



## WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 REMOTELY at 8.00PM

### (DRAFT) MINUTES

**Present:** Cllr Hansford (Chairman) Cllr Neville (Vice Chairman), Cllr Blackmore, Cllr Flack, Cllr Jenner and Amy Miller (Clerk and RFO)

#### 1. Declarations of Interests from Councillors

None

#### 2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Guttridge

#### 3. Public Time

A member of the public attended presenting a proposal concerning the management of the Church Yard. It was suggested this peaceful facility in the village may benefit from a small area being less intensely mown with a view to increasing biodiversity in the area, allowing wildflowers to grow and insect habitats to develop. This would perhaps, encourage people who currently walk through the Church Yard, in one gate and out of another, to spend more time there, relax and contemplate.

It would be a small gradual change, seeking advice and working with the village to gain support. It was noted that this had been successful in the Church Yard at Stoke Doyle and further advice could be taken from the Northants Wildlife Trust subject to everyone being on board.

Councillors thought it was an interesting idea and agreed it had been successful on the allotments. However, it would need the support of the village and the Parochial Church Council. Other points raised included the need for clear access to the stones for ancestry tracing and possible grant availability for such schemes.

In summary, the Parish Council **AGREED** in principle for the member of public to pursue ideas and work on a proposal to share with the Parish Council at a later date.

#### 4. Minutes of Meeting Held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020, having been previously circulated, were **AGREED** and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

## 5. Matters arising from Previous Minutes (not covered elsewhere on Agenda)

- (a) The Village Hall Committee had acknowledged receipt of the letter from the Parish Council. However, there was no discussion due to the pending country wide lock down. It was agreed nothing would change in the immediate future, but the Parish Council offer of help still stands.
- (b) The sign for the playground was still work in progress and not noted on this month's agenda.

## 6. Speeding in and through the Village

Cllr. Blackmore, despite, trying to contact Steve Barber from ENC Highways had received no response. The camera remains at the end of Orchard Lane facing the Apethorpe direction.

Cllr. Jenner noted there had been an increase in the volume of the traffic through the village, but it was thought this may have been due to the closure of the road between Apethorpe and Kings Cliffe.

## 7. Playing Fields/Playground

- (a) The monthly playground report had not been carried out due to the current refurbishment works and outstanding cleaning requirements. Cllr. Hansford offered to help with the pressure washing when the refurb was finished.
- (b) Cllr Blackmore said repairs were going well but the cutting of the oak had been a time-consuming process and the project was quite substantial. There was a request for a further circa £150 for materials which was agreed in principle. Cllr. Blackmore to send the clerk receipts for the next meeting. It was hoped works would finish mid-November and that Cllr. Guttridge would be able to assist with the metal work. The pieces would then be ready for painting, using paint offered by Cllr. Flack or new paint having to be sourced.

## 8. Cemetery

An increase in Cemetery fees has been an agenda item for several months with no conclusive outcome. It has been a difficult issue as plot prices have not increased for ten years, yet maintenance costs have. It is a facility for the village with associated costs, but, costs everyone in the village contributes to through the precept. For this reason, although our prices are well below our peers they would not significantly change for village residents. However, non village residents who wish to be buried in Woodnewton (no connection to the village) would see prices increase.

Cllr Hansford put forward a **PROPOSAL** of a one off increase for non village resident plots of 35 % (the ten year inflation increase) bringing us into line with our peers from January 2021. This was unanimously **AGREED** by **ALL**.

Due to the sensitive and difficult nature of this item, further discussion determined the need for an objective and transparent policy to be adopted going forward. Cllr Hansford **PROPOSED** from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 all fees would increase annually, by the CPI inflation figure released the previous September. Prices would be updated on the Cemetery pages on the Woodnewton Hub. This was unanimously **AGREED** by **ALL**.

## 9. Accounts

As at 31/10/2020 the bank balance stood at £25,467.11

(a) Council <b>AGREED</b> the following payments:	
Clerk Salary (October)	£286,87
Woodnewton Newsletter	
£60.00	
(b) Council <b>Noted</b> the following remittances:	
VAT Rebate	£839.91
Allotment rents	£132.00

## 10 Financials

The Clerk had prepared the quarterly financials, July to the end of September. It was noted that at the half year mark, budgeted to actual were in line and all was in order. A thorough check of expenses and income had been carried out by Cllr. Guttridge who had signed off the bank statement, the bank account reconciliation and the budget to actual expenditure by header. There were no questions raised and it was **AGREED** all was in good order and substantiated.

## 11 Parking

Parking continues to be an issue in the village with the obstruction of pavements and lack of consideration parking in places where roads narrow, or, at junctions on blind bends. This had been raised in the Woodnewton Newsletter but continues. It was **AGREED** polite notices could be placed on cars in the village deemed to have parked without consideration for others. The wording of the notices would follow that of the Woodnewton Newsletter.

## 12. Village Clean Up Day

A big thank you from the Parish Council to all who came and helped. 22 volunteers joined us on a pleasant and sunny October morning. Lots was achieved from litter picking, clearing of over growth, tidying of the Church Yard and a great trailer service backwards and forwards to the bonfire. Thank you everyone. There are still some jobs to do but hopefully these can be tackled in the Spring.

It was noted when trying to tidy the hedge adjacent to the zip wire in the playing field\Ashby's drive that this was a particularly difficult task further impeded by the brambles at low level. It was requested the clerk get a quote from our current contractor for an annual trim and tidy.

Due to better weather (and a bit of luck) this year the bonfire has been burned in stages, shortly after the clean up day and again before closure. This has resulted in a small amount left to burn and tidy. Thanks were extended to Cllr Flack and his team of volunteers for overseeing the two bonfires and the final one to be arranged.

### 13. Correspondence

(a) Cllr Blackmore attended the JAG meeting 07/10/20 – the focus of the meeting was vehicle related anti-social behaviour inconsiderate parking, speeding in villages etc.

(b) Cllr Hansford attended the first meeting of the Rural Coordination Group Meeting which replaces the Oundle Area Parish Group Meeting (the meeting of 26 parishes arranged by ENC.) The group aims to unite rural parishes ensuring smaller parishes do not lose their voice, are fully communicated too and can unite for possible buying\procurement power in the future.

### 14. Opportunity to Update Colleagues

Cllr. Blackmore stated Woodnewton had been selected by SALIX to form part of their internal audit. SALIX being the company providing the interest free loan taken out for part funding of the streetlight project. Savings made on our energy bills cover the 5-year loan.

Cllr. Neville had chased up the broken Nassington Road sign and wooden foot bridge issue with ENC.

Cllr. Hansford confirmed the playground remained open during this lockdown.

### 15. Woodnewton Newsletter

It was **AGREED** the next monthly newsletter would feature a gentle reminder on dog fouling in the village.

### 16. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 8.00pm remotely.

### 17. Close of Meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.35

Vice Chairman's Signature.....

Prepared by Amy Miller Clerk and RFO

E-mail: [woodnewtonpc@gmail.com](mailto:woodnewtonpc@gmail.com)

Telephone 07767 308859

8<sup>h</sup> November 2020

Date 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020

