

Minutes of a meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th March 2020 in the schoolroom of the Baptist Church, Rose Terrace, commencing at 7.30pm

- Present:** Mr P Bird (chair), Mr N Chapman, Mr M Hackney, Mr M Hurst, Mrs S Robinson, Mr D Sharples, Mr D Stevens, Mr I Vaughan, Mr M Vaughan.
- In attendance:** Mr I Bristo. Mr P T Bird (Clerk)
- Apologies for absence:** Mr Banham, Mrs Fothergill, Mr Hackney, Mrs Hathaway, Mrs Hancock, Cllr D Hughes (ENC) and Cllr S Hughes (NCC)
- Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the February Parish Council meeting having been circulated, were agreed as a true record by those present subject to the addition of the following paragraph. It was unanimously agreed that the Chairman sign them as such.
- “Revised entrance to proposed kennel site Addington Road.** Evidence had come to light regarding the visibility splay towards Woodford. An independent report contradicted both the Highways response and the Architects plans. The clerk was asked to write to ENC requesting the contradictory views be clarified before a decision was made on the application.”
- Police Report:** 1: No Police were present although Mr Vaughan reported a Police surgery would be held on the village green on 25th March.
- 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: **Cowthick Plantation Development Stanion.** Corby BC had advised that the application would be heard at a committee meeting on 23 March. Objectors were to be represented by an ENC councillor (also NCC). It was noted that ENC had also objected to the application.
- 6: **Vans in Newtown.** ENC had advised that the vans should be removed by early April.
- 7: **Yarnbombing.** Mrs Sortwell had asked whether decoration could once again take place around the village green etc as last year. Councillors had no objection. Clerk to convey message.
- 8: **Flooding.** No further action had been taken in Mill Road since the previous meeting. The ditch in Addington Road had now been cleared and “grips” in the verge had been cut. Councillors believed this would permit water to run onto the road more easily rather than run off the road.
- 9: **Fair.** East Anglia Region of the Showman’s Guild were still advertising the availability of the Woodford as a site for a fair in July.
- Planning Issues:** 10: East Northamptonshire Council Decisions
a) **8 Pound Lane / rear 3 Addington Road.** Conversion of first floor workshop to flat. 19/01971/FUL. **Permitted**
- 11: New Planning Applications
a) **10 The Leys.** Single storey rear extension Revised submission. The original two storey extension would now be a single storey extension and have a slightly smaller footprint. **No Objection**
- 12: Other Planning Matters
a) **30 High Street construction of dropped kerb, provision of off-road parking, demolition of wall** 20/00074/FUL. **Withdrawn** by Applicant. Councillors requested the Clerk to find out about the reconstruction of the front wall demolished before the application decided

New Correspondence:

- 13: **Dropped Kerb markings at 4A Thrapston Road.** Correspondence from the resident sought support for a white line to improve the visibility at this address. No Objection. Clerk to write letter of support to resident.
- 14: **Bus Service 266.** NCC had advised that Diamond Coaches would be withdrawing their service from 25 April, and until then a reduced service would be provided. NCC were seeking a new operator for the route.

Finance:**Account balances brought forward**

Current Account	£7,629.44
Interest Account	£6.05
	£7,635.49

Plus

Western Power Wayleave (prev omitted from Dec minutes)	23.24
ENC Empowerment Fund Grant- noticeboard	£260.00
	£7,918.73

Less

2280 Mr P Bird Clerk	£360.00	
2281 Mrs D Bosworth – Litter Picking	£65.68	
2282 Mr D Cullum – mower hire	£530.00	
2283 E.on Lighting LED lamps Rose Terrace	£1,560.00	
2284 Woodford Baptist Church (meeting room)	£72.00	
2285 Mr P Bird Expenses	£129.95	
DD52 Opus Energy – Lighting	£429.86	£3,147.49

Balance Carried forward**£4,771.24**

- 15: Mr M Vaughan proposed, Mr Chapman seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the above accounts be settled.
- 16: As the budget for the children's playground had been considerably been underspent it was suggested some of the carry-forward be spent on improving more streetlamps. Clerk to identify further lamps on steel columns and refer to next meeting. Suggested amount to be spent being approximately £1,500 – or six lamps converted to LED.
- 17: Mr Hurst suggested an additional lamp be installed in the High Street between the lamp at Sunnyside and the lamp adjacent to the Dukes Arms, it was noted a lamp was situated on the opposite side of the street near old bus stop. The chairman suggested that this could be considered but the cost of the installation should be balanced against the number of obsolete lamps which might not be replaced. The clerk was asked to obtain a price for future discussion

Report from Highways Rep: Nomination to Woodford General Charity (Temperance Hall) Risk Assessment Report:

- 18: Mr Stevens had nothing to report
- 19: The current nominee, Mr Sharples, term had expired. Mr Sharples advised he was willing to stand again and there being no other nominations and all in agreement Mr Sharples was appointed for a further four years.
- 20: The Council's risk assessment had been circulated and the clerk requested permission to revise the paragraph re taxation which did not reflect the present PAYE scheme.
- 21: Regarding the inspection of the Council's assets, the following items were noted.
- Public noticeboard in need of repair, previously ordered,
 - heavy erosion of village green near Daventry Close, previously discussed and currently under review,
 - several loose posts around play area in Paddock Road, under observation,
 - Weed growth had commenced again in children's playground – agreed this should be sprayed by Mr Incles as last year,
 - Phone box, quotations for repainting still awaited.

Any other Business:

- 22: **Coronavirus / Covid 19.** The chairman thanked those attending for observing "social -distancing" rules and suggested some flexibility might be

needed for the forthcoming meetings, although all councillors would be advised by the Clerk of latest provisions by email. The Clerk advised that the only legal requirements placed upon the council was to ensure a Parish Meeting was held each year, an annual Parish Council meeting should be held each year in May and that the accounts must be officially ratified by the end of June. It was understood that an Act of Parliament would be shortly introduced to vary those requirements. It was agreed that all normal payments could be made and signed by the Chair and Vice Chair. All other actions and meetings were covered by the Councils own standing orders. As and when guidance was received it would be circulated by email to all councillors.

- 23: **Footpath PE1 Access from Mill Rd.** Mr Hurst suggested improvements be made to the access to the kissing gate from Mill Road. Clerk to initially report to Street Doctor.
- 24: **Website.** The Clerk advised that due to changes in legislation several significant changes would need to be applied to website. The site was originally launched as an "information and publicity source" in May 2000 and was one of the first in the County featuring in the local press. It is currently in its third version. Websites are now a legal requirement for Parish Councils and must be used for the publication of minutes and financial data. The present cost is about £25 per year for Domain name registration and hosting. The Clerk agreed to investigate modifications and report back. Alternatives would be to use a "third party" designed site which would cost significantly more and also feature third party advertisements.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed

Dated