

**Minutes of a meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2009 in the vestry of the Baptist Church, Rose Terrace, commencing at 7.30pm**

- Present:** Mr P Bird (chair), Miss L Blanchard, Mrs M Colson, Mrs E Reid, Mr D Sharples, Mr I Vaughan, Mr M Vaughan and Mr D Woods.
- In attendance:** Mrs Ellmer, Mrs Lewis (plus guest (non resident)), Cllr A Langley (NCC), Mr P T Bird (Clerk)
- Apologies for absence:** Mr P Colson, Mr J Hawes, Mrs S Hayman and Cllr D Hughes
- Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting having been circulated, were proposed by Mrs Reid, seconded by Mr Woods, 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 Vaughan and Mrs Reid had not yet met.
- Comments from Electors:** 2: Mrs Ellmer spoke with regard to the recently withdrawn weekly bus service between Burton Latimer and Peterborough citing that no prior warning of the withdrawal had been given and that whilst a daily service was available from Thrapston connection times were not necessarily conducive to travel from Woodford. Mrs Lewis produced a list of names of concerned residents. The Chairman informed the meeting that the Parish Council had received correspondence on 8<sup>th</sup> September advising that the service was to be withdrawn that very week but had not been consulted. Councillors agreed to give full backing to the reinstatement of the service.
- Police Report:** 3: The Clerk drew attention to the four crimes recorded in August taking the total for the recording year to 23.  
4: Clerk reported he had attended the local Safer Community Team meeting the previous week which set the priorities for the Safer Community Policing Team. Priorities for the next three months were set for the area based upon the response cards returned to the Police. Despite a card being delivered to every property in Woodford with the Saints Alive Magazine during early August less than twenty cards outlining Police and safety concerns from residents were returned thereby displaying either almost complete apathy or contentment amongst villagers. The SCT had agreed however, to follow up requests to tackle speeding through Woodford and Great and Little Addington.
- Cllr Langley's Comments:** 5: Cllr Langley arrived after the above and announced, that he was delighted that following a number of representations, the bus to Peterborough would be reinstated shortly.
- Cllr Hughes Comments:** 6: Cllr Hughes was not present
- Matters arising from the minutes:** 7: **Horses in the Shrubbery.** The Clerk's letter to Mrs Ellmer regarding horses in the Shrubbery misusing the footpaths was read out. Drayton Estate and the County Council had been contacted, but no responses had been received.  
8: **Reflective Mirror Rectory Lane /Addington Road.** The Clerk had responded to Mrs Lewis regarding the siting of a mirror opposite the Rectory Lane junction to aid visibility. The NCC was not generally in favour of such mirrors however, the Parish Council would include the proposal with road safety improvements.  
9: **Donation to St Mary's Church.** Clerk's letter accompanying cheque for £250 was read out.  
10: **Playground Inspection Report.** Wicksteed The annual inspection report was

to hand and total cost of repairs was £234. (The lowest for a significant period of time). Mr Sharples proposed and Mr Woods seconded that the repairs be carried out. Agreed by all present.

- 11: **Audit.** The Clerk had written to the Council's internal auditor thanking her for carrying out the task. Mrs Davies had requested that her fee be paid to NRICC.
- 12: **25 Mill Road.** ENC had informed there had been a long delay in repossessing this property but should be completed in early September enabling the property to be cleared and tied (including the overgrown hedge).
- 13: **Motorcycles on footpaths near lock.** ENC had responded that as a result of the SCT meeting it may be possible to put more pressure on motorcyclists. Additionally enquiries were being made of Planning Service as to whether any further enhancements were to be made to the railway line to reduce the number of vehicles misusing it. The Clerk had response to Mr Stevens who had raised the issue was also read out.
- 14: **Prince of Wales.** The Clerk letter thanking the publican for the improved cleanliness to the area surrounding the property was read.
- 15: **Allotment 12 Thrapston Road.** The Clerk had written once again to the head of Planning regarding previous correspondent which had not been answered.
- 16: **Adoption of Telephone Box.** Clerk reported that he had completed an online request to adopt the BT Box at the cost of £1.00. He had also written to East Northants Council advising of the Parish Council's intentions. It was likely that additionally expenditure may be incurred in the form of a Licence (due to close proximity to the highway (£50)) and also if it contained a light.

#### Co-option of Parish Councillors

- 17: The Clerk reported that three electors had come forward for consideration, Mr Malcolm Hackney, Mr Nicholas Walbridge and Mr Michael Hurst. Whilst Mr Hackney and Mr Hurst had been parish Councillors before in Islip and Woodford respectively, Mr Hackney was not at present listed on the Electoral Roll for Woodford so was excluded from standing as a Parish Councillor. Consequently it was unanimously agreed that Mr Hurst and Mr Walbridge be co-opted as Parish Councillors.

#### Planning Issues:

- 18: Planning Committee Comments
  - a) The Planning Committee had not commented on any plans since the last meeting.
- 19: East Northamptonshire Council Decisions
  - a) No decisions had been made by East Northants Council
- 20: New Planning Applications
  - a) No new planning applications were to hand
- 21: Other Planning Matters
  - a) **1 Rectory Lane – Construction of dwelling-Appeal.** The appeal had been dismissed by the inspector. ENC had withdrawn one of the reasons for rejection (and as a result incurred costs), but the inspector upheld the other reason for objection i.e. the construction of such a dwelling would not be in keeping with the area.

#### New Correspondence:

- 22: **Replacement Lamp Club Lane Whittlesea Terrace junction.** E.on had quoted to replace this damaged lamp at a cost of £536. Mr Woods proposed that the lamp be replaced, seconded by Mr Vaughan and agreed by those present.
- 23: **Street Naming – Pound Lane.** ENC had written stating that the new cottages in Daventry Farmyard should be named (1-7) Pound Lane. The clerk had informed the meeting that he had contacted ENC expressing disappointment that there had been no consultation over the name, and that there was no direct

access to the site from Pound Lane as such access would cross privately owned land (Drayton) rented by the Council. ENC had responded that as the properties faced Pound Lane they were numbered “by how the postman would deliver the post”. Additionally it was understood that the developer had taken out an insurance policy covering the access and it had been in full agreement with Drayton Estate. Drayton Estate Land Agents (Fisher German) had contacted the Clerk suggesting they knew nothing of the agreement and would be pursuing the matter. Councillors agreed that the clerk write formally to the Council suggesting that a more appropriate name would be Daventry Close or Daventry Court.

- 24: **Bus Services to Northampton / Peterborough.** Letters were to hand informing that these two weekly bus services were to be cut from w/c 7<sup>th</sup> September (received 8<sup>th</sup> September).
- 25: The Chairman asked that the following items of correspondence be circulated:
- NCC consultation on collaborative road works and restorative actions.
  - New Service 16 bus timetable

#### Account Balances

<b>Finance:</b>	Current Account		7575.76
	High Interest Account		42.27
	<b>Balance brought forward</b>		<b>7618.03</b>
	<b>Less</b>		
	570 Mr P Bird Clerk	240.00	
	571 J & S Pendred (No Parking Sign)	46.00	
	572 E.on (Months Power)	229.23	
	573 E.on (1/4 Lighting Maintenance)	292.74	
	574 Mrs D Bosworth (Litter Picking)	85.72	
	574 NRICC (Audit Fee)	50.00	943.69
<b>Balance Carried forward</b>		<b>6674.34</b>	

- 26: Mrs Colson proposed, Mr M Vaughan seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the above accounts be settled.
- 27: The Clerk informed the meeting that expenditure was well within the budgets at present and an increase in funds by the end of the year could be as much as £3000 more than was available at the start of the financial year. A full report would be available at the next meeting.
- 28: The external auditors had raised further queries regarding the council’s expenditure during the previous year which the Clerk had clarified.

#### Parking and Road Traffic Issues

- 29: The Clerk reported eighteen residents had responded to the Council’s proposals which had been detailed on the website, in Saints Alive and the Evening Telegraph. Additionally affected residents had received a letter outlining the schemes. A schedule of responses had been circulated to councillors. A discussion ensued and it was agreed that the implementation of the proposals would not remove and “legal” parking spaces but once marked would permit “Parking Wardens” to penalise irresponsibly parked cars adjacent to junctions (which are presently not prosecutable by police following decriminalisation unless an obstruction is caused). The proposals were agreed to be taken as “read” subject to the following amendments as a result of the consultation.

Proposal 6: Mr M Vaughan proposed, Mr Sharples seconded that this proposal be dropped. Agreed by those present on the grounds that it maybe beneficial to have some guidance as to where it is safe to park.

Proposal 3a: Mr Woods proposed, Mr Sharples seconded that this proposal be dropped in favour of proposal 3. Agreed by a consensus of those present that

whilst potentially increasing number of parking spaces, restrictions would need to be retained for a distance north of the Newtown Street Junction the gain in spaces would be minimal. Additionally due to the poor state of the footpath on the east side of the street (practically no kerb) it was feared vehicles may regularly park on the pavement increasing its rate of decay and causing pedestrians further obstructions.

Proposal 7: After discussion it was proposed by Mr M Vaughan, seconded by Mr Sharples and agreed by those present that the direction should be **up**, thereby allowing vehicles to park close to the wall on the left in the direction of travel thereby maximising the road width. It was also agreed that in order to improve the junction with Whittlesey Terrace the priorities at the top of the lane should be changed in favour of the through route being from High Street to Rose Terrace (or reverse) with traffic coming up Club Lane being required to either Stop or Give Way.

The Clerk was asked to draw up a suitably marked plan of the areas affected and submit to the Road Traffic Orders team.

**Donations:**

- 30: **Donation to Thrapston Town Band and Royal British Legion.** Discussion regarding the level of donations that should be made to the Thrapston Town Band and the Royal British Legion were discussed. Having referred to previous years gifts, Mrs Colson proposed that £65 be given to the Band and £85 to the Royal British Legion (£5.00 increase for both organisations). Seconded by Mr M Vaughan and agreed by those present.

**Declaration of Interest**

**\* Mr I B Vaughan \***

*(Mr I B Vaughan, being a member of both organisations, declared a non prejudicial interest in this agenda item.)*

**Any other Business:**

- 31: **Litter on Playing Fields.** Mr Sharples informed the meeting that there was a significant amount of litter on the playing fields especially along the footpath to the Water Tower. Chairman said this area was not within remit of the Parish Council's litter picker. Agreed that Mr Colson be asked to raise the issue at next Playing Field Committee meeting.
- 32: **Councillor Attendance.** Mrs Reid mentioned that due to business commitments, she may be late for some future meetings. Councillors thanked her for her commitment and wished her well in her new business venture.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Signed

Dated