

Minutes of a meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st May 2019 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 Stevens, Mr I Vaughan, Mr M Vaughan.
- In attendance:** Mr P T Bird (Clerk)
- Apologies for absence:** Mr G Banham, Mr A Sharkey, Mr D Sharples.
- A letter of resignation due to personal reasons had been received from Mr Sharkey. Councillors requested that the Clerk write to Mr Sharkey to thank him for his service over the past two years.
The Clerk advised that the vacancy would be declared in the appropriate manner as required by regulation and ENC informed.
- Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the April 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: A Police representative was not present.
 - 2: Mr Vaughan reported that there had been changes to the personnel based at Thrapston. Organised crime and drug related issues were still being pursued as priorities.
 - 3: Speeding in Thrapston had been raised at the recent JAG meeting and was promised immediate response by Police, yet the figures quoted were nowhere near as bad as those recorded in Mill Road, Woodford by the council. Clerk to provide up to date figures for Mr Vaughan for next JAG meeting to pursue the matter.
- Comments from Electors:**
- 4: No members of the electorate were present.
- 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: **Daventry Close kerb realignment.** The Clerk's letter to NCC concerning the realignment of the kerb to the original line was read out. No response.
 - 8: **Thrapston Town Band.** The band had responded that due to other commitments they would not be able to attend the Sports Club on the Sunday of Woodford Feast Weekend.
 - 9: **Beat the Street.** The equipment had now been removed but no feedback had been received regarding the success or popularity of the scheme.
 - 10: **Cable Works on Village Green.** Cable laying had taken place across the village green and the ground reinstated to a good standard. The quality of the excavations had been unsuitable for use around the war memorial.
- Election of Chairman:**
- 11: Mr Bird thanked Councillors for their support over the past twelve months and stood down from the position of chair. Nominations for the position of Chair were sought and Mr Bird was proposed by Mr M Vaughan, seconded by Mr Hurst and there being no further nominations, all Councillors present being in favour, and Mr Bird being willing, Mr Bird was duly elected as chairman for the forthcoming year.
- Election of Vice Chairman:**
- 12: Nominations for the position of vice chairman were sought and Mr Hurst proposed Mr Ivor Vaughan be elected as Vice Chair. This was seconded by Mr Hackney. There being no further nominations and all in agreement, Mr Vaughan being willing to be vice chairman, was duly elected.

**Woodford General
Charity – Trustee
appointments**

13: Councillors agreed that Mr M Vaughan and Mrs Robinson, whose term as trustees had expired should be reappointed to represent the Parish Council for the next four years.

**Woodford General
Charity, - Temp. Hall
Trustee
appointments
Planning Issues:**

14: Councillors agreed that Mr M Vaughan and Mr Hackney, whose term as trustees had expired should be reappointed to represent the Parish Council for the next four years.

15: East Northamptonshire Council Decisions

- a) **13 Church Street** Replacement doors and windows 19/00420/FUL **Permitted.**
- b) **33 High Street** Erection of two properties on public Car Park and change of use Prince of Wales.18/02284/FUL **Permitted** with a significant number of conditions.

16: New Planning Applications

- a) **4A Church Street** First Floor extension and rear balcony. 19//FUL. **No Objection.**
- b) **37 High Street** Replacement Windows (retrospective) 19//FUL. **No Objection.** However, disappointment was expressed that this was a retrospective application. It was also noted that the repainted external wall was not mentioned on the application, and the Clerk was asked to draw attention to this fact in the response to ENC.
- c) **4 The Moorings** Tree works to Cherry Tree in Front Garden 19/00740/TCA. **No Objection.**

17: Other Planning Matters

- a) **73 High Street.** ENC advised that investigations regarding development at rear of 73 High Street were considered to be Permitted Development and the proposed business use was sufficiently low enough not to attract business rates. Councillors noted the response but expressed concern that the change of use of the garage obviously increased the need for on road parking.

**New
Correspondence:**

18: **Use of Village Green.** The school had requested use of the Green on 27 June for May day. Councillors requested the Clerk to respond giving permission.

19: **Road Closure notice.** Advance notice that the south end of the High Street would be subject to a road closure between 7-14 June was to hand. Clerk advised that the original dates had been during "Feast Week" in July and he had requested NCC revise the dates due to the potential fair visit.

20: **Yarn bombing.** The WI had advised that plans were well in hand and requested permission to place a knitted wreath on the War Memorial. This was agreed so long as any fixing relied on the wreath being tied on to existing anchor points.

21: **Land between 31 and 33 Highfield.** A request was read from a resident that the Parish Council explores the conversion of this land to community use, e.g. seating area etc. The correspondent also drew attention to diseased trees in Highfield. Councillors agreed that the Clerk try to ascertain the future plans for this land with the housing association, and that the trees in question should be reported to NCC, once the locations were known. The Clerk was asked to write to the Correspondent outlining the actions to be taken.

22: **Unitary Status.** ENC had written advising that the Government had now confirmed Northamptonshire Councils would be combined into two unitary authorities with effect of 1 April 2021. This would permit elections to take place before the Council came into business allowing councillors to shape the new council. Parish and Town Council elections would therefore take place in May 2020.

23: **Flooding Windmill Close.** A copy letter to ENC re actions being taken regarding overgrown ditches in the area was read out as was the copy response from ENC which advised lack of funding precluded immediate action but the level of risk would continue to be monitored.

24: **Snooker Club.** The Snooker Club (based in the Reading Room) had asked whether a letter of support could be provided by the Council for their application for funds to improve their premises. Councillors agreed that the Clerk provide a letter of support.

Finance:**Account balances brought forward**

Current Account		£3,219.59	
Interest Account		£6.05	
			£3,225.64
Plus Precept			£10,000.00
			£13,225.64
Less			
2229	Mr P Bird Clerk	£350.00	
2230	Mrs D Bosworth Litter Picking	£90.31	
2231	Mr D Cullum Greens Maintenance	£156.50	
2232	R&G Verge Cutting	£268.19	
2233	Mr D Cullum Fuel Reimbursement	£30.45	
DD43	Opus Energy – Street lighting	£330.52	£1,225.97
	Balance Carried forward		£11,999.67

25: Mrs Fothergill proposed, Mrs Robinson seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the above accounts be settled.

26: **Accounts.** The Clerk advised that the accounts had been sent to the internal auditor. Whilst the return would need to be sent to the external auditor by the end of June no costs would be incurred as the turnover for the financial year ending March 2019 was too low (under £25,000).

Annual Salary Review:

27: **Litter Picker.** Salary had been increased to £8.21 per hour in line with the National Minimum Wage from April 2019.

28: **Groundsman.** Mr Hurst proposed that the hourly rate be increased to £8.75. Seconded Mr M Vaughan and unanimously agreed.

29: **Clerk.** Clerk advised average hours over the past year were 23 per month, slightly down on the previous year of 25 hours per month. Mr D Stevens proposed, seconded by Mrs Robinson and unanimously agreed that the monthly salary be increased to £360 per month.

**Report from Highways Rep:
Report from Playing Field Representative:
Annual Parish Meeting:**

30: Mr Stevens had nothing to report.

31: Mr Chapman advised that the drainage works on the playing field had now commenced.

32: There were no matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting to be considered by the Parish Council.

Any Other Business:

33: Mr Stevens drew attention to a vehicle which was frequently parked on the village green and asked whether it was possible to identify the owner and write to them asking them to refrain from parking on the green as it set a precedent for drivers. Discussion ensued re parking on the green, land to the west of High Street etc, and it was agreed that the Clerk write to NCC explaining the problem and asking what steps can be taken to alleviate the parking problems.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed

Dated