

## Minutes of a meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 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, Mr Hackney, Mrs R Hancock, Mrs Hathaway, Mr M Hurst, Mr Stevens, Mr D Sharples, Mr I Vaughan, Mr M Vaughan.

**In attendance:** Mr P T Bird (Clerk)

**Apologies for absence:** Mrs A Fothergill, Mrs Hathaway, Mrs Robinson, Police, Cllr D Hughes (ENC) and Cllr S Hughes (NCC)

**Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the October 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. (No meeting had been held in November due to the Government's "Lockdown".

**Police Report:**

- 1: No Police were present.
- 2: Mr M Vaughan reported on a recent Joint Action group Meeting. Police had charged a man with the vandalism of Thrapston War Memorial.
- 3: It was reported that on the past weekend several allotment sheds were broken into and vandalised, and a unit at Manor House Farm

**Comments from Electors:** 4: No members of the electorate were present.

**Cllr D Hughes** 5: Cllr Hughes was not present

**Comments:**

**Cllr S Hughes** 6: Cllr Hughes was not present

**Comments:**

**Matters arising from the minutes:** 7: **Telephone Box.** Mr Chapman reported the repainting was progressing well but the weather was not co-operative.

8: **Allotments in Newtown.** Highways had advised they would not support any scheme in Newtown which would increase the number of vehicles in the area. Clerk had advised Drayton Estate. He had also conveyed the Council's thoughts re future of the allotments as requested by Estate's Agent in a phone-call with the Clerk.

9: **Street Lamps in Mill Road.** Lamps between Highfield and High Street had now been upgraded to LED.

10: **Fencing – Paddock Road.** Three quotations ranging from £10k-£14k had been received for new steel fencing. Whilst repairs to the existing fence would need to be met from Council funds, third party funding would be available through the "Landfill Tax Credit scheme". The next deadline for applications would be beginning of March. Councillors agreed that an application should be made, and public support should be sought again through Saints Alive.

**Planning Issues:** 11: East Northamptonshire Council Decisions  
a) **30 High Street** – Dropped kerb and off-road parking. **20/01208/FUL Refused** – non-compliance with County Council Off Road Parking Policy. Clerk was asked to verify what would happen to the wall which was removed prior to the application being submitted.

12: New Planning Applications

a) None

13: Other Planning Matters

a) No information regarding the planning appeal for the proposed kennels in Addington Road had been received, however once the deadline for appeals / evidence submission has passed there is no fixed timescale for the Planning Inspectorate.

b) **Allotment 12 Thrapston Road.** Use outside of the Planning Permission had previously been referred to ENC. It was now understood

to have been purchased by a scrap metal firm and this information had now been passed to ENC for further investigation.

**New Correspondence:**

- 14: **Children's Playground.** An email from a Miss Farrow suggesting the Playground be updated was read out. After brief discussion it was agreed that the cost of such an upgrade was considerably beyond the Council's financial constraints at the present time. Clerk to respond appropriately.
- 15: **Urban Grass mowing 2021.** Councillors agreed to take on responsibility for the mowing of verges within the 30mph zone as in previous years. The sum of £442.65 would be paid to the Parish Council by Northamptonshire Highways.
- 16: **Public Rights of Way.** A letter of complaint regarding the state of public rights of way from Mr Robinson was read out. He drew attention to copy letters sent to NCC / Drayton Estate asking the Council's support. The Clerk was asked to respond that several of the issues raised had been previously logged with NCC through Street Doctor / Fix My Street. Suggestion was also made Mr Robinson may like to be considered as Parish Path Warden. Clerk to respond appropriately.

**Finance:**

**Account balances brought forward**

Current Account	£13,193.32
Interest Account	£6.05

**Less**

2337 Mr P Bird Clerk	£370.00	£13,199.37
2338 Mrs D Bosworth – Litter Picking	£78.48	
2339 R&G Landscapes Maintenance	£220.51	
2340 E.on – New Lamps Mill Road	£4,596.00	
2341 HMRC Income Tax	£28.80	
DD60 Opus Energy (late invoice)	£422.02	
DD61 Opus Energy	£451.98	
		<u>£6,167.79</u>

**Balance Carried forward**

**£7,031.58**

- 17: Mr Sharples proposed, Mr Chapman seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the above accounts be settled.

**Draft Budget for 2021/22**

- 18: A draft budget totalling £21,200 had been circulated to Councillors and after some discussion was unanimously approved as the initial budget for next financial year. Councillors affirmed their decision not to join Ncalc.

**Precept 2021/22**

- 19: Based upon the budget and the predicted balance at the end of the current financial year it was unanimously agreed that the Precept could remain unchanged at £20,500 and the shortfall if necessary, would be funded from reserves.

**Report from Highways Rep:**

- 20: Mr Stevens had nothing to report

**Any other Business:**

- 21: Mr Hurst questioned the status of the Speed Device. The clerk apologised the delay in obtaining batteries but would prioritise the matter.
- 22: Mr I Vaughan drew attention to the state of the footpath in Whittlesey Terrace. Clerk to report to Street Doctor
- 23: The road signs at Alledge Drive were in a poor state of repair. Clerk to report to ENC

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed

Dated