

Minutes of a meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 15th March 2010 in the vestry of the Baptist Church, Rose Terrace, commencing at 7.30pm

- Present:** Mr P Bird (chair), Mr P Colson, Mr M Hackney, Mr J Hawes, Mr M Hurst, Mrs S Robinson, Mr I Vaughan, Mr M Vaughan and Mr N Walbridge.
- In attendance:** Cllr A Langley (NCC), Mrs J Thorpe, Mr P T Bird (Clerk)
- Apologies for absence:** Mr P Colson, Mrs S Hayman, Mr D Woods, Cllr D Hughes (ENC), Police.
- Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting having been circulated, were proposed by Mrs Robinson, seconded by Mr Hawes, 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 informed that he had recently received a new “CRB Clearance”.
- Police Report:** 2: A Police Officer was not present, however the Clerk provided the following crime figures for February; 2 Burglary (dwelling), 3 Burglary (other), 3 acts of criminal damage, 1 incident of handling stolen goods. This took the total number of reported crimes for the financial year to 62.
- Comments from Electors:** 3: Mrs Thorpe expressed concern that a bench on the village green, whilst potentially stopping people sitting on the War Memorial, it would attract more people to the area, especially in the evenings when anti social behaviour was a considerable problem last summer. Mrs Thorpe asked that the Council reconsider the decision for the siting of this seat.
- Cllr Langley’s Comments:** 4: Cllr Langley said the budget for the County had now been set, and there would be no rise in Council Tax.
5: **Highfield / West Street.** The Councillor agreed to look at what priority had been given to the resurfacing of Highfield and West Street.
6: **Bus Routes.** All bus routes were being reviewed as to the level of subsidy that was awarded to them. Subsidies were set many years ago and had not been reviewed to take into account latest passenger numbers. There would be some routes that lost out but equally other routes would gain.
7: **Treatment Centre, Irthlingborough.** Mr Hurst raised the issue of public transport to the new NHS Treatment Service at Irthlingborough. Cllr Langley said this was an issue for the Primary Care Trust, but he would investigate.
- Cllr Hughes Comments:** 8: Cllr Hughes was not present, but had emailed brief details of the new recycling and refuse collection service. The service would alternate between a fortnightly rubbish collection and recycling collection. Food waste would be collected weekly.
- Matters arising from the minutes:** 9: **Location of seats.** Mrs Thorpe (para 3) had written to the Council regarding the location of a seat on the green and after the email had been read out a discussion took place regarding their location of the seats and it was affirmed that the seats in Rectory Lane, The Recreation field and Mill Road should go ahead, however it was agreed to defer the installation of the seat on the village green. Mr Hackney mentioned a seat once located just outside Woodford in Addington Road – Clerk to investigate suitability of verge.
10: **Telephone Kiosk.** Confirmation was now to hand that the seat belonged to the Parish Council. Once the equipment was removed the Council would receive confirmation that maintenance responsibility had been transferred.
11: **Open Land at “The Paddocks”.** – **Appointment of Solicitor.** William Davis’ solicitors had written with details of the transferred and the Council

the Clerk informed those present that a solicitor needed to be appointed to act on behalf of the Council. Mr Hawes proposed, Mr Vaughan seconded that Vincent Higham and Sykes should be used. All in agreement.

Planning Issues:

- 12: Planning Committee Comments
 a) The Planning Committee had not commented on any plans since the last meeting.
- 13: East Northamptonshire Council Decisions
 a) No decisions had been made by East Northants Council
- 14: New Planning Applications
 a) **91 Mill Road** (Rear) Construction of garage with first floor snooker room (resubmission) EN/11/00313/FUL. **No Objection.**
 b) **78 Highfield** Single Storey Rear Extension 11/00315/FUL **No Objection**
- 15: Other Planning Matters
 a) The Clerk reported that he had been made aware of a large solar farm to be constructed at Colpman's Farm between Lowick and Islip. Much of the construction (covering several acres) was not visible from the Highway (none visible from Woodford). The agricultural land would still be used for grazing. Councillors had no strong views regarding the application, however suggested that it was preferable to a wind-farm and could see no reason to object if screening to the north and east of the site in the form of a bund or planting of trees was one of the conditions.

New Correspondence:

- 16: **HM Revenues and Customs.** A notification from the HMRC informed the council that employees could no longer complete an annual tax return and pay tax at the end of the year. All councils would now be required to operate a PAYE system. The Clerk was presently investigating what this entailed and would report back at the next meeting. The PAYE system would operate on all payments made in the new tax year.
- 17: **Urban Highway grass mowing.** NCC had confirmed that if the Parish Council took responsibility for the urban verges then £442.65 would be reimbursed. All present agreed that the Council should take on this responsibility and the Clerk was authorised to sign the agreement.
- 18: **Road Closure Order.** Ringstead Road Great Addington / Addington Road Ringstead. In order to facilitate the reconstruction of part of the footpath between Great Addington and Ringstead a road closure order notice was in place for 21st March – 1st April. The diversion route was via Woodford
- 19: **Road Closure Order.** Generals Corner to A14 junction, A510. A road closure order enabling work to be carried out between the A510 junction and the A14 would be in place for the weekend commencing 24th June 2011. The diversion route would be via Finedon and Burton Latimer.
- 20: **North Northants Planning Document.** This had been circulated but councillors had no firm views at this stage on any of the points raised in the document.

Finance:

Account balances brought forward		
Current Account		£437.22
High Interest Account		£5,045.14
Total		£5,482.36
Less		
660 Mrs D Bosworth – Litter Picking	£93.87	
661 Mr P Bird Clerk Salary plus admin exp (£61.62)	£311.62	
662 E.on Lighting Power	£242.20	
663 Woodford Baptist Church (Hire of meeting room)	£72.00	£719.69
Balance Carried forward		£4,762.67

- 21: Mr Hawes proposed, Mrs Robinson seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the above accounts be settled.
- Effectiveness of Internal Audit:** 22: The Clerk had drawn up a document detailing the tasks to be addressed by the internal auditor. Councillors agreed that the document was sufficient for the Council's needs.
- Appointment of Internal Auditor** 23: Following a proposal by Mr I Vaughan, seconded by Mrs Robinson, Councillors agreed that Mrs Su Davies be approached again to carry out the role of internal auditor.
- Risk Assessment Review:** 24: The Clerk produced a document identifying the risks faced by the Parish Council each year, and the contents were briefly discussed. The Clerk confirmed that any items requiring attention would as a matter of course be addressed at the following Council meeting. Unanimously agreed that document be adopted.
- Any other Business:** 25: **Wall outside of Prince of Wales.** Mr M Vaughan said he had been approached by Mr Boast about the close proximity the wall had been built to one of his windows. It was agreed that this was not a Parish Council matter, however, Mr Hackney suggested that as the Council had written previously about the wall adjacent to Newtown a follow up letter could be written to ENC regarding permitted development on a business premises.
- 26: Mr Walbridge advised councillors that a number of strangers had been seen wandering around Highfield and on one occasion had been seen in a residents back garden.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed

Dated