

Minutes of a meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 20th December in the vestry of the Baptist Church, Rose Terrace, commencing at 7.30pm

- Present:** Mr P Bird (chair), Mr G Banham, Mr N Chapman, Mrs A Fothergill, Mr M Hackney, Mrs J Hathaway, Mr M Hurst, Mr J Mead, Mrs S Robinson, Mr D Sharples, Mr D Stevens and Mr I Vaughan.
- In attendance:** Mr P T Bird (Clerk). Mr N Palmer representing Saints Alive
- Apologies for absence:** Mr M Vaughan, Police, Cllr D Hughes (ENC) and Cllr S Hughes (NCC)
- 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: Mr M Vaughan had reported (via the Clerk) that the new Police hub just to the north of Kettering would be operational in the near future and that he had been led to believe once open further reorganisation at a local level would occur.
 - 2: Mrs Hathaway drew attention to an event she had recently attended in Norfolk. The Police had participated and for a donation to charity a member of the public could select an item from a variety of home security devices for permanent use.
- Comments from Electors:**
- 3: Mr Palmer addressed the meeting regarding the shortfall in costs of Saints Alive. He advised that as far he was aware a cost analysis had not been carried out previously and that the income and expenditure was absorbed into benefice accounts. He estimated that at present the "loss" on the publication (Woodford share) was approximately £200pa and he sought a contribution from the Parish Council to help cover the costs as a public authority on behalf of the village. Advertising rates were also being increased however, these would only partially meet the overall shortfall. Following questions the Chairman thanked Mr Palmer for attending and he withdrew.
- Cllr D Hughes Comments:**
- 4: Cllr Hughes was not present
- Cllr S Hughes Comments:**
- 5: Cllr Hughes was not present
- Matters arising from the minutes:**
- 6: **Tree Planting.** The tree planting had taken place at the junction of Kettering Road and Mill Road on 21 November. A number of Parish Councillors and approximately ten members of the public took part in the exercise which took about ninety minutes. The licence to plant the trees had also been received and had been duly signed and returned.
 - 7: **Verge Maintenance Thrapston Road.** The grant application had been submitted however, the funds rather than being paid to the contractor direct had now been sent by cheque to the Parish Council. The Clerk was awaiting an invoice from the contractor.
 - 8: **Woodford Access to Greenway.** The Clerk reported that a letter from ENC had been received towards the end of November advising that the council's application had passed stage 1 of the application process. The downside was that the stage 2 application needed to be submitted by 4th January. In order to move the process on a meeting between Mr Stevens, the Clerk, and Mr Goodband (Woodford Access to Greenway Group) had been taken place with Mr Chalker, landowner. A specification had been drawn up and sent out to various local contractors in order to obtain quotations. Some progress had been made in completing the application form. Councillors voiced support for the work already carried out and agreed that steps be taken to complete the application process and submit the form by the deadline.
 - 9: **Defibrillator.** The defibrillator cabinet had been installed in the Telephone Box and the equipment placed in the cabinet. The Clerk would

register the location with the NHS and advise the local doctor's surgery.

- 10: **Parking on Village Green.** The landlord of Duke's Arms – Mr Hythe – had responded to the Clerk's letter regarding parking on the village green. Unfortunately the contents of the Council's original letter had been misinterpreted. After much discussion the Clerk was asked to clarify that reference in the original letter to parking on the village green related to parking on the grassed areas and did not refer to the surrounding roads. The clerk was also asked to clarify that as the green is classified as highway displaying an uninsured vehicle as a raffle prize could have resulted in the vehicle could have been seized. Furthermore councillors suggested that Mr Hythe be invited to attend a future meeting if he wished to discuss the matter further.
- 11: **Boundary Commission Response.** The Clerk reported that he had written to the Boundary Commission expressing the view of that Council, supported the scheme suggested by Mr T Pursglove MP which involved removing the smallest number of properties as possible, from Corby Constituency to the Kettering Constituency, furthermore the Council supported the name change to Corby and East north ants Constituency.

Planning Issues:

- 12: East Northamptonshire Council Decisions
 a) **1 Sunnyside** Construction of shower room and minor revisions to rear. 16/02124/FUL **Withdrawn** Permitted Development.
- 13: New Planning Applications
 a) **32 Mill Road Rear** 16/02218/FUL First Floor Extension. **No Objection.**
 b) **Adjacent 1 Rectory Lane** 16/02224/FUL Demolition of Garage and construction of single dwelling. **No Objection.**
 c) **75 Mill Road** 16/02347/FUL Remodelled garage and new rear extension. **No Objection** other than the height of the new roof should be appropriate to the street scene.
- 14: Other Planning Matters
 a) None

New Correspondence:

- 15: **Urban Highway Grass Mowing 2017.** Northamptonshire Highways offered the Parish Council £442.65 to cut the verges within the 30mph zone. Resolved that the Parish Council continues to cut the verges and accept the grant as offered.
- 16: **Church Street Road Closure.** Highways advised that a road closure between 10th and 13th January between Club Lane and Bakers Lane in order to install a gas supply. The diversion route was via Club Lane and Bakers Lane. The Clerk reported that he had already objected to Highways informing them that Bakers Lane was inadequate for any vehicles larger than a car. Two vehicle meeting would also be extremely problematic and as a minimum traffic control would be required. Highways had eventually confirmed that the contractor had agreed to install traffic lights.

Finance:

Account balances brought forward		
Current Account		£10,433.42
Interest Account		£6.05
		£10,439.47
Less		
2068	Mr P Bird Clerk	£320.00
2069	Mrs D Bosworth - Litter Picker	£100.80
2070	E.on - Quarterly maintenance	£306.49
2071	E.on - Repairs	£37.52
2072	ENC - Verge Cutting	£1,725.74
2073	Wicksteed Leisure Repairs	£1,185.10
2074	Help for Heroes Donation in lieu of audit	£50.00
2075	Post Office – HMRC	£16.00
2076	Roger Norman - Defibrillator safe	336.00
DD13	Opus - Energy Street Lighting	£329.90
		£4,401.45
Balance Carried forward		£6,038.02

17: Resolved unanimously that the above accounts be settled.

Budget and Precept for 2017-18:

18: A draft budget had been circulated. Following discussion it was agreed that an increase in the precept of £900 be requested. This would permit the draft budget to be fully implemented, and additionally provide a contingency sum of £800 to be included within the budget for unforeseen expenditure as the Council had negligible reserves. Resolved that a Precept of £16,500 be levied.

To consider a donation to Saints Alive:

19: A brief discussion took place and it was agreed that a donation would be made either towards the end of the current financial year or in the next financial year. A specific sum was not agreed.

Report from Highways Rep:

20: Mr Stevens drew attention to the poor state of the 30mph signs in Mill Road and also the "Woodford village sign" which not only had corroded posts but was also very faded

Any other Business:

21: The Clerk drew attention to the Speed Identification Device. The replacement batteries were far superior to the old ones lasting over two weeks between charges. Full speed analysis was post on the Council website, however the average speed was 30mph, the 85th percentile was 36mph and the top speed recorded (on more than one occasion) was 67mph despite being almost 250 metres inside 30mph zone.

22: The Clerk reported a number of faulty street lamps had been referred to E.on for repair.

There being no other business the Chairman wished those present a Happy Christmas and declared the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed

Dated