

Minutes of a meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 20 October 2020 in the schoolroom of the Baptist Church, Rose Terrace, commencing at 7.30pm

Seating was spaced at 2 metres and masks/ shields worn by all in attendance in accordance with national guidelines providing exemption for councils from the maximum meeting group of six persons

- Present:** Mr P Bird (chair), Mr G Banham, Mr N Chapman, Mrs Fothergill, Mr Hackney, Mrs R Hancock, Mr M Hurst, Mrs S Robinson, Mr D Sharples, Mr I Vaughan.
- In attendance:** Mr P T Bird (Clerk)
- Apologies for absence:** Mrs J Hathaway, Mr D Stevens, Mr M Vaughan, Police, Cllr D Hughes (ENC) and Cllr S Hughes (NCC)
- Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the September 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.
 - 2: Information Only. The Clerk reported that the Police were involved in parking issues in Long Row. It was evident the road was not wide enough to accommodate legal parking on the road rather than pavement, but it was apparent some vehicles were being parked blocking some residents' windows and doors. Police are to follow up parking issues with NCC.
- Comments from Electors:**
- 3: No members of the electorate were present.
- Cllr D Hughes Comments:**
- 4: Cllr Hughes was not present
- Cllr S Hughes Comments:**
- 5: Cllr Hughes was not present
- Matters arising from the minutes:**
- 6: **Woodford Shrubbery.** Felling was now completed, and the next phase would be replanting later in the winter. Comment was made regarding the large amount of brushwood etc that had been left on the ground.
 - 7: **Lighting Upgrade.** A quotation for upgrading the remaining lamps in Highfield was to hand. The Clerk explained a number of these lamps had up to date connection boxes which would reduce the costs significantly. It was also evident that lamps in Mill Road between high Street and Highfield had these same connections and could be upgraded within the overall budget. Agreed by all present.
 - 8: **Telephone Box Refurbishment.** Mr Chapman advised he had commenced working in the box, and fitted the new door. Working only at weekends the weather was not helping matters. Agreed the clerk obtain locally produced "defibrillator" signs rather than purchase glass ones from a supplier.
 - 9: **Village Green Information Cairn.** A generous donation of £560 had been received for the Cairn upgrade from Cllr Hughes. A discussion took place whether the replacement board should be an updated version of the current board, or show historic views around the village green. The former found favour.
 - 10: **Yarn bombing.** An email commending the yarn bombing was read out. The Clerk had forwarded to the "Yarnbombers".
 - 11: **Green Area Paddock Road.** Initial estimates for replacing fencing based on the playground fence were about £8,000. The Clerk had been unable to contact the installers. Prices were being sought from other suppliers. A discussion took place regarding the style colour etc, but no conclusion were made. The Clerk had investigated funding sources. A Landfill Tax Trust option looked promising, however, to release the funds there was usually an "admin charge" of approximately 10% of the funds required payable in advance.
 - 12: **Cattle Grid / Church Street.** Drayton had responded advising that the cattle grid fell within the boundaries of the highway so the matter should be referred to NCC.

- 13: **Car Park / Allotments.** Drayton Estate had once again raised the suggestion of using part of Newtown Allotments as a village car park. They expressed concern that many allotments were not being used for growing vegetables etc. Councillors once again raised concerns over cost, administration, management, loss of village amenity and poor access. There was also some question as to how far residents would be willing to walk to park their vehicles. Suggestion was made that if allotments were smaller, e.g., half size they might be more attractive to would be gardeners. Clerk to respond to Drayton Estate.

Planning Issues:

- 14: East Northamptonshire Council Decisions
- a) **4 Church Street.** 20/01035/TCA Various trees works. **Permitted.**
 - b) **3a DeCapel Close** 20/00626/FUL (Club Lane) Construction of detached two storey dwelling. **Permitted.**
- 15: New Planning Applications
- a) **30 High Street** 20/01208/FUL **Dropped kerb and off-road parking.** Resubmission of 20/00074/FUL. The application included the partial reconstruction of the front wall, but still included a 10metre dropped kerb. Councillors asked the Clerk to **object** on the grounds of net loss of on road public parking, visibility splays took no account of the potential for parked cars, and a significant height difference between road surface and proposed parking space causing significant gradient across the footpath.
 - b) **32b High Street. 20/01156/TCA** Removal of Eucalyptus tree Removal. **No Objection.**
 - c)
- 16: Other Planning Matters
- a) **19/01238/FUL Kennels Addington Road.** An appeal had now been submitted, and new information was requested. Agreed that the Clerk should write stressing the council's main points of objection and include a copy of the speech made by Mr Banham to the ENC Planning Committee by 16 November.

New Correspondence:

- 17: **Invitation to join NCALC.** A letter advising that Woodford was one of only three councils in the county that were not members of the County Association and inviting the Council to join was read out. Annual costs were based on electorate numbers and would be approx. £540. After discussion Mr Banham proposed, Mr Sharples seconded and Councillors unanimously agreed not to take up membership on the grounds that it would not cost effective (2.5% of Precept)
- 18: **Donation to St Mary's Church / Saints Alive.** Letters from Saints Alive Editor and St Mary's Church Secretary requesting consideration be given to support the print costs and Churchyard Maintenance. Proposed, seconded and agreed that £350 be donated to St Mary's Church and £100 to Saints Alive, as last year.
- 19: **Greenway.** A cyclist on the Greenway had been injured near the Woodford Lock Railway Bridge and the matter referred to the Clerk. Accident had taken place in Denford Parish, Denford PC and ENC had been informed.
- 20: **Trees on Church Green.** Mr Cullum groundsman had asked whether it would be possible to have lower branches removed from trees on Church Green to make mowing easier. Clerk to check with Tree Conservation Officer at ENC whether formal permission was required due to conservation area status.

Finance:

Account balances brought forward		
Current Account		£5,548.76
Interest Account		£6.05
		£5,554.81
Plus		
Precept - ENC		£10,250.00
Jubilee Committee		£300.00

Members Empowerment Fund		£560.00
Less		£16,664.81
2322	Mr P Bird Clerk	£370.00
2323	Mrs D Bosworth Litter Picking	£104.64
2324	E.on ¼ lighting maintenance	£275.40
2325	R&G Verges Maintenance	£215.04
2326	Royal British Legion	£100.00
2327	X2 Connect Ltd `Phonebox maintenance	£430.72
2328	Mr D Cullum Groundsman	£57.60
2329	E.on Lamp replacement Church St	£312.00
DD59	Opus Energy Street Lighting Power	£360.82
Balance Carried forward		£2,226.22
		£14,438.59

- 21: Mr Banham proposed, Mr I Vaughan seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the above accounts be settled.
- 22: The accounts for year ending March 2020 had been confirmed as exempt from further audit by external auditors PKF Littlejohn.
- 23: Mr Stevens was not present.
- 24: There was no other business

**Report from
Highways Rep:**

Any other Business:

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

Signed

Dated