

**Minutes of a meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 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, Mrs M Colson, Mrs S Hayman, Mr B Mearns, Mr D Sharples, Mr I Vaughan, Mr M Vaughan and Mr D Woods.
- In attendance:** Cllr D Hughes (ENC), Cllr A Langley (NCC), PCSO G Cross, Mr P T Bird (Clerk)
- Apologies for absence:** Mrs Reid, Mr Holben, Mr Colson
- Minutes of Parish Meeting** The minutes of the Parish Meeting, having been circulated were proposed by Mrs Hayman, seconded by Mr Clifton and agreed as a true record by those present.
- Minutes of last Parish Council meeting:** The minutes of the May Parish Council meeting having been circulated, were proposed by Mr Clifton, seconded by Mrs Hayman, and agreed as a true record (subject to typographical amendments) by those present. It was unanimously agreed that the Chairman sign them as such.
- Youth Forum Update:** 1: Mr M Vaughan had no comments with regard to the Youth Forum
- Police Report:** 2: PCSO Cross informed the Council that there had been eight crimes reported in Woodford during May, four of which were connected and resolved.  
3: The Clerk mentioned that building work was due to start shortly at the children's playground and increased patrols in the area whilst the work was carried out would be greatly appreciated.
- Comments from Electors:** 4: No members of the electorate were present.
- Cllr Langley's Comments:** 5: Cllr Langley drew attention to road works being carried out on the A6 viaduct which would require the bridge to be closed completely for about one month from 30<sup>th</sup> June. The diversion route was A6, A510, A14, A45 or vice versa.  
6: Cllr Langley said that part of his funding under the empowering Councillors scheme was being donated to the Ladybirds Pre-School, but approximately £1000 would remain. He suggested that the Parish Council should contemplate a use for the funding.
- Cllr Hughes Comments:** 7: Cllr Hughes thanked the Council for its good wishes as he became Chairman of East Northants Council. He informed the meeting that all funds had now been replenished and interested groups should contact East Northants Council if they required funding for any expenditure.  
8: He reported that the refurbishment of Irthlingborough High Street had now been completed.
- Matters arising from the minutes:** 9: **Advance of Funding.** The Clerk had written to East Northants Council requesting a short term loan totalling £6000 to cover VAT on the playground expansion or if this was not possible an advance of the next Precept Payment.  
10: **Rural Parking.** The Clerk had written to East Northants Council requesting details of the parking enforcement provision in rural areas. No response to date.  
11: **Footpath PE15 Eady's Row.** The Clerk had written to the Right of Way team asking for some form of barrier at the top end of Eady's Row. The response was that barriers would only be installed if there was backing from Police statistics suggesting there was a problem.

- 12: **Land Registry – Playing Fields.** The Clerk reported that he had eventually received a response which indicated that the Playing Fields had been registered in its entirety with the Land Registry and was registered as (long-term) leasehold in the name of the Trustees of the Working Men’s Club.
- 13: **Telephone Box.** The Clerk reported that the telephone box in Woodford was still coin operated and that the consultation period had been extended. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should continue to object to the removal of the telephone box, on the grounds that this was a piece of “social history”, in a prominent position of the village which could be considered as a conservation area in the future.
- 14: **Land in Rose Terrace.** The Clerk had still not received a response from Mr Orlebar and agreed to write to him once again.
- 15: **Conservation Area.** ENC had responded regarding the survey to be carried out in the next financial year with regard to conservation area status for certain parts of Woodford.

**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) **Land Rear of Coach House High St Conversion to Garden EN/08/00476/FUL.** Approved but with planting / erection of outbuildings conditions
- 18: New Planning Applications  
 a) **9 Thrapston Road (EN/08/00774FUL).** Erection of conservatory to rear.  
**No objection**

**New Correspondence:**

- 19: **Use of Back Green.** Mr Grey of De Capel Close had asked to use Back Green for parking on the evening of 5<sup>th</sup> September in order to avoid vehicular congestion in the area. Councillors had no objections but suggested vehicles were parked towards the edge of the area and towards the top where access was easier. Clerk to respond.
- 20: The Chairman asked that the following items of correspondence be circulated:  
 a) Village viewpoint (Magazine)  
 b) A strategy for Community Cohesion (NCC)  
 c) The Playing Field (Magazine)

**Finance:**

<b>Balance brought forward</b>		<b>34796.02</b>
<b>Less</b>		
491 Clerk	230.00	
492 Playground Supplies Ltd (Emergency Repairs)	522.88	
493 Wicksteed Leisure (Inspection Costs)	47.00	
494 J&S Pendred (No Parking Sign – Village Green)	35.25	
495 Stocksigns (No Ball Game Signs)	28.75	
496 ABB Ltd ¼ Lighting Maintenance	297.11	
497 D Bosworth Litter Picking (12 hrs + £1.80 exp)	68.04	
498 D Cullum (Grasscutting) (10hrs plus £23.96 fuel)	91.46	
499 WREN (to release future funding)	2200.00	
		3520.49
<b>Balance Carried forward</b>		<b>31275.53</b>
<b>Account Balances</b>		
Current Account		1765.33
High Interest Account		29510.20
<b>Total</b>		<b>31275.53</b>

- 21: Mr Sharples proposed, Mr I Vaughan seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the above accounts be settled.
- 22: **Accounts 2007-08.** The clerk reported that he had eventually found a person willing to audit the accounts (Mrs Su Davies, to whom Councillors extended their thanks).
- 23: Mr Sharples proposed and Mrs Colson seconded that the return (which had been circulated) be adopted. This was unanimously agreed.
- 24: The Chairman read each of the statements contained within the Annual Return and the answers from Councillors were recorded as appropriate. The Chairman signed the statement.
- 25: Mrs Davies (Auditor) asked that any fees be forwarded to NRICC. Councillors agreed that the sum of £50 be forwarded and requested that Mrs Davies be informed.

### **Playground Development**

- 26: **Multi Use Games Area.** The Clerk reported that a number of Councillors had met the contractor and Playing Field committee on 26<sup>th</sup> May to agree the site of the MUGA and finalise any loose ends. The suggested site was parallel to the rear of the existing playground with a connecting path to the playground so that a hard surface route was achievable from the road. A gap of up to 10 metres between the two areas would be accommodated without additional charge by the contractor. There was a slope on the site of about three feet (one metre) which would need to be addressed by the groundworks team before the surface could be installed. This could incur a surcharge of upto £300. Line marking had been agreed and the fencing would be green in colour with red posts. Access to the site would be via the Club Car Park. A container would be sited near the existing playground to be used as a store. The existing playground and the new area would be fenced off for safety purposes whilst the construction took place. Work was anticipated to commence in July.
- 27: Mrs Colson asked that a letter be sent to the Working Mens Club to keep them up to date with the situation.
- 28: **Playground Inspection.** Wicksteed Leisure had carried out an inspection of the existing playground and quoted for the repairs. The overall cost of parts was £1,441.90 and labour £480. The cost of parts included a replacement "Springer" mobile at £960 plus fitting. (A further quote was to hand from Playground Supplies Ltd for this piece of equipment totalling £1016). The Clerk reported that he still awaited a further quote for work to address the safety issues from Playground Supplies. Councillors agreed that the order be placed with Wicksteed unless a more competitive quote was received within the near future. Councillors also agreed that the Clerk complete the application form for funding from Cllr Langley to assist with the cost of the replacement Springer equipment.

### **Any other Business:**

- 29: **Welcome Pack.** Mrs Hayman suggested a welcome pack for new residents in The Paddocks. This received a lukewarm reception as Councillors suggested much of the information as available on the internet. Clerk said he would draft a leaflet and have it costed. Additionally the suggestion was made that if such a publication was made then it should be for all newcomers to the village.
- 30: **Tree – The Leys.** Mr Sharples said he had been made aware of a tree in The Leys which was in a dangerous state and whilst it was not adjacent to a footpath a number of people did walk past it if they did a circular path around the edge of the field. Clerk to forward details to Drayton Estate.
- 31: Mention was made that Mr York, West Street, had now marked the hardstanding on the playing field as private property. It was agreed that whilst

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Mr York had a letter informing he could use the access, the Clerk had previously written informing him that whilst he had use of the land it could not be claimed, neither improved without the Council's permission, nor could it be transferred to any future owner of the house. Clerk requested to write to Mr York reaffirming these facts, (see also paragraph 12 above)

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Signed

Dated