

WOODNEWTON NEWS

FEBRUARY 2021



Photo: Amber (aged 11)

Woodnewton Parish Council

Parish Council Report – December 2020

The Parish Council met on 4th January.

The Council met again this month via internet conferencing which enables business to carry on under the current restrictions.

Public Time

Several members of the public attended.

(a) Two younger residents embarking on their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award wished to volunteer their time and skills to undertake small tasks around the village. This was well received and all agreed it was great to have younger members taking an interest and wishing to help. It was agreed to collate a list of suitable tasks and risk assess, as necessary.

(b) Several other residents attended to show their support for the adult play equipment and pitched strongly for an outdoor table tennis table to compliment the popular indoor club held in the village hall. It was well supported across the village with the many benefits including health and wellbeing and the social interaction it offers being highlighted. All were happy to help and support with grant applications.

(c) One resident was interested to know more about the barn conversions at 17 Main Street which received automatic planning permission via the part q ruling so no consultation was offered. Concerns raised were access as there is a right of way on the access for the neighbouring property and also plans for a large balcony facing down to the brook which was beyond the footprint of the building which may contravene the part q ruling. It was requested that the clerk liaise with the planning office on this issue.

Playing Field

The issue of gates for the enclosed play area was raised. These had previously been removed on the advice of the RoSPA Play Safety inspection report as a finger trap hazard. Although the area is not required to have gates, it was debated whether these should be re-introduced and if an approved 'safe' design is available.

Planning

20/01403/FUL was considered and returned to ENC with No Objection raised. It was also noted that permission had been granted for 20/01427/FUL

Police Liaison Representative

The Council was asked to consider appointing a Police Liaison Representative as part of a new, more formal communication channel with Northamptonshire Police than the current Joint Action Group (JAG) meetings. It was agreed that the Council's representative on JAG should be the new Rep as it would make sense to join any issues arising from both bodies together.

Local Government Reorganisation

A simple guide to the changes in the local council set-up which starts in April is available on the Parish Council section of the Woodnewton Hub website. <http://bit.ly/newcouncils> and on page 5 of this issue.

Parish Precept

At the January meeting the Council must confirm the budget and set the level of income required which is then submitted to ENC for the required changes to be made to Council Tax bills in April. The Council is entirely funded from the Precept element of the Council Tax bills levied on all houses in the village and as such any changes (either increases or decreases) need to be justified and accountable to residents. Having had some higher increases in the last two years to fill funding gaps and to cover increased costs it was decided to increase this year's Precept by 2% (£305) to £15,550. The Council has sufficient reserves in place to fund some projects and so the increase will cover all known costs plus a contingency

fund due to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the effects of the implementation of the new North Northamptonshire Unitary Authority from 1st April.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 1st February at 8.00pm

Andrew Hansford - Parish Council Chairman

St Mary's Church News

Services at St. Mary's Church, Woodnewton – February 2021

7th February – 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (Modern Language)

28th February – 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion BCP (Traditional Language)

There are services in our other churches each week. Please check the notice-board in the church porch or add your name to the weekly email list from Rev. Jane: jdtailby@aol.com

January was another strange month for us all and although the vaccine roll-out is offering glimmers of hope as we move into February we know that we will be living with changes and uncertainty for a while yet. There were certainly changes in our service provision in church, as some of our ministry team became unavailable for service for various reasons during January. Although we may not be having services in St. Mary's every week at the moment, there are services in our other churches, to which everyone is most welcome.

The beginning of February brings the Feast of Candlemas in the church and we will be having a special service here at St. Mary's on 31st January to celebrate this day. This is the day when the crib is finally put away, drawing our celebrations of Christ's birth to an end, and we look to Lent and the hope of Easter, remembering that the Christ-Child of Bethlehem came to give his life for us so that even death might be defeated and to prove that nothing can overcome God's light and power.

Traditionally in churches, Candlemas was the day when the candles for the year were blessed and we usually include candles in our special service for that day. However, with all the Covid restrictions this year, we will do this in a different way. Instead of candles being given out to use in the service, candles will be blessed and then left for people to take home with them. Some of these candles will be left in the church porch for people to collect on your daily exercise walk. If you would like to have a little light of hope in your home as we look to Spring, please do call in and take one. The candle can remind us that nothing can separate us from God's love and that his light will guide us through dark times, whatever we may be facing – it is a sign of hope.

May we all know the light and love of God through this coming month.

With every blessing,

Rev Jane

Wansford & Kings Cliffe Surgery

NOTICE FOR ALL PATIENTS

Wansford Surgery is not currently a designated COVID-19 vaccination site. Our patients will be vaccinated in community settings and you will be notified by text with a link to book on an allocated day/time. For those patients that we can't contact by text we will telephone you. We are starting to vaccinate our over 80's on 22nd January 2021.

The vaccines will be offered to people at risk as soon as possible in their clinical priority order. The NHS is asking all patients not to contact them or your GP surgery to seek a vaccine before you are called.

The priority list is as follows:

- Residents in a care home for older adults and their carers
- All those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers
- All those 75 years of age and over
- All those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individual
- All those 65 years of age and over
- All individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality
- All those 60 years of age and over
- All those 55 years of age and over
- All those 50 years of age and over

Woodnewton defibrillator

It's almost 5 years since the defibrillator was installed at the Village Hall. Many newcomers to the village may not even be aware that we have one.

A defibrillator is a device that gives a high energy electric shock to the heart of someone who is in cardiac arrest. This high energy shock is called defibrillation, and it's an essential part in trying to save the life of someone who's in cardiac arrest.

You should only use a defibrillator after you have dialled 999 but if you need one then you can fetch the one that is installed on the outside of the village hall on Orchard Lane. There is a code lock and you will be given this code by the emergency services agent. There are instructions with the unit but you will be guided by emergency services.

Hopefully you will never need to use it but if you do at least you know where it is.



All Change for Councils in Northamptonshire

Local government in Northamptonshire is changing. The existing system, which has been in place since the 1970s, is like a three-tier cake. The bottom layer is parish and town councils which typically cover one village or town. The middle layer is borough and district councils, which are responsible for things like planning applications, collecting the bins, tourism, and dealing with benefits. The top layer is the county council, which is responsible for things like social services, education, and highways.



From 1 April 2021 the top two layers of the cake are being replaced with one layer, known as unitary councils. There will be two in Northamptonshire: North Northamptonshire Council, and West Northamptonshire Council. Parish and town councils remain as they are.



North Northamptonshire Council will cover the area currently covered by Corby Borough Council, East Northamptonshire Council, Kettering Borough Council, and Borough Council of Wellingborough. The area includes the large towns of Corby, Kettering, and

Wellingborough, and over one hundred smaller towns, villages, and hamlets. North Northamptonshire Council will be one of the larger unitary councils in England. It will be responsible for all the services currently being provided in the area by the district, borough, and county councils.

The main reason for replacing the district, borough and county councils with unitary councils is to save money. Northamptonshire County Council had well-publicised financial issues in 2017 and 2018, which led to a government inspection of the council. The inspector's report recommended that creating unitary councils was the best solution.

Most people will not notice any difference, certainly in the first few years of the unitary councils. In fact, great efforts are being made to ensure that is the case. For example, the lorry collecting the rubbish might have a different logo on it, but the bins will still be collected. Council services will continue as normal, and any changes will be gradual.

From 2021 you will see three lines on your council tax bill. You will pay an amount for the parish or town council that looks after your village or town, an amount for Northamptonshire Police, and an amount for North Northamptonshire Council for all the council services it provides. The amount you pay to each body is set by that body.

North Northamptonshire Council will have 78 councillors, who will be chosen at the local elections on 6 May 2021. Some will be people who have been district, borough, and county councillors before; others will be new. Anyone over 18 and living in North Northamptonshire can put themselves forward to be a councillor. The councillors elected in 2021 will serve a four-year term of office and may seek re-election in 2025.

Council meetings are held in public, and all the information, reports, and papers for the meetings are published on the council's web site. Councils are open and democratic bodies and are accountable to the people they serve.

If you are interested to find out more about the changes happening to local government in Northamptonshire please visit <https://futurenorthantsnorth.org>.

Readers' Photos

We always like to receive photos and other submissions from villagers.

Amber, aged 11, has put her new iPhone to great use with some great images from around the village, including our cover photo.



Jeff Bolton provided the following photos of the flooding down by the bridge. Wellington boots were definitely required!



WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

PARKING



Please park with consideration for other residents, pedestrians, and road users. Parking on pavements is not permitted. Parking should allow easy access to private driveways and businesses.

To raise any issues please contact the Parish Council:
woodnewtonnpc@gmail.com



Testers Wanted For Unitary Authority Web Sites

Would you like to be a part of the Northamptonshire Website Research Group? The Future Northants Programme and FutureGov are looking for clerks, councillors and any residents to review some of the first ideas for the North and West Northamptonshire Council websites and gain early feedback to take into consideration as the new sites are designed. If you are interested in taking part, please click <https://bit.ly/3bFx8th> to register your interest.

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The Good News Page

Walking Home for Christmas



Many of you may have seen me walking around the village and surrounding area between 1st-24th December wearing a Santa hat! This is because I had pledged to walk a minimum of 5 miles per day for these 24 days to raise money for Walking with the Wounded's Walking Home For Christmas campaign. All monies raised will go towards helping ex service personnel who are either homeless, have mental health issues or need help with training to get them back In to employment.

My longest walk was 11.59 miles and the shortest was 5.04. Luckily I didn't have too many wet days, but there were certainly a few chilly ones! I would like to thank Gary plus friends and neighbours who joined me on some of my walks; also the many villagers who donated to this very worthwhile cause. In total I raised just under £650 towards the £61,715 raised nationally by the Army Cadet Force.

Attached are photos of my wettest walk which John, Jenny and David kindly braved with me (and they didn't even need to walk that day!), the muddiest footpath I found which was near Lyveden New Bield, my coldest walk (minus 3) in Fineshade woods, my flooded path walk between Nassington and Yarwell and my Christmas Eve walk at Old Sulehay. Finally a walk to see the highland cattle in the forest near Boars Head Farm is definitely recommended.

Many thanks

Inez



As you know the Village Hall has been shut for months due to the current restrictions but the Village Hall Team have been busy readying the hall for when things return to some kind

of normality. The Hall floor has been refurbished and is looking pristine ready for dancing, yoga and table tennis. All the rooms have been redecorated and new water heaters have been installed in the kitchen and gents toilet.

The icing on the cake is a new audio visual system that will transform the cinema experience at the hall and also be ideal for other activities. We will publish more details when Woodnewton Cinema resumes, hopefully later in 2021. Thanks go to the whole team for the work that's been done but there's a special mention for Gary Bradbury for leading the Cinema upgrade, working through the grant funding process and selecting and managing installation of the system. We can look forward to crystal clear pictures and great sound quality!



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Yoga classes at the Village Hall have been postponed in light of the Covid-19 guidance from HM Government. I am running weekly sessions via ZOOM - please contact me

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Contributions: We are always happy to receive articles for publication. Please send articles by email whenever possible to newswoodnewton@gmail.com.

We prefer pictures in jpg format and hi resolution whenever possible.

Handwritten / non-electronic contributions can be delivered or sent to:

June Moore, 5 Lindsey Close.

Closing date for all copy **14th** of previous month.

Recent issues available here: <http://woodnewtonhub.co.uk/village-newsletter/>

The Newsletter is edited and published by Grant Neville, 20 Orchard Lane, Woodnewton.

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