

Minutes of a meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 20th April 2021 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 J Bird (chair), Mr G Banham, Mr N Chapman, Mrs A Fothergill, Mr M Hackney, Mrs R Hancock, Mrs J Hathaway, Mr M Hurst, Mr D Stevens, Mr D Sharples, Mr I Vaughan, Mr M Vaughan.
- In attendance:** Mr P T Bird (Clerk)
- Apologies for absence:** Mrs Robinson, Police, Cllr D Hughes (ENC) and Cllr S Hughes (NCC)
- Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the December 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: Mr M Vaughan reported on a recent Joint Action Group Meeting.
- 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: **Speed Identification Device.** New Batteries had been purchased and installed
 - 7: **Street Signs.** Street Signs in Alledge Drive and De Capel Close had been reported for repair
 - 8: **Footpath in Whittlesey Terrace.** Reported to Street Doctor
 - 9: **Precept 2021-22.** Submitted to ENC with draft December minutes.
 - 10: **Children's Playground Upgrade.** The Clerk had responded to correspondent re costs advising that the significant costs exceeded the council's budget.
 - 11: **Street Lamps.** Following the escalation of the complaint, regarding rebilling, to the second level a response had been received that day however, the savings appeared to be quite small. The Clerk had queried whether changes from February and July had been implemented, or whether only the former was the case.
 - 12: **Telephone Box.** Mr Chapman advised the work was nearing completion, and the chairman offered the council's sincere thanks for his work in carrying out the refurbishment.
 - 13: **Fence Paddock Road.** The Funding Application had been submitted together with the funding for a seat from the same manufacturer as those on the village green. This had been mentioned in the Saints Alive Article the previous month and more complaints had been received regarding the seat, than had been received in support of the new fence. Concerns were generally along the lines that the seat would encourage anti social behaviour. The Clerk had already responded that without the inclusion of the seat the funding application for the fence would almost certainly fail, which would result in the existing fence being removed as it failed without replacement
 - 14: Councillors agreed that R&G quotation be accepted although the style of fence was not agreed at this stage. The seat from David Ogilvie was agreed as the favoured option. The exact location of the seat would be agreed later and once in place would be monitored. If an increase in anti-social behaviour reported to the police occurred then the seat would be relocated elsewhere in Woodford.
 - 15: East Northamptonshire Council Decisions
 - a) **Rear 6 Addington Road.** 21/00108/FUL. **Withdrawn.**

Planning Issues:

- 15: East Northamptonshire Council Decisions
 - a) **Rear 6 Addington Road.** 21/00108/FUL. **Withdrawn.**

- 16: New Planning Applications
- a) **47 Highfield Two storey Side Extension** 21/00415/FUL. **No Objection**
- 17: Other Planning Matters
- a) **Kennels Addington Road.** Since the December meeting the Planning Inspectorate had overturned the East Northants Council decision regarding the planning application for the kennels. When reported to the ENC Planning Committee (17 March) several councillors expressed considerable disgust that their decision had been overturned by a single Inspector. The Planning Officer advised that evidently the Inspector had only considered material facts in connection with the various grounds upon which the rejection was based. The large number of complainants supporting these objections had not been relevant. (One committee member suggested irrespectively of whether correct procedure had been followed, that had the Council a "bottomless bank account" he would have proposed a judicial review. The Inspectorate's decision to overturn the ENC decision paved the way for open countryside development.)
- b) **Reinstatement of Wall 30 High Street.** ENC advised they would not be pursuing the reinstatement as other walls had been removed. Councillors agreed this was not the case, although some fences on the opposite side of the street beyond Newtown Street had been removed without permission

**New
Correspondence:**

- 18: **Feast Fair.** Mr Bugg had telephoned the Clerk advising Covid permitting he would like to provide a fair on the village green this summer. All in favour. It was also understood that his static venture in Skegness was to be named after Woodford Village Green.
- 19: **Church Fete / Open Gardens.** The church requested the use of the village green on 3rd & 4th July for the Fete and as a base for the Open Gardens. All in favour.
- 20: **Relocation lamp in Eady's Row.** A request had been made to either remove or move the street lamp in Eady's Row, due to the large footprint of the wooden pole it is fixed to. The Clerk was asked to obtain a quotation and advise the correspondent that the council had no objection to the lamp being moved but did not have the funds to do so itself
- 21: **Travellers A510 junction.** The travellers who had camped at Generals Corner last summer had returned. The Clerk had been advised the Traveller Unit / ENC and Police were dealing with the situation but progress was slow. Ultimately, a court order requiring them to move on would be issued however, changes to the court procedures from 1st April was anticipated to slow the process rather than sped it up.
- 22: **Information plaque on Village Green.** A draft of the new map was circulated to Councillors and various comments made which will be incorporated into the final design.
- 23: **North Northants Council.** Further to the lack of information being received from the new North Northants Council (it appeared NCalc were circulating information to members only on behalf of NNC) the Clerk wrote to the Chief Executive on 1 April expressing the Council's concerns. A response had not been received.
- 24: **Slide – Children's Playground.** The stainless-steel safe edge had worked loose and after significant searching the clerk aided by Mr Chapman had identified an engineer who could repair the slide at a reasonable price. Removing the slide proved a significant challenge but with the assistance of Mr Hackney and Mr Sharples the slide was removed for repair and reinstalled two days later. The Clerk expressed his profuse thanks for the time and effort expended on this project. This was seconded by those present. A local resident also willingly provided power to enable power tools to be utilised. The Clerk he would write to the resident offering the Council's thanks
- 25: **New fence in Pyels field.** Following an amount of rubbish being left on the riverbank one day in April an altercation between the alleged

perpetrator and the land owner, the land owner the landowner had fenced a large area of the field between the public footpath and the riverbank. A number of letters of complaint had been received. After discussion the Clerk was asked to respond to correspondents that there was no Right of Way to the river, just permissive access, so the land owner was within his rights to install a fence, but the council would seek to find out from the landowner under what circumstances he would reverse his decision.

Finance:**Account balances brought forward**

Current Account	£7,025.53
Interest Account	£6.05

Less January expenditure

2342 Mr P Bird -Clerk	£370.00	
2343 Mrs D Bosworth – Litter-picker	£69.76	
2344 Mr P Bird (Reimbursement for SID batteries	£79.98	
2345 E.on Lighting Maintenance (quarterly)	£275.40	
DD62 Opus Energy	£516.20	£1,311.34

£7,031.58**Less February expenditure**

2346 Mr P Bird Clerk	£370.00	£370.00
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£5,720.24**Less March expenditure**

2347 Mr P Bird – Clerk	£370.00	
2348 Mrs D Bosworth Litter-picking (2 months)	£130.80	
2349 Mr P Bird (Playground repairs)	£80.00	
2350 R&G Footpath Spraying	£72.00	
2351 Mr D Cullum – Hire of mower (92 hours)	£460.00	
2352 Woodford Baptist Church -Hire Meeting Room	£30.00	
2353 Mr Paul Bird (Administration expenses)	£105.67	
DD63 Opus Energy - Street Lighting	£549.52	
DD64 Opus Energy – Street Lighting	£382.76	£2,180.75

£5,350.24**End of Year Balance 31 March 2021****£3,169.49****Less April expenditure**

2354 Mr P Bird Clerk	£370.00	
2355 Mrs D Bosworth Litter Picking	£88.70	
2356 Mr D Cullum Grass Cutting Village Greens	£115.20	
2357 Came & Co Insurance *	£455.24	
2358 E.on Lighting Contractor (Maintenance)	£275.40	
2359 Mr D Cullum (Fuel Reimbursement)	£30.35	
2360 R&G Landscapes	£120.00	
DD65 Opus Energy Lighting	£429.73	£1,884.62

Balance Carried forward to May**£1,284.87**

26: Mr Hackney proposed, Mr M Vaughan seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the April accounts be settled. (Previous months expenditure had been approved by email and cheques signed by Chair and Vice Chair. All orders had been previously agreed by full Council in person.)

27: Mr Sharples proposed and Mrs Hancock seconded that the three-year agreement for insurance was adopted. This would fix the premium, subject to additions or reductions in cover being requested.

Report from Highways Warden:

28: Mr Stevens had no matters to report, but suggested that once the new council was formed a list of priorities should be agreed and a meeting with Highways arranged.

Donation in lieu of internal audit fee and appointment of auditor for 2020-21: Parish Litter-pick:

29: Councillors agreed to donate £60 in lieu of an audit fee, to a charity of Ms Davies' choice. Further, Councillors agreed unanimously that Ms Davies, if willing, be asked to carry out an internal for year ending March 2021.

30: Mr Stevens proposed 10am on 15th May for a village litter pick. He advised that he would order the picking tools. These would be sanitised but gloves

would not be provided this year. Amendments to the risk assessment would be drafted to include reference to Covid security. Clerk was asked to confirm with Club that full bags can be left on car park as in previous years. All agreed.

Risk Assessment Report:

- 31: The Clerk reported on the condition of the Council's Assets. All were in good order except for:
- a) the fence at Paddock Road (grant application decision awaited),
 - b) the bench in Mill Road would need attention soon – new timber planking.
 - c) Weed growth also needed spraying again at the children's playground. Agreed unanimously that the Clerk requests Mr Incles to spray again as in previous years.

Any other Business:

- 32: Mr M Vaughan drew attention to the trees in Rose Terrace, between the Chapel and Rose Paddock. Agreed that Councillors look at the trees and discuss at the next meeting.

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There being no other business the Chairman thanked those present for their attendance, input, and support over the past six years, wished those not seeking re-election "best wishes for the future" and declared the final meeting of this council closed at 9:15pm.

Signed

Dated