

Minutes of a meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 15th July 2008 in the vestry of the Baptist Church, Rose Terrace, commencing at 7.30pm

- Present:** Mr P Bird (chair), Miss L Blanchard, Mr S Clifton, Mr P Colson, Mrs M Colson, Mrs S Hayman, Mr N Holben, Mrs E Reid, Mr D Sharples, Mr I Vaughan, Mr M Vaughan and Mr D Woods.
- In attendance:** Mr P T Bird (Clerk)
- Apologies for absence:** Mr N Holben, Mrs S Hayman, Mr B Mearns, Cllr Langley, Cllr Hughes.
Mr Mearns had tendered his resignation forthwith and wished the Council well in future deliberations. Councillors asked that the Clerk passed on their thanks to Mr Mearns for his support, interest and attendance since July 2006. The Clerk reported that the appropriate public notice had been displayed that day advertising the vacancy. If ten electors requested an election within the ensuing fourteen days then the Returning Officer would arrange for nominations, alternatively if an election was not requested the Council would be free to co-opt. The Clerk agreed to put a notice on the Council's notice-board and website advising of the situation as it developed.
- Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the June Parish Council meeting having been circulated, were unanimously agreed as a true record and the Chairman signed them as such.
- Youth Forum Update:** 1: Mr M Vaughan had no comments to make
- Police Report:** 2: A Police Officer was not present and the Clerk reported that he had not received any crime figures for the month of June.
- Comments from Electors:** 3: No members of the electorate were present.
- Cllr Langley's Comments:** 4: Cllr Langley was not present.
- Cllr Hughes Comments:** 5: Cllr Hughes was not present.
- Matters arising from the minutes:**
- 6: **Dangerous Tree – The Leys.** The Clerk had written to Drayton Estate who had agreed to inspect the tree.
 - 7: **Additional Funding.** East Northants Council had agreed to advance the next Precept payment to the Parish Council two months early.
 - 8: **Rural Parking.** East Northants Council had written informing that NCC had affirmed that parking had not been enforced in rural areas since decriminalisation, but a new scheme was to be shortly introduced. Clerk to seek further comments from Councillor Langley.
 - 9: **Working Men's Club.** The Clerk's letter to the secretary of the Woodford WMC outlining the access arrangements for the contractors was read out.
 - 10: **Telephone Box.** The Clerk reported that he had registered the Council's objections to the removal of the telephone box with East Northants Council, who had agreed that they would support the Parish Council's views.
 - 11: **Use of Back Green.** The Clerk's letter to Mr Grey of De Capel Close permitting him the use of Back Green on 5th September was read out.
 - 12: **Access from Playing Field to property on West Street.** The Clerk had written to Mr York expressing concern that land he has been permitted to use has been marked as private property.
 - 13: **Welcome Pack.** The Clerk reported that the welcome pack was still being drafted.

- 14: **Audit of Accounts.** The Clerk's letter of thanks to Mrs Davies for auditing the accounts was read out. The Clerk confirmed that the accounts had now been sent to the external auditor.
- 15: **Tables outside White Horse.** A response had finally been received regarding the land outside of the White Horse at the top of Club Lane confirming that the land was indeed classed as highway. This was confirmed by deeds to the White Horse and also the highways schedule. The schedule also showed that the garden of 1 Whittlesey Terrace is in fact officially highway and any such submissions to the Land Registry suggesting that it was garden are erroneous. Clerk was asked to respond requesting that the County Council take the appropriate action regarding the tables. The Clerk also informed the meeting that he had raised the issue of the verge in Rose Terrace with the same contact.

Planning Issues:

- 16: Planning Committee Comments
 a) The Planning Committee had not commented on any plans since the last meeting.
- 17: East Northamptonshire Council Decisions
 a) **Thrapston Road** (08/00774/FUL) Construction of a Conservatory to rear. **Permitted.**
- 18: New Planning Applications
 a) There were no new planning applications
- 19: Other Planning Matters
 a) The Clerk reported that he had attended a pre inspection meeting at ENC at which the Inspector conducting the inspection of local Oundle and Thrapston Rural North Plan. Only certain aspects were to be investigated and further submissions were to be invited from parties that had already submitted documents during the first round of consultation. Councillors agreed that the various points be investigated and discussed at the next Parish Council Meeting as an agenda item.
 b) The Clerk reported that the ground floor flat in the old Co-op was now being advertised, although the garage which was part of the application had yet to be constructed. Clerk was asked to report matter to East Northants Council.

New Correspondence:

- 20: The Chairman asked that the following items of correspondence be circulated:
 a) NCC Minutes
 b) ENC Minutes
 c) Scheduled roadworks in East Midlands
 d) Note of Pre-examination meeting of local development plan
 e) Clerk and Councils direct magazine
 f) Highways "Reps' Review"

Finance:

Balance brought forward *	31,522.69
Plus	
Interest (High Interest A/c)	180.04
Wayleave	19.35
	31,722.08
Less	
500 Clerk salary	230.00
501 Playground Supplies (Safety repairs)	702.36
502 D Cullum grass cutting	49.50
503 ABB replacement lamps Mill Rd / Alledge Drive	682.45
504 D Bosworth Litterpicking	68.04

505	NRICC (audit fee)	50.00	
			1,782.35
	Balance Carried forward		29,939.73
Account Balances			
	Current Account		2.33
	High Interest Account *		29,967.40
	Total		29,939.73

* Corrected due to addition error of £247.16 page 34

21: Mr Woods proposed, Mr I Vaughan seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the above accounts be settled.

Playground Update:

- 22: The Clerk reported that the work on the children's playground was well on target and that it would be completed before the school holidays. Some additional costs had been incurred due to the poor state of the wood surrounding the safety matting and also the fact there were no drainage holes underneath the matting.
- 23: Mr M Vaughan proposed a vote of thanks to the Clerk for his work in connection with this project and suggested that some form of bonus be paid. This was seconded by Mr Sharples and Mr Woods and wholeheartedly endorsed by those present. The Clerk thanked the Councillors for their kind words but suggested that any monetary bonus should not be paid until the next financial year when budgets could be adjusted accordingly. Consequently councillors agreed that this be part of the Clerk's Salary review in May 2009
- 24: The Clerk was asked to invite representatives from William Davis, WREN, Play and Leisure and Councillor Hughes (ENC) to an official opening which should be scheduled for some time in early August. Additionally the press should be invited.
- 25: The Clerk reported that an application had been submitted (totalling £1,000) to the County Council (via Cllr Langley) under the "Empowering Councillors" scheme for funding to replace the missing playground equipment.

Any other Business:

- 26: Mrs Colson raised the issue of regular bonfires being held on summer evenings. Clerk said he would investigate regulations and publish something in the village newsletter.
- 27: Mr I Vaughan reported that the new lamp adjacent to 2 Mill Road was still not very bright. The Clerk reported that he had referred the matter to ABB Ltd
- 28: The Clerk said he had been approached by Mr Jackson of Mill Road who had suggested using the spoil heap for BMX cyclists. Councillors agreed that this may attract motor bikes too creating a noise nuisance. It was unlikely however that there would be much spoil left once the land around the MUGA had been regarded.
- 29: Clerk reported that a Master Declan Findley had asked whether a porta-cabin could be purchased for the youth of the village to sit / play in. councillors cited many issues against the idea – insurance, security, supervision etc but suggested a shelter such as the one in Oundle Rd Thrapston may be more appropriate. Clerk to respond.
- 30: Mr Colson commented that the verge was not being cut near the seat in mill Road. Clerk to follow up with ENC. Also the verge at the top of Church Green has not been cut this year.
- 31: Mr M Vaughan mentioned that former Woodford ENC Councillor Tony Packham's wife had recently died. Councillors asked that the Clerk pass on their condolences.

- 32: **Woodford Feast.** The Clerk was asked why two fairground rides had been left on the village green. Clerk reported he had rung the number on the side of the vehicle but could get no reply (n.b. finally removed on Thursday 17th – four days late). Mr I Vaughan requested that an agenda item regarding a donation to Thrapston Town Band be included for the next meeting.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed

Dated