

Minutes of a meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th March 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, Mrs S Hayman, Mrs E Reid, Mr D Sharples, Mr I Vaughan and Mr M Vaughan.
- In attendance:** Cllr D Hughes (ENC), Cllr A Langley (NCC), Sergeant A Rae, PCSO G Cross, Mr P T Bird (Clerk)
- Apologies for absence:** Mr Clifton, Mrs Colson, Mr Hawes, Mr Holben and Mr Woods
- Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting having been circulated, were proposed by Mr I Vaughan, seconded by Mr Sharples, 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 had nothing further to add.
- Police Report:**
- 2: PCSO Cross drew attention to the crime figures for February. These included burglary, attempted burglary and theft from a motor vehicle.
 - 3: On 30th March he would be holding a surgery at the School between 5.00pm and 7.00pm. This had been widely advertised.
 - 4: Speed surveys had taken place in Mill Road and three cars out of ninety were caught exceeding 35mph. An electronic surveillance device would be installed at some future date. This would anonymously record the speed of all vehicles giving a truer picture.
 - 5: The Clerk had been informed that quad-bikes and motorcyclists were once again using the Shrubbery as a “playground”. Whilst the motorcycles appeared to be ridden by village youths the quad bikes were ridden by middle aged persons who were believed to access the area via the bridleway network possibly from Ringstead.
- Comments from Electors:**
- 6: No members of the electorate were present.
 - 7: Cllr Hughes drew attention to the forthcoming opening of the Stanwick Lakes visitor centre. Mention was also made of a number of grants that were available to voluntary organisations, and that there would be a “funding Day” at East Northamptonshire House in June.
- Cllr Langley’s Comments:**
- 8: **Highway Maintenance.** Cllr Langley updated the Council on progress over the items raised on the village walk. The repainting of all road markings was to take place through the village; a number of problem kerbside drains had been unblocked. There was a proposal to resurface all of Highfield and West Street later in the year. A new dropped kerb in Rose Terrace was also proposed but the location was yet to be decided.
 - 9: **Thrapston Road.** The state of the footpath in Thrapston Road was debated at length but no conclusions made. Mr Colson was adamant that the damage had been caused by vehicles using the footpath when part of the road was being excavated. Cllr Langley said that records showed that there were complaints on record about the state of the footpath predating this action. It was agreed that the action of the pavement being used as highway may have contributed to the poor state of the area near the kerb, but not the part of the pavement adjacent to property walls. Cllr Langley said he was more than happy to push for the reinstatement of the pavement however, in doing so, this would result in a higher kerb which would be impassable to residents. Consequently dropped kerbs would then need to be officially installed (at resident’s expense) giving residents the legal right to cross the footpath. Questions as to whether a special rate could be negotiated were raised due to the fact that

repair work was required, and that the drops were all close together, in fact some drops in the kerb would need to be merged due to the close proximity of driveways. If additional pressure, or blame was to be applied to William Davis Ltd, additional evidence showing the state of the path before traffic was made to use it would be required.

Matters arising from the minutes:

- 10: **Public Footpaths.** The Clerk had previously taken up the issue of the bridleways around the Shrubbery / Warren area and also the state of the footpath through the Shrubbery, and a response was still awaited.
- 11: **New Mill Road Lamp.** Following a suggestion for an additional street lamp in Mill Road, an article requesting suggestions for additional street lamp locations had been included in the recent Saints Alive. No response had been received to date
- 12: **ENC Monitoring Officer.** The Clerk letter to Mrs B Ding at East Northants Council wishing her a happy retirement was read out.

Planning Issues:

- 13: Planning Committee Comments
- a) The Planning Committee had not commented on any plans since the last meeting.
- 14: East Northamptonshire Council Decisions
- a) **Playing Fields Highfield.** EN/08/01524/FUL Construction of Multi Use Games Area. **Permitted**
- b) **Club Lane / Church Street** EN/08/02290/REM Construction of House. **Permitted**
- 15: New Planning Applications
- a) **Swiss Cottage, High Street** EN/09/00186/FUL Single storey rear extension. **No Objection**
- 16: Other Planning Matters
- a) **Land at 3A De Capel Close.** An appeal by the applicant had been allowed by the inspectors, although a number of conditions applied including reducing much of the site to Club Lane level.

New Correspondence:

- 17: **Closure Club Lane.** In order to connect sewerage services to the rear of Daventry Farm to the mains a Road Closure order would be in place between 6th and 13th April. The diversion route to Church St would be via Church Green.
- 18: The Chairman asked that the following items of correspondence be circulated:
- a) East Northants Council Minutes and reports
- b) County Council Minutes

Finance:

Balance brought forward		£10249.11
Plus		
Thurston's Fair		60.00
Less		£10309.11
535 P T Bird Clerk Salary (£230+expenses for year)	£310.27	
536 D Bosworth Litterpicking	£72.78	
537 Woodford Baptist Church (Use of room)	£72.00	
538 East Northants Council (verge cutting)	£666.78	
539 E.on Lighting Power October – February	£1149.28	
540 E.on Lighting Maintenance	£292.74	£2563.85
Balance Carried forward		£7745.26
Account Balances		
Current Account		£7649.35
High Interest Account		£35.91
Total		£7745.26

- 19: Mrs Hayman proposed, Mrs Reid seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the above accounts be settled.
- Response to Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan:**
- 20: **Development Zone.** East Northamptonshire Council had written seeking further clarity of the Council's view regarding the outline of the Development Zone. This was discussed and agreed in principle however; attention was drawn to anomalies where sites recently awarded planning permission had been excluded and the irregular boundary between Church Street and The Leys. Councillors agreed to sympathetic infill but once again spoke against further large scale development citing that in the past three years approximately sixty dwellings had been completed (or were nearing completion) and that this had changed the whole character of the village.
- Pollarding of Trees in High Street:**
- 21: **Trees in High Street.** The Clerk drew attention to the Council's plans to pollard the trees in the High Street. One quote had been received for £780. Councillors were in agreement that the work should go ahead so long as further quotations were obtained, and that Drayton was still in agreement that he Council carried out the work. It was also suggested that the Clerk contact Drayton to ensure they were not planning the work and also to ask whether they might like to contribute to the cost.
- Damage to Verges in Highfield:**
- 22: **Verges in Highfield.** A letter had been received from Mr Edwards of Highfield complaining about the state of the verges and the damage caused by a delivery lorry and also the refuse wagon. Clerk requested to send copies of the letter to East Northants Council, and the delivery firm.
- Misuse of Shrubbery by motorcycles etc. Use of Village Green by St Mary's Church for Fete – 11th July:**
- 23: See para 3
- 24: The Clerk had been approached by a representative of St Mary's Church requesting the use of the green on 11th July. A variety of ideas were presently being considered including the extension of the fete into the evening. Parish Councillors agreed but requested that the Clerk point out that the War Memorial should be respected and that all liabilities etc rested with the organising committee. Councillors also suggested that depending on the type of events being planned Back Green may be considered more suitable, and this could also be used.
- Any other Business:**
- 25: A complaint had been received regarding the amount of litter on the playing field adjacent to West Street. The Clerk reported that a litter bin had been requested and East Northants Council were presently investigating.
- 26: Mrs Hayman mentioned the number of sheds in the Warren field. Clerk to take up with Drayton Estate.
- 27: ~Trees Rose Terrace. The Clerk reported that he had been approached by the owner of 1A Rose Terrace who was concerned about root damage to his home by the three trees on the junction with the Leys. On checking previous minutes it was noted that this site had been suggested to the Women's Institute in 1973 as a potential location for the planting of a tree which they had purchased. The minutes were not conclusive as to where the tree was finally planted. Additionally it was not know who owned the land and the Clerk was asked to request ENC to check their records as part of this land may have belonged to them at the time The Shrubberies were built.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.15pm.

Signed

Dated