



WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 11th December 2017
in the Village Hall, Orchard Lane, Woodnewton,
PE8 5EE at **8.00pm**

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Cllr Flack, Cllr Hansford (chair), Cllr Holland, Cllr Jenner, Cllr Neville

1. PROPOSAL To appoint Liz Holland as acting clerk for the coming month

All agreed and the Chair thanked her for continuing to support the council as temporary clerk

2. To receive Declarations of Members' Interests from Councillors

Cllr Holland said she would take no part in item 11 as she is editor of the newsletter

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Blackmore and from District Cllr Capell Brooke

4. Public Time 8.00pm to 8.15pm

Members of the public and press are invited to address the council during Public Time.

5. District Councillor Annabel Capell Brooke

District Cllr Capell Brooke had earlier offered her apologies but assured the council she is keen to attend a meeting next year **Action: Clerk to send her dates for next years' meetings**

6. PROPOSAL – To accept the minutes of the meeting held 6th November 2017

All agreed and the Chair signed

7. Matters arising from the previous minutes

- a. Clerk recruitment – John Thorpe was in attendance and was welcomed by the Chair. He has said he may be interested in taking on the role. Cllrs Hansford & Holland arranged to meet him later in the week to continue the discussion. It was agreed that if Mr Thorpe were to accept the post at the current hours and rate of pay, he could be appointed before the February meeting. **Action: Cllrs Hansford & Holland**

- b. Website administrator – Cllr Neville confirmed that Grant Neville has taken over this voluntary role and has begun to bring the site up-to-date with past minutes
- c. New tree – agreement from ENC to change the type & location of the tree has been received in an email dated 1/12/2017. As a result, Cllrs Flack & Jenner planted the tree last week.

8. Planning

TO CONSIDER 17/022253 – withdrawn before the meeting

TO NOTE Permissions granted – 17/01233/TCA Trees at The Manor House
17/02149 18, Main Street

9. Safety inspection of the playground

Received the latest report from Cllr Blackmore. **Action: Cllr Flack to submit the next inspection, followed by Cllr Holland**

10. CONSIDER ideas on how to spend a £30 donation

A suggestion to buy a replacement tree for one of those which has died on the playing field was considered and **REJECTED**.

A PROPOSAL to spend the money on seed for a wild flower meadow around the trees on the playing field was **ACCEPTED**. A working group will be needed to clear the ground. **Action Cllr Flack to arrange the group and advise the best date to do this, which may not be for some months**

11. PROPOSAL To support the Woodnewton News with a £75 donation

Cllr Holland did not take part except to offer the fact that the newsletter accounts remained solvent with the usual expected income each year paying the costs of printing

Proposed Cllr Neville, seconded Cllr Flack

The Proposal was agreed by all who voted. **Action: Clerk to arrange a cheque**

12. PROPOSAL To book Cllr Blackmore onto the Parish Mapping training on 22/1/2018 £36

All agreed **Action: clerk to book**

The clerk noted that she has booked a place on an upcoming training course in February next year which will cover new audit arrangements. It is hoped the new clerk will attend.

13. PROPOSAL To apply to NCC for £464.06 towards verge cutting costs

All agreed. **Action: Clerk to apply**

14. Accounts

TO CONSIDER a draft budget for 2018/19

The draft submitted by the clerk was amended with more realistic grass cutting costs. Councillors all agreed that they wanted annual income to cover underlying annual costs as amended. Any projects beyond that will be considered for funding from reserves.

PROPOSAL to recommend a 1% increase in the precept

Rejected

PROPOSAL to increase the precept by 6% Proposed Cllr Neville, seconded Cllr Jenner **ACCEPTED**.

Action: Clerk to submit this to ENC

PROPOSAL To agree the following payments

Agreed:

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| Paul Blackmore | Costs for bench refurbishment | £30.66 |
| Playsafety | Playground inspection | £126.00 |
| Eon | Quarterly maintenance | £155.52 |

Rejected:

Phoenix Surfacing St Mary's Hill £3,975.78 reduced to £3,588.48 as the invoice included an amount to be billed directly to the residents and a cheque for £3,588.48 was drawn.

15. Councillors' opportunity to update colleagues

AN - Cllr Holland was again thanked for stepping in as temporary clerk

LH- Cllr Holland had attended a meeting earlier in the month to hear about the surgery developments proposed at King's Cliffe. She described this as a very exciting and innovative project which she hoped the PC would be able to actively support. **Action: Cllr Holland to bring a letter of support to the next meeting**

The clerk extended an invitation from the PCC to attend a police liaison meeting on December 20th.

AH/PB- In Cllr Blackmore's absence the Chair brought the council up-to-date with recent correspondence covering outstanding work which Gigaclear is required to do.

LH/PB- Cllr Blackmore has started a bid for money under the Tesco Bags scheme but the initial correspondence has not been encouraging as the timescales are long and the council does not want to delay work on the village sign

RF - The bird guards on the swings need replacing and Tom Holmes has agreed to source them

One of the douglas fir trees in the allotments shed a large branch under the weight of snow. No-one was injured but there was some damage to a chicken run

A couple in the village have offered to donate some fruit trees. There is a vacant allotment plot which is on very poor ground and it was decided this may make a suitable space for the trees. **Action: Cllr Flack to pursue this & suggest next actions**

16. Date for the next meeting will be Monday February 5th 2018 at 8.00pm

A meeting will be held in January only if there is a planning application needing a response before February.

Future agenda items RoSPA report

Grass cutting contract renewals

Councillors' project suggestions