

**Minutes of the Annual meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2010 in the vestry of the Baptist Church, Rose Terrace, commencing at 7.30pm**

- Present:** Mr P Bird (chair), Mrs M Colson, Mrs S Hayman, Mr M Hurst, Mrs S Robinson, Mr D Sharples, Mr I Vaughan, Mr M Vaughan, Mr N Walbridge and Mr D Woods.
- In attendance:** Mr P T Bird (Clerk)
- Apologies for absence:** Mr P Colson, Mr J Hawes, Cllr D Hughes (ENC), Cllr A Langley (NCC), PCSO Cross.
- Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the April Parish Council meeting having been circulated, were proposed and agreed as a true record by those present subject to the removal of those who had sent apologies being deleted from the list of those present. It was unanimously agreed that the Chairman sign them as such.
- Youth Forum Update:** 1: Mr M Vaughan reported that he had spoken to Mr Deacon (Baptist Chapel Youth Group) and would be discussing the matter further. Clerk reported that no one else had made contact with him regarding the revised Youth Forum.
- Police Report:**
- 2: A Police Officer was not present.
  - 3: The Clerk reported that there had however, been six crimes reported in the month of April.
  - 4: **Seat at top of Church Green.** The Clerk reported that the seat at the top of Church Green had been removed overnight during the first weekend in May. The loss had been reported to the police and a crime number obtained. Investigations so far had not revealed the seat's whereabouts.
  - 5: **Vandalism at Working Men's Club Premises.** Mr M Vaughan reported there had been further vandalism to the Working Men's Club (see new correspondence below) and the Ladybird's Preschool. Chairman reminded those present that crimes must be reported to the police as this would affect the levels of Community policing. Additionally residents should be encouraged to complete referral forms available from the Clerk, Website or PCSO to report recurring Safety issues in the village such as speeding, noise, anti social behaviour etc. This once again fed into the Community Policing Scheme
- Comments from Electors:**
- 6: No members of the electorate were present.
  - 7: Cllr Langley was not present
  - 8: Cllr Hughes was not present
- Cllr Langley's Comments:**
- Cllr Hughes Comments:**
- Matters arising from the minutes:**
- 9: **Verge Cutting.** This had now commenced for the season
  - 10: **Visit to Wind Farm.** No further information had been received.
  - 11: **The Paddocks Open Area.** William Davis had responded that the Council would be given the freehold of the area and that a sum for maintenance would be commuted to the Council. Clerk to investigate cost of maintenance.
  - 12: **Casual vacancy for Parish Councillor.** Clerk reported that an election had not been requested by the electorate consequently the Clerk was now free to advertise the vacancy.
  - 13: **Ms L Blanchard.** The Clerk's email thanking Ms Blanchard for her service to the Council was read out.
  - 14: **Leylandii Trees, Church Green.** Clerk reported that an exchange in

correspondence with Fisher German had revealed that the removal of the trees was being pursued by the company who act on behalf of the Drayton Estate.

- 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 by the Clerk for the position of chairman. Mrs M Colson nominated Mr Peter Bird and this was seconded by Mr M Vaughan. 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. Mrs M Colson proposed Mr I Vaughan, seconded by Mr Hurst. There being no further nominations and Mr Vaughan being willing councillors unanimously agreed that Mr I Vaughan is Vice Chair for the forthcoming year.
- Planning Issues:** 17: Planning Committee Comments  
 a) The Planning Committee had not commented on any plans since the last meeting.
- 18: East Northamptonshire Council Decisions  
 a) No decisions had been made by East Northants Council
- 19: New Planning Applications  
 a) **2 Church Street** 10/0672/FUL Construction of sun lounge to rear. **No Objection.**  
 b) **2A Mill Road** 10/00660/FUL Construction of conservatory to rear of property. **No Objection.**
- 20: Other Planning Matters  
 a) **1 The Moorings** 10/00318/FUL Two Semi Detached dwellings. **Withdrawn.**  
 b) **Additional Dwellings in Paddock Road.** Clerk informed the meeting that an appeal had been lodged with the Planning Inspectorate by William Davis Ltd. The main point of contention for the appeal was that insufficient land had been set aside for development by East Northants Council in the area covered by the Rural North Plan. Councillors suggested that as the plan had already been approved by an Inspector then the reason for the appeal was questionable. Councillors agreed that additionally that as the site had been dismissed at all levels during the formulation of the Plan there was no reason why this site should be given priority for development ahead of other potential sites either in the Parish or District. Furthermore, if the plan did not allow for sufficient properties then all potential sites across the district should be reappraised and allocated in accordance with policies which direct construction towards existing urban areas. Clerk to respond with these comments.
- New Correspondence:** 21: **Woodford Working Men's Club.** A letter was read out from the Secretary of the Working Men's Club regarding anti social behaviour in the vicinity of the club. Chairman asked that the letter be forwarded to the Police and the WMC be advised that they should also complete a "Safer Communities" questionnaire the data from which is used to designate the Community Policing in the district.
- 22: **Damage to Vehicle in Highfield.** An email from Mrs Leadbitter was read out concerning damage to a vehicle parked in Highfield. The damage had been reported to the Police. Clerk was asked to respond accordingly.
- 23: **Woodford WI.** The Women's Institute had written asking for permission to plant spring flowering bulbs around the village and also asking where they might obtain a grant. Councillors agreed that they had no objections and the WI should prepare a list of possible locations. Councillors were also not

- against giving a small grant towards the cost of the bulbs. Clerk to respond.
- 24: **East Northants Council Liaison meetings.** A letter detailing changes to the Council's liaison meetings with Parish and Town Councils was read out. Woodford had been grouped with other towns and villages in the local Safer Community Team group. Concern expressed over the high ratio of towns to villages in that particular grouping. Date of the next meeting yet to be decided.
- 25: The Chairman asked that the following items of correspondence be circulated:
- Police Newsletter
  - Clerk & Councils Direct.
  - East Northants Council Minutes
  - ENC Standard Board Report

**Finance:****Account balances brought forward**

Current Account		£826.38	
High Interest Account		£4543.85	
<b>Total</b>			<b>£5,370.23</b>
<b>Plus</b>			
VAT Refund		£1,099.44	
Precept		£6,000.00	
			<b>£12,469.67</b>
<b>Less</b>			
613 Mrs D Bosworth 15 hrs litter picking + £3.78 exp	£90.78		
614 Zurich Municipal Insurance	£684.33		
615 P Bird Clerk's Fee	£240.00		
616 E.on Lighting Power	£234.21		
617 Mr D Cullum 12 hrs + £28.64fuel	£107.84	£1,357.16	
<b>Balance Carried forward</b>			<b>£11,112.51</b>

- 26: Mr Vaughan proposed, Mrs Colson seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the above accounts be settled.

**Pay Review**

- 27: **Litter Picker.** Councillors agreed that as the Litter Picker's Wage had been previously agreed in October 2009 then a further review should not take place until October 2010 when the National Minimum Wage would be reviewed
- 28: **Groundsman.** Councillors agreed on the proposal of Mr M Vaughan, seconded by Mr I Vaughan that the Groundsman's salary should remain unchanged this year.
- 29: **Clerk.** Councillors expressed appreciation of the Clerk's work. Chairman informed the meeting that the Clerk believed an increase in pay was inappropriate this year. Mrs Colson proposed and Mr Hurst seconded that the monthly salary should rise to £250. Mr M Vaughan and Mr I Vaughan suggested that the Clerk's salary should remain unchanged in line with those mentioned above. Pay increase carried by a majority.  
*Note: Clerk Mr P T Bird withdrew from the meeting for the previous item. Chairman, Mr P J Bird declared a non-prejudicial interest but remained in the meeting but took no part in the decision making.*

**Appointment of Auditor:**

- 30: Clerk reported that Mrs Su Davies would be willing to audit the Council's accounts again this year. Councillors unanimously agreed the appointment

**Review of Standing Orders:**

- 31: Alterations to the Council's Standing Orders were discussed and minor amendments proposed by Mr Woods to the draft wording were agreed. Mr Sharples proposed and Mrs Colson seconded that the standing orders be amended accordingly. All in agreement

- Discuss Items raised at Parish Meeting:** 32: There were no items forthcoming from the Parish Meeting held earlier in the evening.
- Any other Business:** 33: **SMC Lorries.** The number of SMC lorries travelling through Woodford was raised. Clerk to investigate whether any routing arrangement was detailed within the Planning Permission.
- 34: **Gates at Sub Station High Street.** Mr Hurst mentioned the broken gates to the substation area in the High Street. It was acknowledged that the land around the substation including the gates was now privately owned and consequently there was nothing the Parish Council could do.
- 35: **Footpath near Water Tower.** Mr I Vaughan said he had been informed the hedge alongside this footpath was overgrown in places although the exact location of the problem was not known.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed

Dated