



## WOODNEWTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MONDAY 19th April 2021 REMOTELY, 7.30PM

### (DRAFT) MINUTES

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

**The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm**

**1. Apologies for absence**

Received from Cllr Blackmore

**2. Welcome Cllr Hansford**

**3. Cllr Hansford presented the annual report of the Council – Appendix 1.**

**4. The Clerk presented a financial update on the year – Appendix 2.**

**5. No discussions were held as no members of the public attended.**

**6. No questions were raised or submitted.**

**7. Close of Meeting - The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.05**

Chairman's Signature.....

Date 7th June 2021

Prepared by Amy Miller Clerk and RFO

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

Telephone 07767 308859

13<sup>th</sup> May 2021

## **Annual Village Meeting 2021**

### **Chairman's Report**

2020/21 has been another busy year for the Council albeit heavily influenced of course by the Covid-19 pandemic which has affected all our lives over the past 12 months. It seems only right at this point to reflect on all the help and support provided by individuals and by the Woodnewton Support Group volunteers to residents, friends and neighbours in the village and the surrounding area. It is at times like these that the benefits of living in a small, close knit community are really emphasised.

As a result of the Covid-19 measures all Council meetings have happened via Zoom this year.

Following consideration of alternatives, Council AGREED a budget for 2021 to 2022 which covered all known costs and expected increases, whilst maintaining a reasonable reserve to cover contingencies. The budget would require a precept increase of £305 or 2% (£15,245 to £15,550).

In no particular order:

#### **Cemetery**

A brown garden waste bin was provided to replace the old wooden compost bin. In addition, a black bin has replaced the old dustbin which was regularly full of water. It is hoped that this will keep the area tidier and more presentable.

An increase in Cemetery fees was discussed and after much consideration it was agreed that a one-off increase for non-village residents who wish to be buried in Woodnewton would apply from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. After a ten-year period without any increase in fees, and the sensitive nature of issue it was determined that an objective and transparent process be put in place for calculating future rises. It was agreed that from January 2022 all fees would increase annually by the published inflation rate.

#### **Playing Field**

Once again, this year the playground was an area for on-going maintenance work with a constant focus on safety. Led by Cllrs Blackmore and Guttridge, the roundabout and rocking horse were completely refurbished. Installed 46 years ago, and now considered vintage items the Council thought it important



that these heritage pieces received some TLC to extend their life and allow more generations of children to enjoy them. The roundabout and the horse were fully stripped back and completely overhauled. Re-boarded, greased and re-painted, the working life of both has been extended well beyond their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The Bonfire site was made available to residents in October as usual for the disposal of garden waste even though there was not the usual village fireworks and bonfire event. The Council thought it important that this facility was continued, and it is thanks to the volunteers who took time to burn all the rubbish safely and clear up afterwards.

Clean Up Day: this twice-yearly event remains a vital part of the Council's work and allows us to do a number of jobs that we would otherwise not be able to afford. The Council extends its thanks to all the volunteers who have taken part in our Covid compliant days this year. Jobs big and small have been done but all contribute to keeping our village a clean and tidy place to live.

Grass Cutting remains the single largest expense of the Council. Our Contractors have both provided a good service over the last 12 months and helped us to keep the village to the standard that residents have requested.

The Council applied for additional sites to host the Speed Detection Sign. The portable sign has been seen to encourage drivers to slow down and by moving it around different areas of the village it helps to minimise motorists ignoring the sign through over-familiarity.

Planning applications are handled by Cllr Alex Neville and while most are uncontroversial the Council policy of defending the development boundary of the village continues.

The allotments continue to go from strength to strength under the passionate stewardship of Cllr Flack. New tenants have been welcomed into the fold, and the Plots are kept at a high standard which is credit to the tenants and a great reflection on the village.

### **Residents Survey**

It is 15 years since the Parish Council completed a full survey of the village to get an insight into resident's views, the make-up of our society and the future needs to be addressed. The change to the new Unitary Authority in April brings

new challenges with many strategic policies being reviewed and changed to reflect the new geographic area under its control. It is vitally important that the Council can respond to consultations with facts, and that working in the new Oundle rural parishes group we can have our voice in driving the direction of Council strategy. Over the next few weeks, you will have full details about the survey, and it would be great if you could take the time to respond so that the conclusions are fully representative of all residents.

To conclude I record my thanks to my fellow Councillors, Neville, Blackmore, Guttridge, Flack and Jenner for all their work over the past 12 months. I would also like to add particular thanks to Roger Flack and Russ Jenner who are standing down this time for their contribution to village life over many years including their time serving as Parish Councillors.

I should also remind everyone that we have 2 vacancies on the Council so if anyone is interested in joining then please shout. Ultimately if we do not have the Councillors we need, then the running of the village would be taken over by the new unitary authority and residents would have little say in what happens and would have to make do with services provided to the village that mean nothing to someone in a Council office in Kettering.

On a personal note, you will notice how many times I have referred to the work being done by volunteers. Without you, we would not achieve so much as we simply could not afford it, so a huge thank you from me.

The Parish Council is here to represent residents, and to make that effective we need your engagement. Meetings are open to everyone and we are always willing to listen to suggestions and ideas.

Andrew Hansford



**BUDGET MONITORING 2020 -2021**

**EXPENDITURE HEAD**

Administration - Insurance/M'ships/Fees  
Administration - Office Costs  
Salary - Clerk  
Salary - Website Administration  
Playground (Inspections and Repairs)  
Street Lights - Electricity  
Street Lights - Repairs  
Grass and Village Maintenance  
Project (Fixed Asset) -  
Project (Salix Loan Repayment)  
Communications  
Clean Up Day  
Cemetery, Allotments and Church Yard  
Training Including Mileage

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NCALC Sub, Insurance, ICO Licence, Newsletter Grant  
VH Hire Clerk Expenses  
Clerk Salary  
  
ROPSA Inspec + Repairs  
Elec  
HJ Hoticulture and RJC and village maintenance  
Non planned for 2020/21 street lights and SSO Notice  
  
Allotment Water, Allotment projects, Repairs  
Courses

YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	Budget
30/06/2020	30/09/2020	31/12/2020	30/03/2021	2020 to 2021	
£1,264.61	£1,544.61	£1,604.61	£1,754.61	£1,500.00	
£131.99	£195.97	£195.97	£195.97	£540.00	
£1,090.32	£1,895.67	£2,848.36	£3,708.97	£3,400.00	
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£650.00	
£0.00	£704.30	£1,257.30	£1,308.18	£500.00	
£115.59	£231.18	£231.18	£464.92	£400.00	
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
£720.00	£4,024.31	£6,072.80	£7,928.65	£9,296.00	
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
£385.10	£385.10	£770.20	£770.20	£770.00	
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£190.00	
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£190.00	
£66.01	£188.00	£363.16	£794.87	£160.00	
£0.00	£44.00	£44.00	£44.00	£260.00	
£3,773.62	£9,213.14	£13,387.58	£16,970.37	£17,856.00	

**TOTAL EXPENDITURE**

**INCOME**

Carry-Over of Funds from Previous Year

Precept  
Allotment Rents  
NCC Grass Cutting Contribution  
Village Hall Ground Rent  
Woodnewton Players' Shed Rent  
Burial Income (Exclusive Rights etc)  
VAT Refund  
Grants  
Parish Watch Closure  
Write In of cancelled cheque 200637  
INCOME 2020 to 2021

YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	Budget
30/06/2020	30/09/2020	31/12/2020	30/03/2021	2020 to 2021
£9,724.32	£9,724.32	£9,724.32	£9,724.32	£9,724.32
£7,622.50	£15,245.00	£15,245.00	£15,245.00	£15,245.00
£464.06	£288.00	£420.00	£420.00	£420.00
£5.00	£464.06	£464.06	£464.06	£464.06
£0.00	£5.00	£5.00	£10.00	£5.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£12.00	£12.00
£0.00	£45.00	£350.00	£350.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£839.31	£1,226.72	£0.00
£325.00	£10,325.00	£10,325.00	£10,575.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£46.18	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£52.60	£0.00
£8,416.56	£26,372.06	£27,648.37	£28,401.56	£16,146.06

**TOTAL 2020 to 2021 (Income plus carry over)**

**Total Available (Income plus carry over  
minus Total Expenditure)**

£18,140.88	£36,096.38	£37,372.69	£38,125.88	£25,870.38
£14,367.26	£26,883.24	£23,985.11	£21,155.51	£8,014.38