

Minutes of a meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th January 2009 in the vestry of the Baptist Church, Rose Terrace, commencing at 7.30pm

- Present:** Mr P Bird (chair), Miss L Blanchard, Mr P Colson, Mr J Hawes, Mrs S Hayman, Mr M Hurst, Mrs Reid (arrived later) Mr D Sharples, Mr I Vaughan, Mr M Vaughan and Mr D Woods.
- In attendance:** Cllr D Hughes (ENC), Mr P T Bird (Clerk), PC Cowley, representative of STAR.
- Apologies for absence:** Mrs Colson, Mr Walbridge, Cllr A Langley (NCC)
- Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting having been circulated, were proposed by Mr Hawes, seconded by Mr M Vaughan, and agreed as a true record by those present. It was unanimously agreed that the Chairman sign them as such.
- Youth Forum Update:** 1: Mr M Vaughan reported that he hoped to restart the youth forum again and over recent weeks amassed an amount of documentation.
- Police Report:** 2: PC Cowley reported that there had been one reported crime in December. The New Year however, had seen a dramatic rise in shed break-ins and also a break in at the Post Office.
- Comments from Electors:** 3: No members of the electorate were present.
- Wind Turbines- Ringstead** 4: **Representatives of STAR** – Representative of Stop the Turbines at Ringstead gave a presentation on the proposed five wind turbines at Ringstead. The turbines would reach an overall height of 415 feet and it was suggested they could have a serious impact on the local landscape and ecology, and potentially the health of some of those living nearby. They could also be a distraction to vehicles on the A45 near the Raunds roundabout. Whilst many of these aspects would not affect Woodford, the height of turbine pylons would almost certainly them very conspicuous when viewed across the Nene Valley. The meeting did not express an opinion either for or against the Group's comments. The Chairman thanked the representatives for attending
- Cllr Langley's Comments:** 5: Cllr Langley was not present although had informed the Clerk that a speed device for fixing to a lamp post indicating a drivers speed was available for approximately £5000. £2000 from the Parish Council, £1000 from the "Empowering Councillors" scheme and £2000 from NCC Highways, who would also pick up future maintenance costs. Councillors discussed the matter briefly, some stating that this was expensive, especially as a budget had not been set for it. Others expressed concern that until the traffic surveys in Thrapston Road or Addington Road were carried out, it was not known where the most effective location would be for the unit. Additionally in Mill Road, location may be a problem as the first lamppost on the left when entering the village is opposite Paddock Road junction, which is a considerable distance inside the 30mph zone.
- Cllr Hughes Comments:** 6: Cllr Hughes mentioned that the bus tokens would be once again on sail in February. This could be the last year as the Government is attempting to phase them out. Budgets at ENC have been tightened. Although projects such as Manor Park Rushden were budgeted for in the past so funding is secure. Stanwick Lakes should be self financing from 2010. There are still some grants available, especially for community groups.

Matters arising from the minutes:

- 7: **Islip Furnace Site.** Mr Cleave had written asking that if the Islip Furnace site was to be redeveloped would the level of lighting be reduced. Clerk was asked to respond that the Council would request this be considered by ENC and that lighting of a new scheme would need to meet current guidelines
- 8: **Potholes in Mill Road.** Potholes in Mill Road had been reported by the Clerk to Street Doctor who had responded that they were not bad enough to be repaired and would be reinspected in March
- 9: **Road Salt.** Mention was made that NCC were considering prosecuting anyone who was found to be using salt from the bins for personal use. Mr Sharples reported that he had used a small amount of salt from the Alledge Drive bin to salt Newtown Street, and that it was very effective if spread thinly. Thanks were expressed to residents in Church Green for keeping the road free of ice.
- It was suggested that the council might purchase a mini salt spreader for treating the footpaths, although it was acknowledged that storing the equipment may be an issue together with getting the equipment with salt to the appropriate location when needed. Mr Colson was concerned the Council could be open to litigation if someone slipped on partially cleared ice. Clerk reported that he had received legal guidance suggesting this was a very “grey area” and it was extremely doubtful. If someone slipped on a public pavement they would need to prove that the council’s action in attempting to clear the snow had made the pavement more dangerous. The Council had insurance for such incidents which would be valid if correct procedures had been followed.
- 10: **Traffic Calming in Mill Road.** Mr Bosworth had written asking what progress had been made with regard to speeding in Mill Road. Clerk to respond that traffic surveys were completed last year in Mil Road and similar surveys are to be carried out in Thrapston Road and Addington Road. The Police are aware of the speeding in the areas and from time to time will carry out further speed check checks
- 11: **Paddocks Future Development.** Mr Watson (ENC) had answered the Council’s letter informing that a further planning application had been made with regard to land adjacent to the Paddocks but at present it was not valid (incomplete).
- 12: **Precept** The Clerk confirmed he had requested a Precept of £12,000.
- 13: **Playground Fence** Two quotes had been received regarding the Playground fence and a further quotation was still awaited.

Planning Issues:

- 14: Planning Committee Comments
a) The Planning Committee had not commented on any plans since the last meeting.
- 15: East Northamptonshire Council Decisions
a) **4 The Moorings** – Single Storey Extension – EN/09/01788/FUL **Permitted**
- 16: New Planning Applications
a) **De Capel House Garden** – Yew Tree to be pruned EN/10/00037/TPO **No Objection** so long as presence of tree is safeguarded.
- 17: Other Planning Matters
a) **2 Rectory Lane.** Outline permission for a dwelling – appeal The council had previously commented that they had no objections to the development of the garden, and asked that the Clerk comment that there was nothing further to add.

New Correspondence:

- 18: **Resignation – Parish Council – Mrs Reid.** Mrs Reid had written tendering her resignation from the Parish Council due to her moving from the village. The chairman thanked Mrs Reid for her attendance and enthusiasm during her

time as a councillor and wished her well in the future. Clerk was asked to formally declare a vacancy and inform East Northants Council

- 19: **Dog Fouling.** Mrs Douglas had written expressing concern about the amount of dog fouling in Mill Road. Clerk to include in article in "Saints Alive" and also contact the Dog Warden.
- 20: **Verge Cutting.** NCC had written asking whether the Parish Council wished to continue taking responsibility for the maintenance of the verges within the 30mph zone. Unanimously agreed and the clerk to complete the relevant documents.
- 21: The Chairman asked that the following items of correspondence be circulated:
- a) ENC Minutes
 - b) Clerk And Councillors Direct Magazine
 - c) ENC Tourism Policy

Finance:**Account Balances brought forward**

Current Account		968.64	
High Interest Account		7542.27	
			8510.91
Plus			
Peppercorn rent Woodford WMC		1.00	
Interest		0.65	
			8512.56
Less			
⁵⁹⁵ E.on Months Power		229.23	
⁵⁹⁶ Mrs D Bosworth Litter Patrol (15 ½ hrs +1.89exp)		91.79	
⁵⁹⁷ Mr P Bird Clerk		240.00	561.02
			7951.54

- 22: Mr Hawes proposed, Mr Colson seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the above accounts be settled.

Any other Business:

- 23: **Lamp DeCapel Close.** The Clerk was asked to investigate the cost of replacing the lamp which was removed from the eastern end of DeCapel Close.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed

Dated