WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2018 IN THE VILLAGE HALL,
ORCHARD LANE, WOODNEWTON PE8 5EE AT 8.00PM
(DRAFT) MINUTES

Present: Cllr Hansford, Cllr Neville, Cllr Flack, Cllr Blackmore, Cllr Jenner and the Parish Clerk/RFO.

One member of the public also present.

1. Declarations of Member’s Interests from Councillors

None.

2. Apologies for Absence

None

3. Public Time

A member of the public expressed concerns about the proposal to reorganise Local Government in Northamptonshire into two primarily urban unitary authorities. He asked if the Parish Council would be making representations that an option based on an amalgamation of predominantly rural Districts should be considered during the recently announced period of consultation on the proposals. He was advised that the Parish Council had supported the creation of a third rural based unitary authority during an earlier round of consultations with the NCC and District Councils.

4. Minutes of Meeting Held on 5th November 2018

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th November 2018, having been previously circulated, were AGREED and signed.

5. Matters Arising

Item 8: Local Government Reorganisation – A new round of consultation with the wider general public had been initiated by Central Government into the proposal to introduce two unitary authorities. The Parish Council could re-state its position during this consultation.

Item 9: Vacancies on Council – The recruitment drive continued.

6. Planning

(a) App No. 18/02182/TCA – removal of tree at 49 Main Street. No Objections raised.

(b) App No. 18/02147/FUL – side and rear extension at 1 St Marys Close. No Objections raised.

7. Playing Fields and Playground

(a) The monthly inspection report had been carried out by Cllr Flack who had identified no new major concerns other than the mat for the zip wire was getting to the end of its useful life. NOTED.

(b) Cllr Blackmore advised that he had obtained a quote of £189.88p (£227.86p including VAT) for repairs to the zip wire. He was seeking a second quotation from the maker of the equipment.
(c) Cllr Blackmore reported that he had obtained a quote of £450 inclusive for fitting, to the required standards, the sockets for the replacement goal posts. The grant aid for buying new goal posts was still available (50% of costs). Subject to the size and type of posts purchased, the total package could cost £800 - £1000 (including VAT) after taking into account the grant available.

8. Replacement of Street Lights

Council considered a report (attached to the signed copy of these minutes) prepared by the Clerk on the implications of applying for a loan to fund the street light replacement project should another source of grant aid not be found. This would involve consultation with residents and their agreement if the Parish Precept had to be increases to cover repayment costs. To enable planning for the project to move forward, it was proposed by Cllr Jenner and seconded by Cllr Neville, and accepted unanimously that “The Woodnewton Parish Council RESOLVES to apply to the Secretary of State for the Department of Communities and Local Government for approval to borrow £12,500 to be repaid over 5 years for the replacement of the existing street lights in the village with LED lamps”.

9. Village Sign

Council were advised that the Vicar was in favour of the proposal to unveil the sign at the Carol Service. It AGREED to a low-key hanging of the new sign in the days following the service, after the branches of the tree on The Green had been trimmed. Any repairs to the post not carried out before the hanging could be undertaken in the Spring.

10. Budget Review and Parish Precept

A number of possibilities for the 2019/2020 Budget were considered by Council (attached to the signed copy of these minutes) together with the implications for the Parish Precept 2019/2020. If the street light project did not go ahead then a budget based on Option A would be developed. If the project went ahead then Option E was favoured. This would be developed in the light of potential spending in the year 2109/2020 and the need to comply with the requirement to consult with and get the agreement of residents to take out a loan.

These would be considered at the January 2019 meeting together with a proposal to set a precept for the following year.

11. Grass Cutting and Grounds Maintenance Contracts

Council considered that the specifications for the grass cutting and grounds maintenance contracts should be 18 cuts per year of the cemetery, playing fields and church yard from March to October (although contractors would be required to be flexible depending on weather conditions and should also include a unit cost per cut should additional cuts be necessary). The church yard cutting would exclude the wild flower area while in flower, but this area was to be included when the area was not in flower. Mulching mowers to be used. The application of herbicide to the cemetery car park and the Village Hall carpark should be undertaken once a year. Hedge cutting around the cemetery and at the playing fields (along Orchard Lane) should be carried out once a year. The areas to be included in the verges cutting part of the contract (6 cuts per year) would only include Nassington Road (to the speed restriction signs), Orchard Lane, outside the Cemetery to beyond the GPO Green Boxes, Apethorpe Road from the Church to the junction with Orchard Lane, and The Green. The contracts would run for 3 years.

The revised specifications would be considered at the January 2019 meeting.
12. Accounts

(a) Council AGREED the following payments:

- Churchyard Grass (additional strimming) £55.00p
- Removal of Churchyard trees £504.00p
- e.on (Repairs) £37.52p
- External Audit costs £240.00p
- Grant to Village Newsletter/Website £150.00p
- Village Hall Hire (Clean-Up Day) £27.00p
- Clerk’s Salary (nett of tax) £195.49p
- HMRC (Income Tax) £48.80p

13. Dates of Meetings in 2019

(a) Council NOTED the dates of meetings in 2019 that had been booked.
(b) Council AGREED the date of the Annual Parish Meeting as 23rd May 2019

14. Correspondence

(a) Council updated the rural services available in the Village being carried out by ENC.
(b) Council AGREED that Ncalc continues as it DPO during next year at a cost of £10 pa.

15. Opportunity to Update Colleagues.

Councillor Flack advised Council that Allotment No 7 had been let and that all plots were now taken. The Clerk received the tenancy fee.

Council AGREED to a request to erect a shed on Allotment No 6.

16. Date of next meeting.

7th January 2019 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

17. There being no other Items for discussion the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm

Chairman’s Signature ................................................................. January 2019