WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 11th February 2019 IN THE VILLAGE HALL,
ORCHARD LANE, WOODNEWTON PE8 5EE AT 8.00PM

MINUTES

Present: Cllr Hansford (Chairman), Cllr Flack, Cllr Neville, Cllr Jenner, Jonathan Robinson and the Parish Clerk/RFO.

1. Co-option of New Councillor

It was proposed by Cllr Flack and seconded by Cllr Neville that: Jonathan Robinson be co-opted onto the Woodnewton Parish Council. Council AGREED unanimously. The Chairman declared that Jonathan Robinson is co-opted onto the Council and welcomed him to the meeting.

2. Declarations of Member’s Interests from Councillors

None.

3. Apologies for Absence

Cllr. Blackmore had previously submitted his apologies for absence.

4. Public Time

No members of the public were present.

5. Minutes of Meeting Held on 7th January 2019

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th January 2019, having been previously circulated, were AGREED and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

6. Matters Arising

Item 3: The Clerk was asked to contact the ENC Planning Enforcement Officer to investigate the alleged unauthorised business in Main Street.

Item 5 (8): Replacement of Street Lights – The second application for a grant had not been successful. Cllr Blackmore would be attending a training course/exhibition on Replacing Street Lighting with LEDs organised by Ncalc on 4th March. Council would consider its position following that event and the statutory requirements of taking out a loan with the PWLB.

Item 5 (3): Local Government Re-organisation In Northamptonshire – the Clerk had submitted Council’s views on the proposed re-organisation directly to the S of S for Local Communities.

Item 12: Allotment holders had been reminded about the conditions in their tenancy agreements regarding bonfires and the keeping of cockerels on the site.

7. Playing Fields and Playground

(a) The monthly inspection report had been delayed but would be carried out asap. Overhanging tree branches had been cut back on the playing field side of the hedge.
(b) Cllr Blackmore had ordered the replacement parts for repairing the zip wire. The replacement goal posts had also been ordered and would be delivered once payment had been received. He would then apply for the grant towards the cost of the posts.

8. Wildflower Meadow and Allotments

Cllr Flack reported that 9 people had volunteered for turf-lifting duties on 16th March and that he had arranged to hire a turf cutter at a cost of some £60 plus VAT. A resident would deliver and return the cutter thereby avoiding delivery charges. A dual-purpose seed mix of 70% perennials and 30% annuals had been recommended.

Council also considered ways of protecting the seeded area from birds and rabbits, and concluded that netting was probably the best option (although it could be expensive). Those areas of the playing fields and playground which could benefit from re-turfing would be identified as places to use the lifted grass.

Cllr. Flack would report the full costs of the project to the next meeting.

Council AGREED to a request to erect a shed on Plot 30.

9. Accounts

(a) Council AGREED the following payments:

- Replacement Football Posts £670.80p
- Grass and Verge Cutting (July to Oct 2018) £3,435.41p
- Clerk’s Salary (nett of tax) £195.49p
- HMRC (Income Tax) £48.80p

(b) Council NOTED the following receipts:

- Groundwork UK (Tesco Bags) £1,000.00p
- Allotment Rent (Plot 7) £12.00p

(b) Council RECEIVED the January Bank Account reconciliation, and expenditure against Budget Heads statement. Copies attached to the signed copy of these minutes.

10. Grass Cutting and Grounds Maintenance Contracts 2019 to 2021

Council considered the quotes received. Following debate, Cllr. Jenner proposed and Cllr. Flack seconded, and Council AGREED unanimously that: MB Grasscutting be awarded the contract to cut the churchyard grass, and HJ Horticulture Ltd be awarded the contract to cut the grass and hedges of the playing fields and cemetery, the verges, and to undertake grounds maintenance in the Village Hall and Cemetery car parks.

The contractors would be subject to close monitoring to ensure contract compliance.

11. Correspondence

(a) The Council’s Insurers, Stackhouse Poland trading as Came and Co, has been acquired by Arthur J Gallagher and Co. There would be no change to the level of cover, etc.

(b) The By-Election for the Oundle Division of NCC would be held on 21st February.

(c) Following consultation with Councillors, the Clerk had granted permission for the local Scout and Beaver Troop to use the playing fields on Monday 11th February.
(d) The Clerk had advised the Woodnewton Players that the agreement to site their storage shed adjacent to the Village Hall was due for renewal. This would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

12. Opportunity to Update Colleagues.

Councillor Jenner advised Council that the cycling event to be held on 24th February would now pass along Orchard Lane not Main Street, and that the Village Hall would be used as a “rest station”.

Councillor Robinson had identified training courses on the Ncalc website. Council had a training budget and if he wanted to attend any particular course he should let the Clerk know the details. Councillors recommended the “Off to a Flying Start” course.

13. Date of next meeting.

Monday 4th March 2019 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

14. There being no other items for discussion the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.12pm

Chairman’s Signature ................................................................. 4th March 2019