

**Minutes of a meeting of Woodford Parish Council held on Tuesday February 16th 2010 in the vestry of the Baptist Church, Rose Terrace, commencing at 7.30pm**

- Present:** Mr I Vaughan (Chair), Miss L Blanchard, Mrs M Colson, Mr J Hawes, Mrs S Hayman, Mr M Hurst, Mr D Sharples, Mr M Vaughan and Mr N Walbridge.
- In attendance:** Cllr D Hughes (ENC), Cllr A Langley (NCC), Mr P T Bird (Clerk)
- Apologies for absence:** Mr P Bird, Mr P Colson and Mr Woods
- Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the 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: Mr Vaughan had no comments to add.
- Police Report:** 2: A Police Officer was not present. Clerk reported there had been 8 reported crimes during January. Five non dwelling burglary, two theft from vehicle and one violent offence. This took the total for the financial year to 42.
- Comments from Electors:** 3: No members of the electorate were present.
- Cllr Langley's Comments:** 4: Cllr Langley discussed the criteria for refilling potholes and that the County Council was seeking additional Government Funding. The Council had been acknowledged as managing its grit supplies to a high level of effectiveness (Trunk Roads/ Motorways are dealt with by Highways Authority) and would be holding a conference to impart its knowledge. (To send all gritters out on one run cost £32k).  
5: There were likely to be cuts of some services as the Government grant to the Council was increasing by approximately 1%. This forms 75% of the Councils funding and is based on population figures up to 20 years old. The remainder of the balance comes from the Council Tax Payer.  
6: Mr Hawes said he was pleased a kissing gate had been installed at the southwest end of Church Street.
- Cllr Hughes Comments:** 7: Cllr Hughes mentioned the proliferation of applications for wind turbines in the district. All were at different stages within the planning process. The reason for the influx was due to a potential change in national policy, if at the forthcoming general election, the government changed.  
8: Cllr Hughes said that if the proposed extension to the Paddocks did reach the planning committee and the Council decided to object then it was important that a representative attended the meeting.(see paragraph 12)
- Matters arising from the minutes:** 9: Mrs Elizabeth Reid. The Clerk's letter to Mrs Reid was read out thanking her for her participation in Council matters and wishing her well for the future.
- Co-option of Parish Councillor** 10: The Clerk informed the meeting that only on the previous day had ENC confirmed an election had not been called. Whilst he had received two expressions of interest it was felt the vacancy should be advertised as a vacancy for co-option and be dealt with at the next meeting.
- Planning Issues:** 11: Planning Committee Comments  
a) The Planning Committee had viewed the plans for the proposed extension to the Paddocks and referred the matter to this meeting.  
12: East Northamptonshire Council Decisions  
a) No decisions had been made by East Northants Council  
13: New Planning Applications  
a) **Paddock Road 50 Dwellings** – Outline EN/09/1980/OUT. Councillors

present strongly objected to the extension of the site, primarily on the grounds that the site was outside of the village development zone, and the emerging Rural North Plan had been found to be sound by the inspector, consequently further housing was not required to meet the housing targets for this area. The Clerk was also asked to point out that should ENC go against the Council's wishes then certain matters should be addressed including protection of the proposed shelter belt planting, Safe unloading of materials – not on Mill Road, more facilities for off road parking, preference for villagers in any social housing.

14: Other Planning Matters

a) None

- New Correspondence:**
- 15: **ENC Waste Strategy from summer 2011.** East Northants Council were consulting on a new waste contract and councillors discussed the merits of the present system and also the shortfalls. It was generally agreed that weekly refuse collections were a necessity, recycling bins should be larger, preferably with a lid (but not “wheelie bin” size, as these were too cumbersome for many parts of the village. It was felt there was no requirement for a food waste collection.
- 16: **Open Play Space, Paddock Road.** William Davis had written asking whether the Parish Council would be willing to accept the transfer of ownership of the play space in Paddock Road and ongoing maintenance. It was agreed that as the Council had not budgeted for this expense the clerk should respond requesting under what terms and conditions the maintenance would take place
- 17: **Verge Cutting** ENC had sent copies of the contract for verge cutting around the village on a monthly basis. All agreed that Clerk should sign on behalf of Council.

**Finance:**

**Balance brought forward**

Current Account		2408.62
High Interest Account		5542.92
		<u>7951.54</u>

**Less**

<sup>599</sup> Mrs D Bosworth Litterpicking	70.04	
<sup>600</sup> Mr P Bird Clerk salary	240.00	
<sup>601</sup> E.on Lighting Power	234.21	544.25
		<u>7407.29</u>

**Balance Carried forward**

- 18: Mr Sharples proposed, Mr Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the above accounts be settled.
- 19: The Clerk reported that he was required to report on any risk's to the Council's assets on a regular basis. He reported the staggered fencing at the entrance to the play area appeared to have been damaged by a vehicle. Additionally grass was growing around the safety matting in the playground and asked for permission to gain a quotation to have it sprayed. The equipment was also in need of repainting. The MUGA was in very good condition and looked as good as the day it was installed.

**Risk Assessment Report:**

- Any other Business:**
- 20: **Hedge Highfield.** Mr Vaughan mentioned the overgrown hedge at 1 Highfield. Mr Walbridge agreed to deal with it.
- 21: **Land at 1A Rose Terrace.** Clerk reported on a telephone conversation with Mr Huckstep. Following enquiries twelve months ago Mr Huckstep has since sought legal advice and in almost all certainty a large part of the verge in front of his house with three trees on it should have been conveyed to him at the

time of his purchasing the property. He had offered to show the Clerk the correspondence but was unwilling to provide copies. He hoped, once the matter was confirmed, to erect a low fence around the piece of ground and remove two of the three trees closest to his property which were believed to be causing damage. He had confirmed to the Clerk that he was willing to allow the seat to remain in situ. Mr Hawes suggested that the Council did not pursue the matter further. The majority of this piece of land certainly formed a track between Rose Terrace and Whittlesey Terrace at some point in time and did not have an owner as such. The County Council sought its own boundaries for the road and footpaths when the Shrubberies were built and it is likely the land should have been transferred to the former factory on the site. The council has no contrary evidence, and even if successful in proving ownership of the land the costs associated with the tree damage would create a liability.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed

Dated