



# WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

## Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021, Village Hall, 8pm

### (DRAFT) MINUTES

**Present:** Cllr Neville (Vice Chairman), Cllr Guttridge, Cllr Blackmore, Councillor Phythian, Cllr Goodall, Cllr Swallow, 2 members of the public and Amy Miller (Clerk and RFO)

#### 1. Declarations of Interests from Councillors

None

#### 2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Hansford

#### 3. Public Time

It was a pleasure to meet two residents who had recently moved to the village and came to introduce themselves at tonight's meeting.

#### 4. Minutes of Meeting Held - October 2021.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021, having been previously circulated, were **AGREED** and are ready to be signed by the Vice-Chairman, as a correct record.

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

None

#### 6. Church Yard.

The final plans for the churchyard and cemetery showing the initial areas chosen for the rewilding were **PROPOSED** by Cllr Phythian, **SECONDED** by Cllr Neville and **AGREED** by all subject to resident approval. No work would begin until later next year and the changes would be effected in small steps.

#### 7. Speeding in and Through the Village (Cllr Blackmore\Swallow)

(a) The camera batteries are due to be replaced but in the current weather are only lasting about a week.

(b) Cllr Swallow confirmed we had been awarded the full grant of £5,000 towards vehicle activated speed signs for the village. The Council is awaiting receipt of the funds before the new signs can be ordered.

## 8. Playing Fields/Playground

(a) Cllr Neville promised the playground report by the end of the week.

(b) Adult Exercise Equipment - No further updates until the funding decision is determined in January.

(c) Playground repairs have been minimal during the cold and wet weather.

However thank you to the Councillors and Mark Williams who helped clear branches from Ashby's Lane to the bonfire after the storm damage.

Cllr Blackmore will check an adventure trail post which has been reported as possibly weakened.

## 9. Planning

(a) NE/21/01662/FUL – 6 Pridmore Close, ground floor rear extension and first floor rear extension above garage – No Objection.

(b) NE/21/01753/TCA – Tree Work in Conservation Area, 65 Main Street – No Objection.

## 10. Accounts

As at 31/10/2021 the bank balance stood at £25,069

Council **AGREED** the following payments:

Clerk Salary (November)	£286.87
Woodnewton Newsletter & Website	£150.00

## 11. Finance

Initial discussions took place with regards to the precept setting for 2022/23. The current financial year has a budget of £19,500 and raised a precept of £15,550. It was acknowledged reserves held were solid but there were projects on the horizon requiring Parish Council contributions of nearly 6k versus the 23k funding being raised. There are also smaller projects that residents were keen to see happen (Agenda Item 15) which were important along with carrying forward reasonable reserves for works to the church wall (10k ring fenced) and possible tree works (3k). It was also noted that inflation was running at circa 4% as the Council goes to tender on the grass cutting and village maintenance contracts (circa 10k of budget) plus insurance for the next financial year. Clerk to calculate various scenarios for resolution at the January meeting.

## 12. Allotments

The clerk had not managed to move forward with the clearance of the overgrown plots on the allotments – action rolled.

## 13. Church Yard

A local tree surgeon was consulted with regards to the horse chestnut trees on St Mary's Hill, particularly one that was damaged in the storms. It was suggested a more detailed report would need to be carried out by a tree consultant or arboriculturalist – the clerk to take this forward.

## 14. Cemetery

(a) Council **AGREED** to a request for an additional inscription to a memorial stone in the cemetery for a recent burial.

(b) Council **AGREED** the cemetery price increase for 2021 across the board of 3.1% as **RESOLVED** December 2020 to increase cemetery prices in line with the annual rate of inflation as at September each year. Clerk to update the cemetery fees.

## 15. Ongoing:

A new agenda item to **CONSIDER** items to be included on the agenda going forward and discussed as appropriate – it will be entitled rolling agenda items so they are not forgotten but may not always be discussed.

(a) Village Information Boards

(b) Verges – flower/bulb planting ideas

(c) Dog waste bins – clerk to check policy on black bin usage

(d) Large poppies for the village 2022 i.e., lamp posts.

(e) Church Wall Survey – to be carried out so a plan of action for wall maintenance and reserves can be detailed.

## 16. Correspondence:

Council noted the correspondence below:

(a) Letter 11 Orchard Lane – clerk to respond

(b) JAG Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> January

(c) Thank you to those who helped clear up after the storms

(d) Note the Invitation to the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner Virtual Councillor meeting on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm Via Microsoft Teams.

(e) Northamptonshire Police - Local Identified Priorities online survey 29/11/21

## 17. Councillors' Opportunity to Update Colleagues:

Cllr Swallow raised the overgrown banks opposite the church and near the bridge – clerk to input into street doctor.

Cllr Blackmore noted the next JAG meeting was to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> January.

Cllr Neville updated on the burglary of a catalytic converter that had taken place on Orchard Lane.

## 18. Woodnewton Newsletter

It was **AGREED** the next monthly newsletter would wish "Happy New Year" to all and a note to remind everyone of our pending new vehicle activated speed signs coming soon to the village.

## 19. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

**20. Close of Meeting**

The Vice-Chairman closed the meeting at 21.32

Chairman's Signature.....

Date 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Prepared by Amy Miller Clerk and RFO

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

6<sup>th</sup> December 2021