



**WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY 6<sup>th</sup> AUGUST IN THE VILLAGE HALL, ORCHARD LANE**  
**WOODNEWTON PE8 5EE AT 8.00PM**  
**(DRAFT) MINUTES**

**Present:** Cllr Hansford (Chairman), Cllr Holland (Vice Chairman), Cllr Neville, Cllr Flack,  
 Cllr Blackmore, Parish Clerk/RFO.

**1. Declarations of Member's Interests from Councillors**

None

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Jenner and District Councillor de Capell Brooke submitted apologies for absence.

**3. Public Time**

No members of the public or press were present.

**4. Minutes of Meeting Held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018, having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

**5. Matters Arising**

There were no Matters Arising not covered elsewhere on the Agenda.

**6. Local Government Re-Organisation in Northamptonshire**

(a) A copy of Council's response to the questionnaire, which had been prepared and submitted by Cllr Holland, had been circulated to Councillors. Council thanked Cllr Holland for undertaking this duty. (A copy of the submission is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes).

(b) Council **NOTED** that the ENC would be considering its position on the re-organisation proposals on 29<sup>th</sup> August which had to be presented to Central Government, along with the views of the other "higher" local authorities of the County by 31<sup>st</sup> August. It was not known if there would be devolved functions to Parish Councils next year or if the 2019 Parish Council elections were to be postponed.

**7. Playing Fields/Playground.**

(a) Council **RECEIVED** the monthly inspection report. This identified that the roundabout wooden surface had splinters (not picked-up in the Annual RoSPA inspection). Whilst not a high priority, Cllr Hansford would investigate the cost and practicality of covering the surface with boarding.

Council **AGREED** that once a year it would undertake a review to identify any issue highlighted in either the Monthly Inspections or the RoSPA reports that had not been rectified. The review would be reported to Council prior to the Autumn Clean-Up Day.

Council **AGREED** to buy additional bird spikes for the swings and other equipment as necessary.

(b) Cllr Blackmore would chase-up Wicksteed regarding the protruding bolts and warning sign.

### **8. Wildflower Meadow**

Cllr Flack advised Council that the prolonged drought had prevented the planned lifting of the turf from the proposed site of the wildflower meadow. After considering options Council **AGREED** that the turf should be lifted in February/March 2019 and a mix of annual and perennial seeds sown to give a covering of flowers in 2019 before the flowering of the perennials in 2020.

### **9. Street Lighting**

Council **NOTED** that the application for funding had been submitted and would know in November if it had been approved.

### **10. Call Connect 'Bus Service**

Council **NOTED** that it had not been possible to secure the Call Connect 'Bus Service at current levels of service. However, a reduced service to Stamford and Peterborough would be available, but not to Oundle. There would be no cost to Council, but fares would have to increase because of the lack of funding from Councils in Northamptonshire. The Chairman would let villagers know about the changes in his report in the next Newsletter.

### **11. Village Sign**

Council **NOTED** that the project had been selected as one of three schemes in the Tesco Bags of Cash funding draw. This could provide the full cost of the project up to £2,500 if it won, the full cost up to £1,500 if it came second or the full cost up to £1,000 if it came third. The results of the draw will be known in November 2019.

Work needed to complete the project was identified, including the pruning of the tree on The Green, to allow the sign to be hung and to be seen. This work could be carried out on Clean-Up Day.

Consideration of arrangements for an official unveiling event was deferred to a future meeting.

### **12. Report of the Internal Audit 2018**

Council **RECEIVED** the Report of the Internal Audit 2018.

The Clerk reported that he had heard nothing from the External Auditor.

### **13. Banking Arrangements**

Council **AGREED** to adopt Internet Banking for making and receiving payments, subject to a secure system of accountability and control being put in place. The Clerk was asked to seek advice from Ncalc and to approach the Co-operative Bank and other providers (Unity Trust) for details.

The Clerk advised Council of difficulties in changing bank signatories, specifically that Mrs Fi Thompson had never been removed from the list.

### **14. Accounts**

(a) Council **AGREED** the following payments:

Churchyard Grass Cutting (July)	£240.00p
Village Hall Hire (May – July)	£54.00p
e.on (electricity supply April – July)	£263.97p
Anglia Water – DD (Allotments)	£27.92p

(payment of the Clerk's Income Tax liability was withdrawn to allow for further consideration).

(b) Council **NOTED** the following receipts:

VAT Refund (April – Sept 2017)	£439.40p
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(c) Council **RECEIVED** the May 2018 and July 2018 Accounts and Bank Account reconciliations (copies attached to the signed copy of these Minutes).

(d) Council **RECEIVED** the revised Budget for 2018 – 2019 which included VAT payments and receipts. (copy attached to the signed copy of these Minutes).

#### **15. Complaints Procedures**

Cllr Hansford presented revised Complaints Procedures. He identified that the Procedures did not cover complaints against Councillors, which were covered by Standards.

Council **RE-AFFIRMED** its Complaints Procedures.

**16. Correspondence** - Nothing to report.

#### **17. Opportunity to Update Colleagues.**

**The Clerk** advised that whilst he was happy doing the job it had proved more time-consuming and complicated than he originally thought. He felt that problems arising from both these issues would increase with the re-organisation of Local Government in Northamptonshire and the devolution of duties down to Parish Council level. He considered that the Clerk to the Council needed many more skills and far more training and qualifications than he possessed. As he did not have the required qualifications and did not want to undertake any further training, it would be better for Council to seek a Clerk who was qualified or who would be prepared to gain qualifications to meet the challenges of the future. The Clerk would not be offended if Council sought a qualified Clerk and would continue in post for as long as it took to find such a person.

**Councillor Holland**, having advised Council of her resignation, said that she would be starting another job and moving from the village in September. **Councillor Hansford** thanked her for all the work she had done for the Council and the village as both Clerk and Councillor. Having been moved and seconded by all present, Council **RECORDED ITS THANKS TO COUNCILLOR HOLLAND**.

The Council **AGREED** that the Autumn Clean-Up day would be 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

#### **18. Date of next meeting.**

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

**19.** There being no other Items for discussion the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.35pm

Chairman's Signature .....

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018