

**Minutes of a meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017 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, Mrs S Robinson, Mr D Sharples, Mr D Stevens & Mr I Vaughan.
- In attendance:** Mr P T Bird (Clerk)
- Apologies for absence:** Mr M Vaughan, Police, Cllr D Hughes (ENC) and Cllr S Hughes (NCC)
- The Chairman read out a letter of resignation from Mr Jack Mead who had resigned for personal reasons. Mr Mead had attended 38 out of 52 meetings during his two terms of office. The resignation was received with regret, and the Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks to Mr Mead.  
A Casual Vacancy had been declared and East Northants Council had been informed. If an election was not requested by 11<sup>th</sup> April the Council would be free to co-opt at a future meeting.
- Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the February 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 and Joint Action Group Report:**
- 1: There was no JAG report. Councillors queried whether a Police Officer would ever attend a PC meeting regularly again. The Clerk suggested that with Parish Council representation at the JAG meetings, and the small number of Constables available in this part of the County compared to the large number of Parish Councils it was unlikely unless there was a specific issue that needed addressing. It was suggested that the question of Police attendance at Parish Council Meetings be raised at the next JAG meeting.
- Comments from Electors:**
- 2: No members of the electorate were present.
- Cllr D Hughes Comments:**
- 3: Cllr Hughes was not present
- Cllr S Hughes Comments:**
- 4: Cllr Hughes was not present
- Matters arising from the minutes:**
- 5: **Regulation 18 Consultation.** The Clerk had responded to four questions raised within the consultation document, No 3, 4, 26 & 33, in line with comments made by Councillors at the last meeting.
- 6: **Verge Clearance, Thrapston Road.** The Clerk reported he had been frequently exchanging emails with Cllr S Hughes PA who had been pursuing this matter, but she had been unable to obtain a commitment from Kier (Highways).
- Planning Issues:**
- 7: East Northamptonshire Council Decisions
- a) **75 Mill Road.** Various building works and revised roof line. 16/02347/FUL **Permitted.**
- 8: New Planning Applications
- a) **Land Rear of 7 High Street.** Demolition of existing Garage and construction of dwelling to the rear. 17/00492/REM. **Objection.** Councillors objected on the grounds that by permitting access to the rear of the site existing car parking was removed and no provision was made for relocation; The second floor window design would offer extensive views across neighbouring gardens; the length of the drive should feature the ability for vehicles to pass. Additionally if permission was given then the elevation materials should match the adjacent property in Long Row; construction work must take place during normal working hours and all construction vehicles must be accommodated off road.
- b) **Duke's Arms, High Street.** Retrospective Application for uPVC windows. 16/02099/FUL. **No Objection** to this retrospective

application so long as the ground floor window openings over the pavement are restricted to a safe distance in order to prevent potential accidents with pedestrians.

- c) **18 Paddock Road** – New Conservatory. 17/00364/FUL **No Objection.**

9: Other Planning Matters

- a) None

**New Correspondence:**

- 10: **Lay-by opposite Woodwell turn.** Mr Turner of Woodwell had written requesting the closure of the lay-by opposite Woodwell due to the amount of litter being dropped there. He also queried the provision of street lighting in Woodwell. Councillors requested the Clerk investigate street lighting issues but did not support the closure of the lay-by which is used frequently, quite legitimately. The Clerk was requested to contact ENC re Litter Picking the adjacent ditch.
- 11: **Use of Church Green for Wedding Parking in July.** A request from Mr Coles (Rectory Lane) had been received, requesting the use of Church Green for wedding parking on 15 July. Councillors had no objection subject to any damage being repaired by the requestor.
- 12: **Parking – High Street.** Mr Rose had written requesting some form of order be brought to the parking on the land on the west side of the High Street. Councillors agreed that as this is technically classified as “highway” there was little the Council could do as it was public land.
- 13: **Use of Village Green - Open Gardens and Church Fete.** Mrs Fothergill queried whether the village greens could be used for the Open Gardens, 28, 29 May and Church Fete (8 July). There were no objections.

**Finance:**

**Account balances brought forward**

Current Account	£4,709.52
Interest Account	36.05
	<b>£4,715.57</b>

**Less**

2084 Mr P Bird Clerk	£320.00	
2085 Mrs D Bosworth Litter Picker	£86.40	
2086 Mr D Cullum Groundsman	£51.20	
2087 E.on Lamp Repair Bakers Lane	£28.16	
2088 E.on Lighting Repairs High St	£620.40	
2089 E.on Quarterly Lighting Maintenance	£306.49	
2090 Mr D Cullum Fuel Reimbursement	£30.00	
2091 Woodford Baptist Church (Meeting Room)	£72.00	
2092 The Post Office HMRC	£12.80	
2093 Mr P Bird Clerk's expenses for year	£95.20	
2094 Mr D Cullum (Hire of Mower)	£520.00	
DD17 Opus Energy Lighting Energy	£328.06	<b>£2,470.71</b>

**Balance Carried forward**

**£2,244.86**

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

**Appoint Contractor for Footpath improvements to Greenway:**

- 15: Mr Stevens and the Clerk had prepared a summary of the prices quoted by three local contractors on a like for like basis. Mr Banham proposed, Mr Sharples seconded and all agreed that the cheapest quotation be chosen and the contractor (N R Groundworks) advised once all funding was in place.
- 16: The Clerk advised that Sport England had suggested the outcome of the application would be known by the end of March.

**Report from Highways Rep:**

- 17: Mr Stevens drew attention to the “Keep Clear” wording on the road near the bus stop in High Street had at last been installed. He also advised that he would seek a status report from Highways on outstanding issues by the April meeting.

**Thrapston Town  
Band at Woodford  
Feast:**

**\*\*\* Declaration of  
Interest \*\*\***

18: It was acknowledged that the audience for last summer's performance was very small, but a further opportunity to perform in 2017 would be appropriate, at a different location. Resolved that the Clerk approach the Sports Club, where the performance has been located for a number of years (with the exception of the last two years) to seek the availability of the premises. \*\*\* Mr I Vaughan declared an interest (Band member) and took no part in the discussion\*\*\*

**Review  
Effectiveness of  
Internal Audit:**

19: Minor amendments to paragraph 4d relating to the valuation of assets were approved (reflecting findings in the External Audit Report 2016). Mr Vaughan proposed and Mr Banham seconded that the document be approved. All in agreement

**Any other Business:**

- 20: The Annual Litter Pick would take place on 1<sup>st</sup> April.
- 21: Mr Hurst drew attention to potholes between the A14 and Cranford. The Clerk reported this had already been reported to Street Doctor.
- 22: Mr Hurst queried the Speed Indicator Device being out of action. The Clerk apologised and responded that this had been due to the unavailability of a laptop to access the recorded data, and also programme the unit. It was hoped the situation would be remedied by the end of the month.
- 23: Mr Sharples suggested that the earth spike might be a tripping hazard near the 'phone box. Agreed Clerk approach Mr Cullum to create a small kerb around the spike and wire.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed

Dated