

Minutes of a meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st April 2015 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, Mrs S Robinson, Mr D Sharples, Mr I Vaughan, Mr M Vaughan.
- In attendance:** Mr Banham, Mrs J Masters (WDJC), Mrs S Coyle (WDJC) Mr R Goodband, Mr P T Bird (Clerk).
- Apologies for absence:** Cllrs D & S Hughes, Police
- Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the March 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.
- Police Report:**
- 1: A Police Officer was not present but Crime figures were to hand. During March there had been one theft of a motor vehicle, one of motor vehicle interference and one theft of a moped. This took the total crimes for the year to 56, considerably higher than the previous year. Full totals being Burglary dwelling, 4; Burglary other, 20; Criminal Damage, 9; Robbery, 1; Sexual Offence, 1; Theft from motor vehicle, 5; Theft / handling, 7; Theft of Motor Vehicle, 2; Violent Offence, 7. ~The Clerk was asked to write to the local sergeant expressing the Council's concerns, especially with the reduction in personnel in this area of the county.
- Comments from Electors:**
- 2: Mr Banham spoke of his objection to the redevelopment of the car park to the rear of the Prince of Wales, and the effect it would have on those living in the neighbourhood, attention was also drawn to the lack of "outside space" being removed from the Prince of Wales.
- 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: **Speed Sign.** The batteries in this equipment are lasting approximately two weeks, and the software for analysing the data had now been received. The Clerk would provide data at the next Council meeting.
 - 6: **War Memorial Listing.** English Heritage had written confirming they would be recommending listing of the memorial to the Secretary of State, and asked for the Council's comments. Councillors had no objection unless the listing prevented any further works in the area. The Clerk was asked to clarify with English Heritage.
 - 7: **Seat on Church Green.** The concrete base had been laid and once cured the seat would be installed.
 - 8: **War Memorial Renovation.** The latest estimation received from the contractor for the War Memorial work was that it would take place towards the end of May, beginning of June.
 - 9: **Village Gateway.** Mrs Barnwell had requested the Council advise which road into the village should be first to have a gateway installed. Following a vote it was agreed that Addington Road should be first.
 - 10: **Street Lighting Contract.** The Clerk had written with details of the Councils power consumption to five companies, but to date on the current provide and

one other had responded. Councillors agreed that the decision be delayed until the May meeting.

Planning Issues:

- 11: Plans commented upon since last meeting
 - a) No planning matters had been received since the last meeting.
- 12: East Northamptonshire Council Decisions
 - a) **47 Mill Road** – Dropped kerb 15/00432/FUL **Approved**
 - b) **3A DeCapel Close / Club Lane** New dwelling 15/00027/VAR **Approved.**

The chairman reported that he and the vice chair had been requested to attend a site meeting earlier that day regarding this application. Following approval, site clearance had commenced, however, it was now evident that the garage on the adjoining land to the north was not only incorrectly sited, but the foundations made use of a seam of limestone and were not of prescribed depth. Consequently further excavation on the adjoining site to the south, in order to site the proposed garage and house as per the approved plans could result in damage to the existing garage. It had been agreed at the site meeting that by moving the proposed property one metre to the south the situation could be eased. Subject to Parish Council approval the Planning Officer would recommend to the Head of Planning / Planning Committee that the conditions currently applied should be varied to accommodate the re-siting of the proposed dwelling. The Clerk was asked to write to the Planning Officer informing that the Council had no objection so long as all other measurements were held the same.
- 13: New Planning Applications
 - a) **Car Park Prince of Wales – Rear 33 High Street** – Construction of three dwellings. 15/00371/FUL **Objection.** Councillors discussed the matter at length citing objections to this application. The Clerk was asked to respond objecting on the grounds of overdevelopment, significant traffic issues already exist, removal of car park would result in loss of amenity to 33 High Street, 33 High Street would also be less sustainable as a business or family home as there would be no off road parking, proposal did not include sufficient off road parking, visibility splay on to Newtown Street inadequate, existing road layout not properly depicted on plans, and pedestrian access to houses would be over private land.

New Correspondence:

- 14: **Picnic bench.** A copy of correspondence to WDJC was read out requesting consideration be given to placing a picnic bench at the top of Kettering Road near the junction with Mill Road. Mr Hurst mentioned he had been asked to suggest a seat be located in the area. Given issues faced by WDJC it was likely that the Council would need to follow this through. The Clerk was asked to include the issue on a future agenda for discussion.
- 15: **Defibrillator.** Mr Sawford MP had written advising he had nominated Woodford as a location for a defibrillator at a cost of £1,995 (plus installation £175 and annual maintenance). It was not abundantly clear whether the cost of the equipment would be met by the MP or the Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to write to the MP and also ascertain from the local medical centre their thoughts on the usefulness of such a piece of equipment.
- 16: **Oundle Registry Office.** Oundle Registry Office would be moving to Glaphorn Road later in the year
- 17: **Village Sign.** Woodford Diamond Jubilee Committee (WDJC) had written (also in attendance) advising that the free construction of the plinth for the village sign was now chargeable, and requested the Parish Council support their plight with a donation of up to £400. Following discussion it was agreed

that the Council does have financial constraints this year following unbudgeted electricity increase. WDJC advised to contact the Temperance Hall Charity.

- 18: **Islip Furnace Site.** The opportunity to visit the development site had arisen. The Clerk was asked to arrange a suitable time and date.

Finance:

Account balances brought forward

Current Account		£4,671.22
High Interest Account		£3,303.58
Total		<u>£7,974.80</u>
Plus Interest		£1.23
Year End Balance		<u>£7,976.03</u>

Less

952 Mr P Bird – Clerk Salary	£230.00	
953 Mrs D Bosworth – Litter Picking	£91.00	
954 Mr D Cullum – Grass Cutting	£90.10	
955 Mr D Cullum – Fuel re-imburement	£26.12	
956 E.on Lighting Maintenance ¼	£306.49	
957 E.on Lighting Power month	£262.80	
958 Broker Network Insurance	£488.96	
959 ENC Verge Cutting	£2,079.47	£3,574.94
Balance Carried forward		<u>£4,401.09</u>

- 19: Mrs Robinson proposed, Mr Briggs seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the above accounts be settled.
- 20: The Council's insurance three year agreement with Came and Co. Had come to an end. The renewal quote for the current year was £514.69, and a three year agreement would be £488.96. Both of these amounts were over £200 less than paid to the previous insurer. Mr Cooke proposes, Mr Sharples seconded that the council entered into a three year agreement.

Location of Thrapston Town Band Performance - Feast

- 21: After much debate it was agreed that the Band be asked to play on the Sunday evening of 12th July and that the preferred location be the Dukes Arms. The Clerk was asked to discuss with the landlord.

Upgrade of Mercury Lamps

- 22: Quotations had been received for the conversion of the remaining mercury lamps. The cost would be £670 per lamp. Councillors agreed this was beyond the budget allocated and would replace lamps on a phased basis as and when they failed.
- 23: New lamp in West Street. The cost including connection would be £1230. Mrs Cooke proposed, Mr Sharples seconded and all were in agreement that this installation takes place. Clerk to place order.

Report from Parish Path Warden:

- 24: Mr Lindsay spoke of his role as Parish Path Warden, and said the primary role was to walk the public rights of way at least once per year. He would also be affixing footpath markers to various posts, gates and stiles to help walkers identify routes.

Any other Business:

- 25: The Clerk reported that eleven nominations had been received by the Returning Officer for the positions of Parish Councillor (highest number since 1991 and that they would be considered as elected with effect of 11 May (4 days after the election) The Council had a duty to fill the remaining positions as soon as possible after that date and notices would be posted to that effect

- with a view to co-opting at the June Parish Council meeting.
- 26: Mr Sharples expressed surprise given the enthusiasm by residents for the creation of the Village Plan that more persons had not stood for election to the Council.
- 27: Mr Mearns drew attention to the recent accident at Generals Corner. The Clerk was asked to re-open the correspondence with NCC over road safety on this stretch of road.
- 28: The Chairman expressed thanks to the Council for their continued interest, and attention to village affairs, and in particular thanked Mrs Cooke and Mr Briggs who were standing down as Parish Councillors.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed

Dated