

Minutes of a meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th April in the vestry of the Baptist Church, Rose Terrace, commencing at 7.30pm

- Present:** Mr P Bird (chair), 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 and Mr M Vaughan.
- In attendance:** Mr Bob Tattersdale AMC (Motocross), Mr P T Bird (Clerk)
- Apologies for absence:** Mr G Banham, Cllr D Hughes (ENC) and Cllr S Hughes (NCC)
- Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the March 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, Crime and Joint Action Group Report:**
- 1: There had been no JAG meeting attended by Mr Vaughan since the last Parish Council Meeting
 - 2: Three burglaries were known to have occurred in Woodford (Mill Rd, Bakers Lane, Church Street) within the past month. Mr Vaughan was asked to raise Police attendance at Parish Council meetings (see last month's minutes) and the increased burglaries in the Parish.
 - 3: Speeding continued to be an issue in Mill Road with the highest speed recorded at 68mph and over 54% of vehicles exceeding the speed limit.
- Comments from Electors:**
- 4: Mr Tattersdale, a director of AMC Motocross who lease the track in Thrapston Road reported that a significant amount of damage had been caused by local unauthorised persons breaking into the site. The Police had been called out a number of times but very rarely attended. Members of the company had attended to try and remove persons from the site but had been threatened and verbally abused. He concluded his report by requesting that anyone passing the site but seeing it in use with the gate was closed called 101 to report the act of trespass to the Police. This year the only days the track will be officially used will be the weekends of 9th & 16th July, 10th September and 8th October. The Chairman thanked him for his attendance and requested the Clerk publicise these matters.
- Cllr D Hughes Comments:**
- 5: Cllr Hughes was not present
- Cllr S Hughes Comments:**
- 6: Cllr Hughes was not present
- Matters arising from the minutes:**
- 7: **Overgrown Verge, Thrapston Road.** After a number of complaints / emails to NCC the verge clearance in Thrapston Road would now take place during week commencing 24th April. However, as the 31st March deadline had passed the work would now be carried out manually rather than with a flail in order to allow inspection for bird's nests. Traffic lights would be utilised to control traffic flow.
 - 8: **Removal of riverside trees and shrubs.** This was continuing and whilst one name had been referred to Drayton Estate it was hearsay, and the informant had not actually witnessed the occurrence. With Drayton's permission the Clerk was asked to refer the matter to the Police as a potential offence under the Countryside and Wildlife Act 1982. The Clerk was also asked to clarify whether such actions were permitted under the Fishing Rights lease.
 - 9: **Litter Pick.** The Litter Pick took place on 1 April when 14 adults and 2 Beavers collected litter from around the village. There had been a slow response from ENC contractors to collect the bags of litter despite a number of requests being made.
 - 10: **Use of Church Green for Wedding Parking.** The Clerk's letter was read out.
 - 11: **Lay-by opposite Woodwell.** The Clerk's letter to Mr Turner was read out. Investigation into Street Lighting revealed that one Street Lamp was missing. This was currently being investigated with Twywell Parish Council

and Eon.

- 12: **Grant for link to Greenway.** Sport England had advised that due to an overwhelming number of applications the turnaround time would no longer be the promised four weeks. No revised timescale was given.
- 13: **ENC grant for link to Greenway.** ENC wished to present a plaque commemorating the award for the work on the link path on 10 May. Mr Stevens was unfortunately not available. The Chairman would however attend.
- 14: **Mr J Mead – Resignation.** A letter of thanks for services to the Council sent to Mr Mead was read out.
- 15: **Parking near former bus stop.** The Clerk's letter to Mr Rose was read out.
- 16: **Band at Woodford Club, Woodford Feast.** The Clerk reported that the Club would be discussing the band playing at the club at a forthcoming meeting and would respond afterwards. Clerk to arrange with the band if in agreement.

Planning Issues:

- 17: East Northamptonshire Council Decisions
 a) **18 Paddock Road.** 17/00364/FUL. Erection of Conservatory. Permitted.
- 18: New Planning Applications
 a) There were no new applications
- 19: Other Planning Matters
 a) **3A De Capel Close, Club Lane.** Certificate of Lawful development application. **Withdrawn.** (ENC had advised that a revised application for either Lawful Development or a new Planning Permission Application was likely).
 b) ENC had forwarded a letter sent to agents for the owner of land to the west of Windmill Close advising that the site was unlikely to be considered for future development due to the present flood issues, and low requirement for rural housing land.

New Correspondence:

- 20: **Forthcoming Motorcross Events.** The organisers had forwarded details of the Motorcross events for the forthcoming season (also see above). These would be 9th, 16th July; 10th September and 8th October.
- 21: **Grass on rough ground in High Street.** Mr Bester had complained once again at the frequency this small piece of grass was cut. The Clerk had informed him that the Council's mower lifted stones indiscriminately, and other options would be explored. It was resolved to obtain a quotation for killing the grass off. The Clerk was asked to inform the correspondent.
- 22: **NALC Membership.** The quoted membership fee was £497.18. Those present unanimously agreed that this was not cost effective and the council would not join.

Finance:

Account balances brought forward		
Current Account		£2,238.81
Interest Account		6.05
		£2,244.86
Plus		
NCC Verge Reimbursement 2016/17		£442.65
Year End Balance 31 March 2017		£2,687.51
Less		
2095 Mr P Bird Clerk	£320.00	
2096 Mr D Cullum Groundsman	£102.40	
2097 ENC – Verge Cutting March	£209.17	
2098 Came & Co Insurance	£522.74	
DD18 Opus Energy Lighting Power	£324.89	£1,479.20
Balance Carried forward		£1,208.31

- 23: Mr Hurst proposed, Mr I Vaughan seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the above accounts be settled.

- Report from Highways Rep:**
- 24: Mr Stevens reported that he had reported the state of the "Woodford" sign in Mill Road and also the 30mph signs (poles). All had rusted through and would not stand for much longer.
- 25: Mr Stevens also reported he had advised ENC about the damaged street sign (Rose Terrace) which appeared to have been knocked by a vehicle.
- Co-option Process for New Councillor:**
- 26: The Council agreed that any elector wishing to be considered for co-option should do so in writing to the Clerk by 5pm on 11 May, in order that details may be distributed to Councillors prior to the next meeting.
- Disposal of Rubbish from Fair July 2017:**
- 27: ENC advised they would now charge for the collection of rubbish from the fair. The Clerk was asked to obtain a quotation from ENC and other company. Furthermore it was agreed the charge would be added to the invoice sent to the fair, or give them the option to remove the waste themselves.
- Poppy Wreaths on War Memorial:**
- 28: The Clerk advised that the County British Legion may well have awarded Woodford a prize for best kept War Memorial last September, had it not been for the poppy wreaths still in place from the previous November. There was no hard or fast rule as to how long they should remain in place with some being left for just two weeks, however, it was usual to remove them by Easter after the winter weather had taken its toll on them. The Clerk was asked to write to those who laid wreaths advising that this was the Council's preferred view, subject to any strong objections.
- Any other Business:**
- 29: **Women's (Cycle) Tour.** This year Stage 1 of the tour was passing through Thrapston, Denford, Ringstead, Great Addington followed by Finedon before finishing in Kettering on Wednesday 7th June.
- 30: **Silo – Thrapston Road.** Mr Stevens drew attention to the state of the silos in Thrapston Road. The Clerk was asked to write or speak to Mr Horrell.
- 31: **Children's Playground.** Mr Sharples expressed concern at the quality of the repairs carried out last autumn to the rocking horse in the playground. Clerk to photograph and take up with Wickstead.
- 32: **Greg's Fish and Chips.** It was noted that Mr Boast had been serving the village for 25 years, and it was agreed a letter of congratulations be sent from the Council on achieving this milestone.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed

Dated