

Minutes of a meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 20th February 2018 in the vestry of the Baptist Church, Rose Terrace, commencing at 7.30pm

- Present:** Mr I Vaughan (chair), Mr G Banham, Mr N Chapman, Mrs A Fothergill, Mr M Hackney, Mrs J Hathaway, Mrs S Robinson, Mr D Sharples, Mr D Stevens, Mr M Vaughan.
- In attendance:** Mr P T Bird (Clerk)
- Apologies for absence:** Mr P Bird, Mr M Hurst, Mr A Sharkey, 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: The Police had reported that four vehicles had been broken into, across Woodford during an early December weekend. Not all cars had been secure, but all had items of value within them.
- 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: **Deflector for Lamp in High Street.** The Clerk had written to the resident asking that they assure the council they had taken all steps possible to mitigate the ingress of light into the house. No response. E.on advised that the cost would be £45. Proposed and agreed that the no action be taken until assurance received from the resident.
 - 6: **Members Empowerment Fund.** The Clerk's email to Cllr D Hughes thanking him for allocating funds to the memorial seating was read out.
- Planning Issues:**
- 7: East Northamptonshire Council Decisions
 - a) **Addington Road Woodford.** 18/01904/FUL **Machine Store. Permitted.**
 - 8: New Planning Applications
 - a) **33 High Street. Prince of Wales. Construction of two dwellings on Carpark. Demolition of part of PH and construction of flat with parking and conversion of Public House to private dwelling.** Following lengthy debate, the clerk was asked to **object** on grounds of, loss of amenity, loss of public parking, overdevelopment, change of character to conservation area, inadequate access to parking for flat, inadequate visibility to highway from private access, dangerous parking near High Street for main property and inadequate garden provision.
 - 9: Other Planning Matters
 - a) **37 High Street.** ENC had advised that a planning application had been submitted, but was presently incomplete.
- New Correspondence:**
- 10: **Saints Alive.** The editor had written advising the publication had broken even in 2018, and hoped the Parish Council would set aside a similar sum to support the finances of the magazine.
 - 11: **Unitary Status.** ENC advised that the government was consulting again until 25 January 2019 on the proposed unitary plans for Northamptonshire. Furthermore, the elections planned for May 2019 would now be delayed by twelve months.
 - 12: **Playground Inspection.** Agreed that Wicksteed carry out an unaccompanied inspection at the cost of £45.00.
 - 13: **Street Lighting.** E.on had advised that the (orange) sodium lamps used predominantly throughout the village would become obsolete after mid

2019 and as a result repairs would become more difficult due to shortage of spares and replacement would be only option.

- 14: **Keep Britain Tidy.** The Great British Spring Clean would take place between 22 March and 23 April. Mr Stevens to arrange hire of equipment from East Northants Council for a village wide litter pick during that period.
- 15: **Prince of Wales.** Asset of Community Value. Councillors agreed that the Clerk request the ACV listing be renewed, as the property had not been advertised for sale.

Finance:**Account balances brought forward**

Current Account	£6,721.12
Interest Account	£6.05
	£6,827.17

Less

correction Aug '18 excluded from expenditure total £120.00

Corrected balance brought forward **£6,707.17**

Plus

Jubilee Committee Contribution to Memorial Seat	£757.50	
ENC Empowerment fund (Memorial Seat)	£700.00	£1,457.50

Less

Mr P Bird Clerk	£350.00	
Mrs D Bosworth Litter picker	£78.30	
E.on Lighting Repairs	£37.52	
E.on Lighting Maintenance	£371.59	
HMRC Income Tax	£23.80	
Opus Energy Lighting Power	£349.13	£1,210.34

Balance Carried forward

£6,954.33

- 16: Mr Chapman proposed, Mr M Vaughan seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the above accounts be settled.

Budget setting for 2019-20 and setting of Precept.

- 17: The Clerk had circulated a draft budget based on the current year's expenditure, adjusted for inflation, re-costings etc which suggested that the expenditure for the forthcoming financial year could be met from an unchanged precept, however, there would be little or no contingency for other projects plans.
- 18: Councillors agreed that following advice from E.on (para 13) above, given the number of street lamps that may need changing over the forthcoming years, the additional sum of £3,000 be precepted. This would permit between 6 and 8 lamp replacements per year which would be carried out either as they failed, or "en-bloc" towards the end of the financial year depending upon the amount of funds available at the time.
- 19: Resolved that a Precept of £20,000 be made for 2019/2020.
- 20: Mr Chapman advised that he was not comfortable with large scale Council Tax increases, especially at County and District level where there appeared to be little evidence improved services. Chair advised this was not a matter for the Parish Council however, any resident could express their views on proposed budgets set by NCC and ENC.

Report from Highways Rep: Any other Business:

- 21: Mr Stevens had nothing to report
- 22: **Highfield Sign.** The sign near the junction with Mill Road had been demolished by a vehicle. The Clerk had reported the matter to ENC for repair.
- 23: **Pavement Obstructions.** Mrs Fothergill drew attention to obstructions, plant pots, dustbins etc on pavements, especially on unlit stretches of pavement which were a danger to pedestrians.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed

Dated