

NB. The **April** Meeting of the Parish Council was cancelled as a quorum (five Parish Councillors), was not reached. For the record Messrs Bird, Sharples, I Vaughan and M Vaughan attended together with Cllr A Langley (NCC).

Minutes of a meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th May 2009 in the vestry of the Baptist Church, Rose Terrace, commencing at 7.30pm

- Present:** Mr P Bird (chair), Mr J Hawes, Mrs S Hayman, Mrs E Reid, Mr D Sharples, Mr I Vaughan, Mr M Vaughan and Mr D Woods.
- In attendance:** Cllr A Langley (NCC), Mr P T Bird (Clerk), PCSO G Cross.
- Apologies for absence:** Miss L Blanchard, Mr S Clifton, Mr P Colson, Mrs M Colson, Mr Holben, Cllr Hughes (ENC).
- Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the March Parish Council meeting having been circulated, were agreed as a true record by those present. It was unanimously agreed that the Chairman sign them as such.
- Youth Forum Update:** 1: There were no comments regarding the Youth Forum.
- Police Report:**
- 2: **Crime.** PCSO Cross elaborate upon the seven reported crimes reported for Woodford in the month of April. He felt that the corner had now been turned and that as a result of certain actions by the Police and Housing Association an improvement would now be seen.
 - 3: **Police Surgery.** The surgery held in the school had received eight members of the public in two hours, which was considered good when compared to other similar events held in neighbouring towns and villages. It was hoped that a further event would be held in the future.
 - 4: **Speed Survey Mill Road.** A speed indication device which recorded all traffic entering and leaving Woodford along Mill Road for the period 6th -15th May revealed that 13,333 vehicles had passed with 34% exceeding the speed limit. 15% of vehicles were exceeding 39mph which was considered to be a worrying factor. One car was caught travelling at 74mph, and a motorcycle had reached 68mph within the 30mph limit. Consequently further actions in this area of the village would be taken. Parish Councillors asked the PCSO to try to arrange for other roads to be surveyed too.
 - 5: **Paint Ball Guns.** Mr Sharples mentioned that someone had been discharging paint ball guns on to the buildings in Rose Terrace adjacent to The Leys.
 - 6: **Police contact number.** A new countywide non emergency contact number was now available for public use replacing the old 0845 number. The new number is 03 000 111 222. Emergency calls only should be made to 999.
- Comments from Electors:**
- 7: No members of the electorate were present.
 - 8: Cllr Langley had nothing further to add to his earlier report other than to reaffirm that if re-elected he would continue pushing for highways improvements in Woodford. Additionally he would in the interim arrange for a meeting between MGWSP (Highways Contractors) and the Parish Council to discuss road markings in the village.
- Cllr Hughes Comments:**
- 9: Cllr Hughes was not present

Matters arising from the minutes:

- 10: **Trees High Street.** The Clerk had received two further quotations for the pollarding of trees in the High Street of £280 and £300. Drayton Estate had also given permission to the Council for this occasion only to carry out the work so long as appropriate insurance and risk assessment could be provided by the contractor. Councillors also understood that Drayton were surveying all trees on the estate and had started work on some of them. As a result Councillors reversed their decision (March Minutes para 21) and not carry out the work. Clerk to inform Drayton Estate.
- 11: **Paddocks in the Warren.** Drayton Estate had responded that all three paddocks in the warren were let to two different graziers. The estate had permitted field shelters to be erected so long as they were removed at the end of the grazing licence.
- 12: **Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan.** Further to the Council's representations regarding settlement boundaries, ENC had agreed to amend the boundary to include land adjacent to 11 The Leys, which had been "incorrectly" omitted. ENC did not take on board any the other change suggested by the Council, i.e. east end of Church Street,
- 13: **Bridleway Network.** The Rights of Way Officer had inspected the Shrubbery and commented that whilst there were wet areas in general the surface was in reasonable condition. He suggested the areas be monitored for twelve months. He also commented that road planings were difficult to obtain as they tended to be recycled. With regard to amendments to the Bridleway around the Shrubbery / Warren it was suggested that the Council contact the Definitive Map Officer. Clerk to arrange.
- 14: **Trees Rose Terrace / Whittlesea Terrace.** Following the March meeting the Clerk had enquired of ENC the owner of land at the junction of The Leys / Whittlesea Terrace. ENC had responded that they would try and identify the owner this land. No response to date. Clerk to follow up. The Clerk had also informed the local resident, Mr Huckstep, who had raised the issue of the action being taken.

Election of Chair:

- 15: Mr Bird thanked councillors for their support, interest and attendance at the previous year's meetings before standing down as Chairman. Nominations were sought for the position of chairman. Mr I Vaughan nominated Mr Peter Bird and this was seconded by Mr J Hawes 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

- 16: The Chairman sought nominations for the position of Vice chairman of the Council. Mr M Vaughan proposed Mr I Vaughan, seconded by Mrs Reid and unanimously agreed by those present. Mr I Vaughan being willing agreed to be Vice Chair for the forthcoming year.

Planning Issues:

- 17: Planning Committee Comments
- a) **Land between Stonecroft and 2 Rectory Lane.** Outline for one dwelling EN/09/00587/OUT. This small plot of land has been submitted for outline planning permission. Access to the road already exists. **No Objections raised**
- 18: East Northamptonshire Council Decisions
- a) **Glebe Farm, Addington Rd.** Construction of Stockman's dwelling. EN/08/01795/FUL **Permitted**
- b) **Allotment 12 Thrapston Road.** Change of use Agricultural Store. EN/08/01232. **Permitted.** Given that ENC had previously refused this application on grounds of access and certain policy grounds; whilst the former had been addressed, the latter had not. Councillors requested that

the Clerk write to ENC requesting reasons behind the change of decision. One of the conditions of the application was that the Woodford Parish Sign must be moved. Councillors agreed that the sign be moved in a northerly direction to the end of the allotment holdings.

- c) **Swiss Cottage High Street.** Construction of Porch Sunroom to rear. EN09/00186/FUL **Permitted.**
- d) **Land rear and side Sub station Sunnyside / High Street.** Construction of single storey commercial premises. EN08/01914/FUL **Permitted.**
- e) **Woodford Grange Barns.** Change of use from Dairy to Offices. EN/08/02094/FUL. **Permitted**

19: New Planning Applications

- a) There were no new applications

20: Other Planning Matters

- a) **Manor House Farm 10 Addington Road** EN06/00965FUL Conversion of barns into three dwellings **Withdrawn.**
- b) **Vehicular Access.** The Clerk had been approached by residents over the “unlawful” construction of a hard vehicle standing at 21 High Street. Enquiries revealed that there were no planning requirements to be met if a resident wished to hard pave their front garden and visibility splays only applied to newly built dwellings. Crossing the pavement with a vehicle did however; require the consent of the Highways Authority and also a dropped kerb. Councillors suggested that the Clerk write to the resident suggesting that they obtain such consent if it had not already obtained.

New Correspondence:

- 21: **Glebe Farm.** A permissive footpath from the double bend in Addington Road down to the farm buildings (in an easterly direction) had been opened by the landowner.
- 22: **East Northants Standards Board.** A new member was sought for the local standards board – no volunteers came forward.
- 23: **Dog Control Orders.** The new dog control orders had now become law, requiring all dog fouling to be retrieved by dog owners anywhere in East Northamptonshire with the exception of on agricultural land. Specific orders also applied to certain areas of the district including dog prohibition and dogs on a lead, although these did not apply to anywhere in the Parish of Woodford. Mr Hawes raised the possibility of a dog bin at the end of Newtown near the allotments, and it was also suggested that this was perhaps agricultural land. Clerk to take up with the Dog Warden.
- 24: **Community Funding Day..** A Community Funding Day was to be held on 10th July at East Northamptonshire House between 10.00am and 3.00pm. The event would cover funding for local voluntary and charitable groups.
- 25: **Bank Holiday Bus Service.** A letter regarding the lack of a bus service to Kettering on Good Friday had been received. The reason according to the timetable was that a Sunday Service applied for all bank holidays; consequently the Service 16 did not run. The Clerk was asked to query with NCC whether this was a countywide strategy or just applied to rural areas.
- 26: **Closure of Accounts 2008/09.** The Return for the District Auditor was now to hand and needed to be submitted by the end of June.
- 27: **25 Mill Road.** ENC had written informing that this property was presently being repossessed and once the relevant court orders were received the property would be tidied.
- 28: **Dog Faeces Newtown Allotments.** A letter from Mrs Bamford complaining about the amount of dog mess near the Newtown Allotments (also see para 22) was to hand. Councillors requested the matter be referred to the Dog Warden for further investigation and advice. Additionally the correspondent

complained about the number of motorcycles / quad bikes using the Shrubbery. Clerk to inform Mrs Bamford of the action taken relating to the dog faeces and that the problems in the Shrubbery are frequently drawn to the attention of the Police.

- 29: The Chairman asked that the following items of correspondence be circulated:
- a) East Northants Council Reports
 - b) Corrected bus times from 19th April
 - c) EMDA news
 - d) Clerks and Councils Direct
 - e) Village Viewpoint

Finance:

Balance brought forward		£7,745.26
Plus Interest December / March		£6.36
End of year balance		£7,751.62
Community Account		£7,709.35
High Interest Account		£42.27
Opening Balance April 2009		£7,751.62
Plus VAT refund		337.45
Plus Precept		£6,250.00
		£14,339.07
Less		
541 Wicksteed Leisure	£1100.15	
542 East Northants Council Verge Cutting (March)	£189.41	
543 Mrs D Bosworth Litter Picking	£92.91	
544 Mr P T Bird Clerk	£230.00	
545 E.on Lighting Power	£228.86	
546 Mr D Cullum Grass Cutting	£113.52	
547 Mrs D Bosworth Litter Picking	£76.64	
548 Mr P T Bird Clerk	£230.00	
549 E.on Lighting Power	£229.23	
550 HM Customs and Excise *	£518.59	
551 Mr D Cullum Grass cutting (May)	£78.00	
552 Mr D Cullum (Use of Mower 2008/9)	£400.00	£3,487.31
Balance Carried forward		£10,851.76

30: Clerk explained that the second quarter VAT claim whilst comprising the correct individual transaction totals the overall total of VAT claimed was for the year to date (i.e. April - September) rather than for months July – September). He requested the Council agree to reimburse the HMCE thus allowing the previous years accounts to be finalised. Unanimously agreed.

31: Mrs Hayman proposed, Mr Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the above accounts be settled.

Pay Review

32: **Litter Picker.** Councillors agreed that as the Litter Picker's Wage had been previously agreed in October 2008 then a further review should not take place until October 2009 when the National Minimum Wage would be increased to £5.80. Mr Hawes proposed that an increased wage of **£5.80** be paid from **1st October**. Seconded by Mr I Vaughan and agreed by those present.

33: **Groundsman.** Councillors agreed on the proposal of Mrs Reid, seconded by Mr Hawes that the Groundsman's salary should increase to **£6.60** per hour from 1 June 2009.

34: **Clerk.** Councillors expressed appreciation of the Clerk's work and Mr Hawes proposed the monthly salary should rise to £240. Mr I Vaughan seconded the

proposal and it was unanimously agreed by those present.

- 35: Mr M Vaughan drew attention to para 23 of the July 2008 minutes (page 47) and a discussion ensued as to whether the Clerk should receive a bonus for the additional work involved in securing the £20,000 grant from WREN and managing the construction of the Multi Use Games Area, applying for planning permission, in addition to the normal workload. Consequently Mr M Vaughan proposed and Mrs Hayman seconded that an additional months salary of £230 be paid in June 2009.

Note: Clerk Mr P T Bird withdrew from the meeting for the previous two items. Chairman, Mr P J Bird declared a non-prejudicial interest but remained in the meeting but took no part in the decision making.

Future Development of Woodford

- 36: **North Northants Join Planning Unit.** The North Northants Joint Planning Unit had published on the web and in the Evening Telegraph further Aspirational sites throughout the area for the next round of housing developments. (This is the next round of land allocation for the period up to 2031 and follows on from the provisions of the current Plan known as Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan currently being dealt with by the Inspector para 12 above). If the sites detailed for Woodford were to all be adopted it would be seen as a catastrophic development for the village with housing increasing by up to six fold. Clerk requested to write to the JPU to request details of the consultation process.

Appointment of Auditor

- 37: Councillors unanimously to appoint Mrs Su Davies as Internal Auditor should she be willing to carry out the task

Ratification of Accounts

- 38: Clerk informed the meeting that the accounts would be completed and ready for ratification at the June meeting in time for submission by the end of the month.

Comments from Annual Parish Meeting

- 39: Councillors discussed the crime rate outlined at the earlier Parish meeting which suggested that crime per head of p[population in Woodford was probably worse than any other village town in the East Northants District. Councillors agreed that whilst steps were being taken by the Police the statistics (although historical) were worrying. It was agreed that the Parish Council's concerns be placed on record and the Clerk was asked to write to the local Chief Inspector detailing these concerns.

Any other Business:

- 40: **Signs at corner Mill Road.** Mr I Vaughan mentioned the "No Waiting" signs at the junction of Mill Road and Thrapston Road. He felt that one of these signs was not in the correct location following the work carried out by William Davis Ltd some time ago thus obscuring the direction finger post when viewed from certain angles. Additionally one of the "No Waiting" signs faced the opposite direction to the other. Clerk to report to Street Doctor.
- 41: **Allotments.** The Clerk had made enquiries of Drayton Estate regarding the availability of allotments, and whether it would be permissible to let half size allotments as it was apparent that from the state of some of the plots it was obviously beyond the ability of some tenants to manage the whole plot. Additionally this would then satisfy the demand for additional plots. (Four requests since Christmas.) Drayton had responded that all twenty four plots were presently tenanted and all enquiries should be referred to Mr M Edwin, 11 Pleasant Row, who acted as allotment steward.
- 42: **Kerbs West Street.** The state of the kerbs at the top of West Street and verges were in a poor state of repair, much of the damage having been caused, it was thought, by the Refuse Wagon. Clerk to report to relevant authorities.

43: **Trees in Highfield.** Trees in the verges around Highfield now had low hanging branches over the foot path – Clerk to report to Street Doctor.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Signed

Dated