

**Minutes of a meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2008 in the vestry of the Baptist Church, Rose Terrace, commencing at 7.35pm**

- Present:** Mr P Bird (chair), Mr S Clifton, Mrs M Colson, Mrs S Hayman, Mrs E Reid, Mr D Sharples, Mr I Vaughan, Mr M Vaughan and Mr D Woods.
- In attendance:** Mr P T Bird (Clerk). WPCSO Dickerson and PCSO Bryan.
- Apologies for absence:** Mr N Holben, Ms L Blanchard, Mr B Mearns, Mr P Colson. Cllr D Hughes (ENC).
- Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the April Parish Council meeting having been circulated, were proposed by Mrs E Reid, seconded by Mrs M Colson, and agreed as a true record by those present. It was unanimously agreed that the Chairman sign them as such.
- Police Report:**
- 1: **Crime Figures.** The PCSOs discussed crime figures for year ending March 2008 and also three incidents during April including a distraction burglary. Figures for Woodford were higher for the previous year as were the total for the North Northants Sector. However, if Rushden was excluded overall figures for North Northants were considerably lower
  - 2: **Untaxed vehicle Newtown.** Mr Sharples asked about a car which appeared to have been abandoned in Newtown. The PCSO responded that the car was being attended to and the statutory procedure adhered to.
- Comments from Electors:**
- 3: No members of the electorate were present.
- Cllr Langley's Comments:**
- 4: Cllr Langley discussed the state of the rural verges (outside of settlements) and also queried the verge cutting procedures adopted by the Parish Council for the verges within Woodford.
  - 5: Cllr Langley drew attention to money he had available to spend in Woodford and asked Councillors to consider relevant projects. He said he had been approached by the Ladybirds Pre-School for assistance with a capital project.
- Cllr Hughes Comments:**
- 6: Cllr Hughes was not present. The Chairman suggested that Cllr Hughes be congratulated on his election as Chairman of East Northamptonshire Council for the forthcoming year and it was agreed by those present that the Clerk pass on a message of congratulations.
- Matters arising from the minutes:**
- 7: **Eady's Row.** The clerk's letter to Ms Cullum in response to the problems in Eady's Row was read out.
  - 8: **Trees in High Street.** The Clerk's letter to Mr Coles explaining why Drayton Estate would not be pruning the trees in the High Street was read out.
  - 9: **Barrier to footpath top of Eady's Row.** The Clerk's letter to Northamptonshire County Council (Rights of Way Team) regarding some form of barrier at the top of Eady's Row was read out. No response to date.
  - 10: **Dog Control Orders.** The Clerk's letter to East Northants Council confirming the Council's agreement with the District wide policy (i.e. no enhancements) was read out.
  - 11: **Tables outside White Horse P.H.** The Clerk said he had once again contacted the County Council Highways Department for clarification regarding the tables outside of the White Horse but was still awaiting a response.
  - 12: **East Northants Rural North Independent Public Examination.** Details of the forthcoming Public Examination were to hand. First meeting is timetabled for 26<sup>th</sup> June at East Northamptonshire House.

- Election of Chair:** 13: Mr Bird thanked councillors for their support, interest and attendance at the previous year's meetings before standing down as Chairman. The Clerk sought nominations for the position of chairman. Mr Sharples nominated Mr Peter Bird and this was seconded by Mr I Vaughan and Mrs S Hayman. There being no further nominations and Mr Bird being willing, councillors unanimously agreed Mr Bird should retake the chair for the forthcoming year.
- Election of Vice Chair** 14: The Chairman sought nominations for the position of Vice chairman of the Council. Mrs Colson proposed Mr I Vaughan, seconded by Mr Sharples and unanimously agreed by those present. Mr Vaughan being willing agreed to be Vice Chair for the forthcoming year.
- Planning Issues:**
- 15: Planning Committee Comments
- a) The Planning Committee had not commented on any plans since the last meeting.
- 16: East Northamptonshire Council Decisions
- a) **Rear 25 Mill Road** Outline for residential development. **EN/08/00466/OUT Permitted** with conditions pertaining to size of property and landscaping.
- b) **Rear 76 High Street** Change of use of land from agricultural to domestic. **EN/08/00476/FUL Permitted.** Several conditions applied including details of planting, hedging / fencing / screening etc.
- 17: New Planning Applications
- a) No further applications were to hand.
- 18: Other Planning Matters
- a) **Telephone box.** ENC were consulting following suggestions by BT that the Telephone Box be removed from the village green due to lack of use. Councillors were disappointed that the landmark was to be removed, and the Clerk was asked to respond that a village the size of Woodford should have at least one payphone. Clerk to respond accordingly. Clerk was also asked to investigate whether the box could be retained even if the telephone facility was removed.
- New Correspondence:**
- 19: **Use of Village Green by School for "Mayday".** The school had requested use of the village green for Mayday celebrations on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Councillors had no objections but requested the school took steps to ensure that the War Memorial was respected by those attending.
- 20: **Rural Community Programme.** Cultural Community Partnerships were running a programme of sports and activities in rural areas. Accommodation was required however, for wet weather days. Information to be passed to Playing Field Association.
- 21: **Vegetation Control.** NCC had written informing that Weedwise Ltd would continue to deal with highways vegetation control.
- 22: **Lamp Top West Street.** Clerk reported that this lamp had been hit by a vehicle. Do to the angle at which it was leaning he had referred the lamp to ABB for emergency attention. ABB had been able to "re-plumb" the lamp.
- 23: The Chairman asked that the following items of correspondence be circulated:
- a) NCC Rights of Way improvement plan 2007-11
- b) NCC Minutes
- c) Clerks and Councils Direct (magazine)
- d) ENC Committee reports

<b>Finance:</b>	<b>Balance brought forward</b>	<b>£31,522.88</b>
	<b>Plus</b>	
	East Northants – Precept (50%)	£5,500.00

NCC contribution to verge maintenance 2007/8		£457.69
<b>Less</b>		<b>£37,480.57</b>
1485 P T Bird Clerk salary	£220.00	
1486 D Bosworth litterpicking (16 ¾ hr@£5.52+£1.75	£94.21	
1487 E Northants Council (Verge cutting Aug – Mar)	£716.33	
1488 ABB Replacement lamp Highfield (£784.90)	£923.28	
Re plumb lamp West St (£138.38)		
1489 Zurich Municipal Insurance	£582.72	
1490 D Cullum Grass cutting (21hr @£6.00+£22.01 fuel)	£148.01	£2,684.55
<b>Balance Carried forward</b>		<b>34,796.02</b>
Represented by		
Current Account		£3,285.82
High interest Account		£31510.20
<b>Total</b>		<b>£34,796.02</b>

- 24: Mr M Vaughan proposed, Mr Clifton seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the above accounts be settled.
- 25: Clerk reported that the Zurich Municipal Insurance invoice had included a premium for the Temperance Hall, which he had deducted from the amount due and informed the company accordingly.

### Pay Review

- 26: **Litter Picker.** Councillors agreed that as the Litter Picker's Wage had been previously agreed in October 2007 then a further review should not take place until October 2008 when the National Minimum Wage would be increased from £5.52 to £5.73. Mr M Vaughan proposed that an increased wage of £5.75 be paid from 1<sup>st</sup> October. Seconded by Mr Sharples and agreed by those present.
- 27: **Groundsman.** Councillors agreed on the proposal of Mr M Vaughan, seconded by Mr Sharples that the Groundsman's salary should increase to £6.50 per hour from 1 June 2008.
- 28: **Clerk.** Councillors expressed appreciation of the Clerk's work and Mr Clifton proposed the monthly salary should rise to £230. Mrs Reid seconded the proposal and it was unanimously agreed by those present.
- Note: Clerk Mr P T Bird withdrew from the meeting for this item. Chairman, Mr P J Bird declared a non-prejudicial interest but remained in the meeting but took no part in the decision making.

### Comments from Annual Parish Meeting Tenders / Contract Award for playground improvements

- 29: **Children Playing Football on Village Green.** Clerk reminded Councillors that a sign had been ordered and would be chased up.
- 30: The Clerk presented two sets of figures for the upgrades to the safety flooring and also the cost of the new Multi use Games Area (MUGA). The specification for the safety flooring from both companies was the same and the two costs quoted were £9,995 and £7,639. The MUGAs offered were of slightly different sizes 24x11 metres or 20x12 metres and the costs were £37,998 and £34,452. Councillors agreed that given the budget available to the Council was a maximum of £45,000 then the lower cost option for both projects would need to be taken. Whilst further funding may be sought (but was not guaranteed) it was likely that construction costs would escalate due to raw material cost increases. Consequently the clerk revealed that the Contract would be awarded to Play and Leisure.
- 31: The Chairman suggested that a meeting be set up at the earliest opportunity with the Playing Field Committee and the supplier in order to agree a firm location for the MUGA. Clerk to liaise with a representative from Play and Leisure and Mr Colson.

- Any other Business:**
- 32: **Daventry Farm.** Clerk reported that site clearance in the farmyard at Daventry Farm had commenced.
  - 33: **Traffic Wardens Thrapston.** Mr Sharples reported that traffic wardens had been seen in Thrapston and asked what chance there was of seeing one in Woodford. Clerk to follow up
  - 34: **Damage Highfield.** It was noted that there were a number of potholes in the entrance to Highfield. Clerk to report to Street Doctor but point out that rather than just wear and tear some of the holes may have been attributable to the work carried out laying new drains in Mill Road.
  - 35: **Plumber's workshop Thrapston Road.** The question of the plumbers store / agricultural store in Thrapston Road was raised. Clerk reported that whilst the planning application had been refused ENC had to allow time for appeal.
  - 36: **Farmers Market.** Mrs Reid suggested that Woodford may be an ideal location for a farmers market. Councillors suggested that a Market Charter would probably be required. Mrs Reid to pursue.
  - 37: **Hog Roast on Green.** Mrs Reid asked whether she and her husband would be permitted to hold a hog roast on the village green at sometime during the summer. Councillors had no objections but suggested that relevant insurance etc must be in place. Mrs Reid to pursue.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signed P J Bird

Dated 17<sup>th</sup> June 2008