300) be maintained. There was no seconder. Mr Sharples proposed and Mr M Vaughan seconded that a precept of £14,600 be requested. Following a vote all in favour with exception of one. Mr Chapman asked that his vote against be recorded.

Village noticeboard

- 20: The Clerk read through a number of quotations for the proposed village noticeboard. The quotation offering best value and also installation was provided by Pendreds. Councillors unanimously agreed that the order be placed for a cost of £680.

Adoption of revised Code of Conduct

- 21: The revised Code of Conduct previously adopted by ENC had been circulated to all Councillors. Mr M Vaughan proposed, Mrs Robinson seconded and all were in agreement that the document, as drafted by ENC be

- adopted with immediate effect.
- Village Plan Group** 22: There had been no communication from the Village Plan Group this month.
- Any other Business:** 23: Mrs Robinson raised on behalf of a resident Mr Coles, the issue of a sunken footpath between Alledge Drive and Thrapston Road, which collected water (ice in winter) and was a danger to the public. The Clerk said he had reported this previously with street doctor but would do so again. It was noted that there was nearby a salt bin which could be used to mitigate any problems.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed

Dated