

**Minutes of a meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019 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, Mrs R Hancock, Mr M Hurst, Mrs S Robinson, Mr D Sharples, Mr D Stevens, Mr I Vaughan.
- In attendance:** Mr P Cross, Mr R Rodgers. Mr P T Bird (Clerk)
- Apologies for absence:** Mr M Hackney, Mrs J Hathaway, Mr M Vaughan, Police, 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: No Police were present.
- Comments from Electors:** 2: Those present advised they were in attendance to listen to the discussion regarding Planning Matters and the proposed kennels.
- Cllr D Hughes Comments:** 3: Cllr Hughes elaborated upon issues affecting the County Council and also ENC where he presently holds the role of Chairman. New "start up offices" were presently being constructed at Raunds to assist small businesses. The County Council budget was still an issue and money tight due to the ever increasing of cost of social care both for the young and the elderly.
- Cllr S Hughes Comments:** 4: Cllr Hughes was not present
- Matters arising from the minutes:** 5: **Diamond Coaches.** The Coach company had responded and advised that the present timetable was very much a start-up timetable introduced quickly to avoid a break in service. In due time it will be reviewed.  
6: **Installation of bollards** on green near Daventry Close. NCC had advised they would not sanction the installation of any "street furniture" which could cause difficulties in passing cars parked on the opposite side of the road. Any bollards would also need to be set significantly back from the edge which would effectively defeat the object of such an installation. Councillors asked that the matter be referred back to Highways.  
7: **Village noticeboard.** A price for a top hung door and replacement backboard was accepted at £260 Proposed Mr M Vaughan and seconded Mr Stevens. It was agreed to ask Cllr D Hughes if this work fell within the remit of his empowerment fund. A quotation was also received for the renovation of the phonebox, but further quotations were required.  
8: **Woodford Fair.** The Showman's Guild had advised they would be willing to try and takeover the Fair for the forthcoming season and councillors agreed that initially for one year their offer should be accepted. Clerk to write to the Guild with details.
- Planning Issues:** 9: East Northamptonshire Council Decisions  
a) None  
10: New Planning Applications  
a) **Proposed properties on Prince of Wales Car Park.** Alteration to internal floor layout. Additional floor in roof space. The overall height of the buildings was unchanged and the only change to appearance externally was the introduction of Velux style windows, which did not overlook other properties. **No Objection.**  
b) **Proposed kennels Addington Road 19/01238/FUL.** Revised entrance direct from Addington Road. Councillors discussed the plans and agreed to object to the proposal. The stretch of road had incurred two serious accident within the past five years and sight lines towards Woodford overlooked third party land on both sides of the road. Hedges inevitably grow and would block the visibility splay. **Objection on these grounds.**

11: Other Planning Matters

a) None

**New Correspondence:**

12: **Community Speedwatch.** The benefits of Community Speedwatch were highlighted in a letter from NCC and the Clerk was asked to advertise in Saints Alive for volunteers to join councillors.

13: **Vans Parked in Newtown Street.** ENC advised they had issued notices requesting the vans be claimed or be subject to removal. The vans which are unroadworthy were claimed so ENC are now pursuing under Anti-Social, Crime and Policing Act as they are detrimental to the community.

14: **Tug of War on Village Green.** A request to use the village green for Tug of War was received. Such a request had previously been denied. After a long debate, and vote Councillors agreed to permit the event so long as the competition was kept away from the memorial, suitable insurance was in place, and relevant safety measures were put in place, and any damage to the greens was addressed following the event. Clerk to respond appropriately.

15: **Christmas Card.** Christmas Greetings had been received from the Chair of ENC – Cllr D Hughes.

**Finance:****Account balances brought forward**

Current Account	£13,463.34
Interest Account	£6.05
	<b>£13,469.39</b>

**Less**

2269 Mr P Bird Clerk Salary	£360.00	
2270 Mrs D Bosworth Litter Picking	£73.89	
2271 E.on New Lamps Highfield	£2,496.00	
2272 HMRC Income Tax	£21.00	
2273 E.on Lighting Repairs	£37.52	
DD49 Opus Energy Lighting Power	£577.03	£3,565.44

**Balance Carried forward****£9,903.95**

16: Mr Chapman proposed and Mr Sharples seconded that the above accounts be settled. Unanimously agreed.

**Budget for 2020-21 And Precept**

17: A draft budget had been circulated by the Clerk based upon known and anticipated expenditure. It was noted that the if the contingency was redistributed within the budget it would be possible to keep the precept unchanged. After discussion it was agreed that the Precept be increased to £20,500, an increase of £500.

**Conversion of street lamps to LED**

18: Councillors reviewed the location of steel columned sodium lamps and agreed that the remainder of money set aside for this purpose should be spent on upgrading the lamps in the Rose Terrace area. Clerk to identify specific lamps in question and place order up to value of remaining budget.

**Report from Highways Warden: Playing Field Representative Report:**

19: Mr Stevens had nothing to report

20: Mr Chapman advised that the Playing Fields were wet but considering the amount of rain that had fallen without the drainage scheme which had been recently implemented the land would be unusable.

**Discuss Merits of a Neighbourhood Plan:**

21: Councillors discussed the process of creating a Neighbourhood Plan and were of the opinion that many of the issues facing Woodford, mainly traffic related could not be addressed by a plan. However, rather than entirely dismissing the idea it was agreed that the final decision would be left to the new Council formed in May 2020.

**Any other Business:**

22: **Parking.** Two Councillors mentioned the obstructions caused by the way a number of vehicles were frequently parked in Mill Road and Highfield. The

Chairman advised that this was outside of the Councils remit and any obstructions should be reported to the Police so immediate action could be taken.

- 23: **Planting of more trees.** Mr Sharples suggested planting more trees in the Parish. It was acknowledged that the Council doesn't own any suitable ground. It was understood two of the village farmers had planted a large number of trees, already this year and this might be something the Council could assist with in future. To discuss again at a future meeting

There being no other business the Chairman wished those present a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and declared the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed

Dated