WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 3rd JUNE 2019 IN THE VILLAGE HALL,
ORNCHARD LANE, WOODNEWTON PE8 5EE AT 8.00PM

MINUTES

Present: Cllr Hansford (Chairman), Cllr Flack, Cllr Neville (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Blackmore and the Parish Clerk/RFO.

1. Declarations of Member’s Interests from Councillors

None.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Jenner and County/District Cllr de Capell Brooke.

3. Public Time

No members of the public were present.

4. Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 13th May 2019

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 13th May 2019, having been previously circulated, were AGREED and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5. Matters Arising

None

6. Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 13th May 2019

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 13th May 2019, having been previously circulated, were AGREED and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

7. Matters Arising

Item 5.7(c): Replacement Litter Bin – Not yet purchased by Chairman.

Item 5.15(b): Register of Interests – After discussion Council AGREED that no action was necessary.

Item 5.16(c): Councillor Resignation – ENC had advised that Council could co-opt a replacement.

Item 5.21(a): Path – Players advised of concerns and asked to provide details when available.

Item 5.21(b): Use of Playing Fields – Village Hall Committee advised of Council’s views.

Item 11: Churchyard Grass Cutting Contract – The new contractors had signed the contract.

8. Security of the Allotment Site

As requested, the Clerk had contacted all tenants advising that items of value should not be left in allotment sheds. Tenants had also been canvassed on their views about permanently locking the gate.
to the site using a programmable combination lock, for which tenants would be asked to contribute towards the cost.

The Clerk reported that considerably less than 50% of tenants had responded and that the majority of those felt that locking the gate was only a deterrent. Not all tenants were prepared to contribute towards costs.

On being put to the vote, Council was evenly split between locking the gate and leaving it unlocked. On the Chairman’s casting vote Council AGREED: That the gate to the allotment site should not be locked and that the temporary arrangements introduced immediately after the break-ins should be removed. The chain and lock would be removed on Friday 7th June. The Clerk would advise tenants.

9. Replacement of Street Lights

Council considered a report prepared by the RFO on a possible funding package for the Street Lighting Upgrade Project. Council had insufficient reserves to fund the project fully (£12,840 as agreed at the May 2019 meeting) so some form of borrowing would be required. Preliminary discussions with SALIX indicated that, based on carbon saving calculations, a 5-year interest free loan of £3,850 was available. This could be repaid from savings in the amount Council paid annual for electricity. There was a budgetary allocation of £5,000 for projects in the current financial year which left £4,000 to be found from either reserves or from a PWLB loan, repayable over 5 years at 1.06% interest. This loan could be repaid from savings in the existing street lighting Maintenance and Repairs budget. Therefore, whichever combination of funding is pursued, there would be no requirement to increase the Parish Precept to pay for the project. Not taking out a PWLB loan would however reduce Council’s reserves to a low level.

Council considered that even though reserves would be lower in the short term it was better to fund the project with a SALIX loan with Council making up all the difference from the amount already allocated (£5,000) in the Budget and a further £4,000 from Reserves. It was recognised that Reserves would increase from next year with the refund of VAT from the installation of the replacement lamps and the savings made in the Maintenance and Repair budget allocation.

Council RESOLVED: To seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to apply for a SALIX loan of £3,850, to be repaid over five years, to part-fund the Street Lighting Upgrade Project. The annual loan repayment will be approximately £770 which will be paid out of the projected savings in electricity charges. It is not intended to increase the Parish Precept for the repayment of this loan.

The RFO would seek the advice of Ncalc on the procedures to follow and liaise with SALIX. Cllr Blackmore would consider any changes necessary to current usage patterns with Zeta.

10. Playing Fields and Playground

(a) Council was advised that the annual RoSPA inspection would take place in June.

(b) Cllr. Flack submitted the monthly inspection report which did not identify any issues of which Council was not already aware.

(c) Nothing to report.

11. Council Policies and Procedures

Council AGREED to ADOPT (a) revised GDPR procedures, and (b) an Equal Opportunities Policy (to be reviewed at the next Annual Meeting of the Parish Council).
12. Controlling Speeding Through the Village.

This issue had been brought to Council’s attention earlier in the year and had also been raised at the recent Parish Meeting. Cllr Blackmore was asked to continue looking at the various signs available and at sources of funding, and to report to a future meeting.

13. Dogs Causing a Nuisance in the Village

Council were advised of a growing problem of dogs not on leads in the village. One incident had led to a serious altercation between two dog owners. A note would be placed in the Newsletter reminding residents that dogs should be kept on leads while in the village, particularly in the playground, on the playing fields and in the cemetery. Owners would be reminded also that they should clean-up after their dogs.

14. Accounts

(a) Council AGREED the following payments:
- Churchyard Grass (May) £450.00p
- Council Insurance Premium £771.93p
- Clerk’s Salary (May) £210.65p
- HMRC (Income Tax) £52.65p

(b) The April/May Accounts, Bank Account reconciliation, and expenditure against Budget Head statement were not available.

15. Correspondence

Freedom Leisure – the Clerk had received a letter from Freedom Leisure regarding a children’s play scheme to be run over the summer holidays. Council though the scheme was a good idea but as access to the village hall would be required, the Clerk was asked to contact the Village Hall Committee for its view.

16. Opportunity to Update Colleagues

Cllr Neville reported that the grass verges at Lindsey Close were being cut by residents.

The Chairman encouraged everyone to report problems with the roads and submit photographs to the NCC. The more people that report a problem the more likely it is that it will be resolved.

17. The next meeting of Council would be held on Monday 1st July

18. The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm

Chairman’s Signature

1st July 2019

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11th June 2019