



WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 2nd September 2019 IN THE VILLAGE HALL,

ORCHARD LANE, WOODNEWTON PE8 5EE AT 8.00PM

MINUTES

Present: Cllr Hansford (Chairman), Cllr Flack, Cllr Blackmore, and the Parish Clerk/RFO. The former Parish Clerk/RFO, Steven Barber and a resident.

1. Declarations of Member's Interests from Councillors

None

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Neville and Cllr Jenner

3. Public Time

A representative of the Woodnewton Players outlined further details on the proposed footpath widening affecting the path running from the rear stage to the bins near the kitchen of the village hall. The footpath would be widened by 450mm using traditional paving slabs lying adjacent to the current gravelled 900mm width cutting into the grass bank to create a gentler gradient of definition and slabs as required for steps.

Council **AGREED** to the proposal.

4. Minutes of Meeting held on 5th August 2019

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th August 2019, having been previously circulated, were **AGREED** and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5. Matters Arising

No other matters arising.

6. Speeding in and through the Village.

Mr Barber from ENC Highways attended the meeting. He has control of a small amount of vehicle activated signs available to smaller parishes with limited funding. These speed indicative signs show actual speed, change in speed and colour as speed falls to the correct limit. He suggested that in his experience portable signage that could be moved around the village to be most effective, concluding it resulted in reducing the speed of the 85th percentile by 2%. This would require the use of a battery powered system for portability. Mr Barber had procured eight new batteries for these systems but was still trying to source more leads.

The quality of data that could be collected from these devices was also discussed. Mr Barber stated the main outputs from the data were, the time of day and speed however size of vehicle recognition was poor as the device could not differentiate between a motorbike or an artic lorry as an example. Data could be downloaded and analysed but he was unsure how user friendly the software for this

was, but was happy to provide it. Data would belong to the Parish Council and would not contravene any data protection.

Mr Barber also discussed the need for a Section 50 license to operate the speed devices from Highways England and was prepared to help with our application. The license would cost £310 under such a scheme rather than the usual £620. He would also visit the village to help determine speed hotspots and suitable fixing places.

Mr Barber highlighted the possibility of funding for VAS projects that was now available and open for applications through the office of Northamptonshire Police Fire and Crime Commissioner with the Northamptonshire Road Safety Community Fund having a fund totalling £150,000.

Council proposed to place an October Agenda item to agree an application for a Section 50 license.

7. Replacement of Street Lights

Cllr Blackmore confirmed borrowing approval had been received from the Secretary of State for the Salix loan of £3,850 to part fund the Street Lighting Upgrade Project. This left us in a position to move forward with the project and send out formal instruction to Zeta for project commencement. EON was notified on 31st August terminating the maintenance contract for the existing lighting which required one month's notice so should cease at the end of September by which time the majority of the new lights should be installed. The only potential delay noted may be the co-ordination of the one Western Power light with the remainder of the lights as all are being changed.

Cllr Blackmore stated 50% of the £10,545 +VAT invoice was payable on instructing Zeta and 50% on completion. The Salix loan repayments would begin on project completion over a period of five years.

The outcome of the project is expected to reduce the 12month total electricity usage, reducing to 1848kW hours per year from current value of 5694kW hours per year.

8. Playing Fields and Playground

(a) Monthly Safety Inspection Report.

Cllr Hanson to carry out inspection over the weekend 7/8th September

(b) Update on Repairs, improvements and the provision of additional equipment.

The refurbishment of the roundabout in the future was briefly discussed with a view to the oak boarding being replaced and the possibility of procuring funding towards this cost.

9. Allotments

(a) Tenancy Fee – Council **AGREED** the tenancy fee to remain at £12 per annum.

(b) Collection of Tenancy Fees – Council **AGREED** Cllr Flack to collect the rent in cash, manually and pass on to the Clerk for banking.

(c) Plot Maintenance and Tidiness - Council **AGREED** the clerk should send out a reminder to allotment holders of their responsibilities as tenancy holders under their tenancy agreements. It was suggested this should be actioned mid-October.

10. Autumn Village Clean-Up Day

(a) Council AGREED October 13th for the Village Clean-Up Day, Cllr Hansford to oversee an entry into the Woodnewton Newsletter. Clerk to book village hall 10-1pm.

(b) Council **AGREED** the outstanding cut of the Churchyard grass should be made at the end of October/early November, but with at least a fortnight gap after the last contracted cut.

11. Right of Way Improvement Plan 2018-2028

Cllr Flack noted that there were three footpaths currently not shown on the Definitive Map.

1. The path running behind the houses on St Mary's Hill
2. The path running from The Paddocks Close to Main Street
3. The path running from Lindsey Close to Main Street (this was detailed on an earlier version of the Definitive Map but appears to have 'dropped off.')

The Council registered their concerns and discussed the best way to move forward. It was suggested it would be necessary to apply for a Definitive Map Modification Order requiring a number of hurdles to be overcome in terms of evidence and land ownership. Cllr Hansford offered to look into the matter further and speak to the relevant authorities with regards to the missing Lindsey close path and the two unadopted paths becoming recognised rights of way.

Cllr Hansford also agreed to advertise for a Parish Path Warden to ensure local pathways were free from obstruction and kept in reasonable condition.

12. Accounts

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

Churchyard Grass Cutting (July)	£180.00p
Churchyard Grass Cutting (August)	£360.00p
Clerk's Salary (Nett)	£210.60p
HMRC (Income Tax)	£52.65p

(b) Council **AGREED** the DD for the Salix loan repayment and the ICO annual sub.

(c) Council **AGREED** to remove John Thorpe as signatory on the bank account and replace with Amy Miller and agrees to abide by the CO-OP regulations.

13. Correspondence

(a) Ncalc AGM – Council appointed Cllr. Hansford as it's delegate to the Ncalc AGM on 5th October.

(b) JAG meeting - Council appointed Cllr. Blackmore as it's delegate to the JAG meeting on 2nd October.

(c) Council confirmed the date of the next Parish Council Meeting as the 14th October. Clerk to change village hall booking from the 7th to the 14th. Cllr. Hansford to prepare and circulate the Agenda.

14. Opportunity to Update Colleagues

Cllr Flack reported that the wildflower meadow had been cut and requested that the resulting rubbish could be taken to the bonfire site.

Cllr Hansford on behalf of the Council welcomed the new Clerk/RFO and accepted the resignation of John Thorpe from the position thanking him for all his effort and diligence shown during his time in the role.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Council would be held on Monday 14th October 2019.

16. The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45pm

Chairman's Signature

14th October 2019

Prepared by Amy Miller – Clerk and RFO

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6th September 2019