**Minutes of a Meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th December 2024 in the Schoolroom of the Baptist Church, Rose Terrace, commencing at 7.30pm**

1. **Present:**
	1. Councillors: Mr G Banham (chair), Mrs S Bryant, Mr N Chapman, Mrs A Fothergill, Mrs C Hughes, Mr M Hurst, Mr Sharples, Mr C Swiecicki and Mr I Vaughan
	2. Cllr D Maxwell (NNC), Mr P T Bird (Clerk).
2. **Apologies for absence:**
	1. Mrs Hathaway, Mrs O’Donnell, Ms Southcombe, Mr M Vaughan.
3. **Minutes of last Meeting:**
	1. The minutes of the November Parish Council Meeting having been circulated were agreed as a true record.
4. **Public Participation:**
	1. **Electors.** None
	2. **Police Comments.** The Police were not in attendance.
	3. **Councillor D Maxwell (NNC**). Cllr Maxwell advised that the Police were intending to keep any precept rises to a minimum.
	4. Increased unmarked car use was having a marked effect, especially with regard to dangerous driving in the county, yet there had been three fatalities in recent weeks on the A45.
	5. Confirmed JAGs had now been disbanded.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
	1. **Kettering Energy Park.** Mr Binley had written regarding the formation of a protest group and whilst he welcomed councillors attending the meetings he suggested that the group should not be hindered by slow Council protocols and decision making.
	NNC had advised the developers that they would not waive the vast majority of planning requirements and that it would be necessary to substantiate arguments put forward for the site.
6. **Planning Matters:**
	1. **Planning Decisions**:
		1. None
	2. **New Planning Application(s):**
		1. None.
	3. **Other Planning Matters:**
		1. Details of the Great Addington neighbourhood plan received. Clerk to circulate
7. **New Correspondence / Clerk’s announcements:**
	1. **Planning Workshop**. Details of a planning Workshop for up to two Councillors per parish had been received. Mrs Bryant and Mrs Hughes volunteered to attend on 28th January.
	2. **Community Bus Service**. A new minibus service between Oundle and Rushden Lakes had commenced – clerk to circulate details.
	3. **Parking Restriction Highfield / Mill Road**. Parking restriction alterations in Mill Road at the junction with High Street and Highfield with Mill Road, had only been partially implemented. Clerk to take up with Highways.
8. **Accounts For Payment:**

 Balance end of November 2024 **£21,760.73**

 **Less**

 2609 Mr P Bird – Clerk (hours) £460.00

 2610 Mr D Bosworth (8 hours) £87.12

 2611 E.on ¼ Lighting Maintenance £245.40

 2612 R&G Verge Maintenance £610.38

 2613 HMRC Income Tax £20.00

 2614 St Mary’s Church \* £450.00

 2615 All Saints PCC (Saints Alive) \* £200.00

 DD132 Yu Energy £48.23

 DD133 Yu Energy £401.29

 £2,522.42 **£19,238.31**

(\* see below)

It was resolved that these invoices and amounts be approved for payment.
**Donation to St Mary’s Church.** Consider donation towards maintenance of St Mary’s Churchyard. Agreed that a donation of £400 be made this year

**Saints Alive.** Consider a donation towards cost of Saints Alive. Councillors agreed that a donation of £200 be made this year.

1. **Budget and Precept 2025-6**
	1. **Budget.** A budget report had been circulated and the clerk explained that despite potential increased expenditure anticipated in some areas due to underspends during the current year other figures had been revised down. Consequently, the total budget could remain unchanged. Resolved that the draft budget be approved.
	2. **Precept**. As the budget for the forthcoming year would remain unchanged it was unanimously agreed that the 2025-26 precept would also remain unchanged at £23,000.
2. **Playing Field Report**
	1. Mr Chapman had nothing to report.
3. **Appointment of Police Liaison Representative**
	1. Due to Mr Vaughan’s absence this was deferred.
4. **Other Business for future meetings**
	1. Clerk was reminded of previous discussions regarding electronic speed-signs – agreed to produce information for next meeting.
	2. Mrs Fothergill raise the state of some of the trees on the former A604 near Woodford House and falling branches was now a regular occurrence. Clerk to write to assumed landowner and NNC Highways.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm.

Signed Date