WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 7th JANUARY 2019 IN THE VILLAGE HALL,
ORCHARD LANE, WOODNEWTON PE8 5EE AT 8.00PM

(DRAFT) MINUTES

Present: Cllr Hansford (Chairman), Cllr Flack, Cllr Blackmore, Cllr Jenner and the Parish Clerk/RFO.
Two residents were also present.

1. Declarations of Member's Interests from Councillors

None.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr. Neville had previously submitted her apologies for absence.

3. Public Time

(1) A resident asked if the Parish Council could do anything about (a) speeding traffic in the village, particularly along Oundle Road (a problem that will get worse with the proposed housing developments at Kings Cliffe), and (b) the apparently unauthorised business being carried out from a property in Main Street, which was causing a problem of noise.

With regard to (a) the Chairman advised that the Police would not spend money on speeding issues unless the village did something for itself. The Parish Council had looked at this issue in the past and tried to involve other communities. It could look into possible solutions again.

The Parish Council would ask the ENC for advice and guidance regarding point (b).

(2) A second resident was at the meeting to find out about the work of the Parish Council with a view to becoming a Councillor. The Chairman outlined in brief what the Council did and invited the resident to remain at the meeting as an observer.

4. Minutes of Meeting Held on 3rd December 2018

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd December 2018, having been previously circulated, were AGREED and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5. Matters Arising

Item 9: Village Sign – The new village sign had been installed at The Green. The repairs to the post would be carried out in the Spring.

Item 8: Replacement of Street Lights – A application for a grant of £9,500 had been submitted to cover part of the cost of replacing the existing street lights with LEDs.

Item 3: Local Government Re-organisation In Northamptonshire – Council AGREED that its views on the proposed re-organisation should be submitted directly to the Secretary of State for Local Communities.
6. Playing Fields and Playground

(a) The monthly inspection report had been delayed but would be carried out asap. It was NOTED that two of the fence posts around the children’s play area were rotten.

The Clerk would up-dated and circulated a revised Inspection Rota to Councillors.

(b) Cllr Blackmore advised that the second quote (from the original manufacturer) for the repair of the zip wire was £377 plus VAT, compared to the Wickstead quote £189.88p plus VAT.

Council AGREED the Wickstead quote of £189.88p plus VAT for the repairs.

(c) Cllr Blackmore reported that the cost of the replacement goal posts (16ft by 7ft made of steel) from Broxap would be £495 plus VAT. The grant aid for buying the posts was still available (50% of costs). The quote for fitting the sockets for the replacement goal posts, as previously reported to Council, was £450 inclusive.

Council AGREED the Broxap quote of £495 plus VAT for the replacement goal posts, and the quote of £450 inclusive for fitting the posts and sockets. The total cost of the project would be £1044 inclusive of VAT. The 50% grant for the posts would reduce this amount to £747 inclusive.

7. Wildflower Meadow on Allotments

Cllr Flack set out a programme for the creation of a wildflower meadow on the allotment site in the Spring of 2019. He would contact a group of volunteers to undertake the turf lifting in March (to enable annuals to be sown and flower in the year). The cut turfs could be left on site to rot down or placed elsewhere. Cllr Flack would organise the hire of the turf cutter. Another company had been identified for supplying seeds and a report would be submitted to the March meeting of Council to agree the seed order. Council NOTED the proposed programme.

8. Accounts

(a) Council AGREED the following payments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anglia Water (DD)</td>
<td>£28,359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village Sign</td>
<td>£1,590.00p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e.on (supply)</td>
<td>£269.71p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e.on (maintenance)</td>
<td>£155.52p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e.on (repair)</td>
<td>£37.52p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerk’s Salary (nett of tax)</td>
<td>£195.49p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HMRC (Income Tax)</td>
<td>£48.80p</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

9. Budget Review and Parish Precept

The Clerk explained that the second application for a grant towards the costs of the street lighting project had not allowed the development of the spending plans discussed at the December 2018 meeting. The success or otherwise of this second application would not be known until the end of March 2019 but the Parish Precept for 2019/2020 had to be submitted to the ENC by 18th January.

Following consideration of alternatives, Council unanimously AGREED a budget for 2019 to 2020 which covered all it’s know costs and expected increases in those costs, whilst maintaining a reasonable reserve to cover contingencies depending on the outcome of the application for a grant. The budget would require a precept increase of £814 or 6% (£13,568 to £14,382).
In addition, Council unanimously AGREED a contingency plan that would allow the development of a budgetary strategy to cover the costs of the street lighting project over the next four years (with or without any grant-aid). Council will have to apply for a loan to cover the full costs of the project and that application will require the explicit support of residents both for the scheme and for the ongoing rises in Parish Precept that will be necessary.

Copies of the Budget 2019 to 2020 and the Contingency Plan outline at attached to the signed copy of these minutes.

10. Grass Cutting and Grounds Maintenance Contracts

(a) Council AGREED the schedules for the grass cutting and grounds maintenance contracts for 2019 to 2021 (Copies attached to the signed copy of these minutes).

(b) Councillors AGREED the list of potential contractors and the tendering process (copies attached to the signed copy of these minutes).

11. Correspondence

(a) Council AGREED that the Clerk should contact Heather Smith following her resignation from NCC to thank her for her help and assistance while she was the County Councillor for the Oundle Division.

(b) Council had been given advance notification of a cycle event that would pass through the village on Sunday 24th February 2019 between 9.00am and 1.00pm

(c) Council was advised that e.on would be increasing its prices on 21st January from 17.0p per kWh to 22.1p per kWh.

(d) Councillors have been invited to the launch of the Woodnewton History Group website in the Village Hall on Saturday 19th January at 2.30pm.

(e) Council AGREED to apply for the NCC contribution towards verge grass cutting in 2019.

12. Opportunity to Update Colleagues.

Councillor Flack advised Council that the replacement oak tree planted in the cemetery may be recovering.

Councillor Flack also reported that, following a complaint from a resident, he would be contacting all allotment tenant holders asking them to ensure that any bonfires are not left unattended to become a nuisance. A reported nuisance caused by a cockerel would be dealt with informally.

Councillor Blackmore was asked to contact NCC regarding the state of Orchard Lane.

13. Date of next meeting.

11th February 2019 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

14. There being no other Items for discussion the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40pm