WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER IN THE VILLAGE HALL,
ORCHARD LANE, WOODNEWTON PE8 5EE AT 8.00PM
(DRAFT) MINUTES

Present: Cllr Hansford (Chairman), Cllr Neville, Cllr Flack, Cllr Blackmore, Parish Clerk/RFO and one member of the public

1. Declarations of Member’s Interests from Councillors

None

2. Apologies for Absence

None

3. Public Time

No members of the public or press wished to address Council.

4. Minutes of Meeting Held on 6th August 2018

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th August 2018, having been previously circulated, were AGREED and signed.

5. Matters Arising

Item 10: Call Connect. The Clerk advised that the new service came into effect on 3rd September but the information on the service website appeared to show that there would be no Monday to Friday service between Woodnewton and Oundle. The Clerk had raised this matter with NCC.

Item 13: Banking Arrangements. The Clerk had telephoned the Co-operative bank earlier in the day and had been advised that the changes of signatories had been authorised.

6. Local Government Re-Organisation in Northamptonshire

The Clerk reported that all the Authorities in Northamptonshire, except Corby, had supported the adoption of a two unitary authority structure in the county. Central Government had been advised of the Councils’ position. It was not known yet what the implications would be for Parish Councils.

7. Vacancies on the Council

(a) A notice advising residents of the vacancies on the Council and the procedure to follows had been published on the website and on the village notice board. The closing date for a request to call an election was midnight on 10th September. If an election had not been called for by that time Council could co-opt people to fill the vacancies. Should there be a call for an election and nominations were received it would be held within 60 day.

(b) In the interim Council AGREED that Cllr Blackmore would take responsibility for financial matters and Cllr Hansford would take responsibility for the Cemetery. The position of Vice-Chair would be filled on an ad hoc basis when required.
8. Cemetery

Council received a verbal report on problems that had occurred in the Cemetery. A hole had appeared adjacent to one grave (probably caused by the drought rather than burrowing animals) which would be filled as part of the Autumn Clean-Up Day.

An additional problem of dog poo bags being left on site was identified. Cllr Hansford would prepare a sign prohibiting dogs in the Cemetery grounds for display on the gates. If the problem persisted, then Council would look at further action to try and prevent it.

9. Church Yard

Council NOTED concerns raised by Cllr Jenner following the Annual Inspection of the Church Yard:

(a) Grass clippings had accumulated under the trees and were covering some of the graves. The contract required the clipping to be left as a mulch but because the grass was so long at the beginning of the year the contractor had been asked to rack then into piles. The contractor had now been asked to leave them as a mulch so as not to add to the problem. The piles of clippings would be removed on the Autumn Clean-Up Day.

(b) The western wall of the Church Yard showed signs of movement along with some of the adjacent graves stones. The state of the wall and graves would be monitored and re-inspected in two months.

(c) The ENC were not emptying the domestic refuse bin from the Church Yard as it contained dog poo bags. Cllr Hansford would place a note on the bin requesting that dog owners take their bags home for disposal. A note would be placed in the next Newsletter asking residents not to deposit poo bags in either the bin in the Church Yard or that in the Cemetery.


The monthly inspection report for August was not available. Council NOTED that the September inspection would be undertaken by Cllr Hansford and the one in October by Cllr Blackmore.

11. Village Matters

(a) Allotment Rents 2018/2019

Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Jenner and seconded by Cllr Blackmore, and AGREED that the Allotment rent for 2018/2019 be set at £12. Tenants would be asked to pay by cheque or with cash until such time as Council adopted Internet Banking to allow bank transfers.

(b) Siting a shed on the Allotments

At the request of a tenant, Council AGREED to the erection of a shed on Plot 3.

(c) Planning Application No. 18/01690/FUL – 25 Main Street

Council raised no objections to this proposal. Clerk to advise ENC

12. Banking Arrangements

No further progress because of delays in changing signatories.

13. Accounts

(a) Council AGREED the following payments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Churchyard Grass Cutting (August)</td>
<td>£360.00p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerk’s Salary (August - September)</td>
<td>£293.30p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerk’s Salary (Income Tax Liability)</td>
<td>£293.00p</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(b) Council **RECEIVED** a report (attached to the signed copy of these Minutes) outlining expenditure for the year to date against the revised Budget Heads.

**14. Working Hours of the Clerk**

Council **AGREED** to increase the contracted working hours of the Clerk to 5 hours per week as of 1st October 2018.

**15. Correspondence**

(a) Grit Bins – NCC had advised that it would no longer maintain and fill the grit bin in Oundle Road and had offered ownership and responsibility for maintenance/filling to the Council. NCC would continue to maintain and fill the bin in Mill Lane. As the Oundle Road was on a gritting route Council declined the offer from the NCC. The Clerk would respond accordingly.

(b) Council **AGREED** to the erection of a headstone in the Cemetery in memory of Lionel Baxter.

(c) Good Neighbour Scheme – Council had been invited to a meeting on how to set up a “Good Neighbour Scheme” in the village. Councillors felt that the scheme was more appropriate for larger communities which could offer a wider range of facilities than Woodnewton. They also felt that a form of Good Neighbour Scheme already existed, albeit at a smaller and more local level. The idea would be re-visited in the future if it was felt appropriate.

**16. Opportunity to Update Colleagues.**

**Councillor Flack** advised Council that he had been approached by an allotment tenant about the problems caused by trees both shading and drawing water from his two allotments which resulted in the loss of productive land. The tenant had asked if Council would consider a reduction in rent from £24 pa (2 allotments) to £12 pa. Whilst there was some sympathy for the tenant it was the Council’s aim to maintain the trees, so they would not be cut or pruned unless they caused a specific danger. In addition, other tenants had problems from rabbits, brambles, etc. and any reduction could set a precedence. Cllr Flack was asked to advise the tenant of Council’s position and also point out the low cost of renting an allotment on the site.

**Councillor Blackmore** advised Council that the bird spikes on the swings in the playground had been replaced.

**Councillor Jenner** asked that a note be placed in the Newsletter regarding overhanging hedges.

**Councillor Hansford** advised that he would not be able to attend the February 2019 meeting on the scheduled date. The meeting was re-arranged for 11th February.

**17. Date of next meeting.**

1st October 2018 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

**18.** There being no other Items for discussion the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.55pm