



WOODNEWTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MONDAY 11th April 2022, VILLAGE HALL, 7pm

(DRAFT) MINUTES

Present: Cllr Hansford (Chairman) Cllr Neville (Vice Chairman), Cllr Blackmore, Cllr Phythian, Cllr Guttridge, Cllr Swallow, Cllr Goodall, Amy Miller (Clerk and RFO) and Six Residents.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Welcome Cllr Hansford

3. Cllr Hansford presented the Chairman's Annual Report – Appendix 1.

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

5. Councillors Introductions - their roles and responsibilities

Each Councillor introduced themselves and gave a brief review of the areas they oversee and the projects they are currently involved with on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr Neville (VICE CHAIR) – Alex oversees planning applications, printing off all information, checking for any impact on neighbours \the street scene etc and updated the council. It is noted the Council view holds no more or less weighting than any other consultee or commentor. Alex is also our Newsletter liaison and a valuable contact for the Village Hall.

Cllr Phythian oversees the Church Yard and is very involved in the re-wilding project the village is embarking on with guidance from David Townsend. She has set up a page on the Woodnewton Hub with further information and hopes to form a working party to help with the project. She has worked closely with residents to ensure everyone is aware and happy with the step-based project and is liaising with the contractors to ensure the necessary cutting program is understood.

Cllr Guttridge is our CFO and has full oversight of all things financial as a second pair of eyes and checks all reconciliations and accounts that form the basis of our annual audit process. He also works closely with Cllr Blackmore helping to maintain and refurb the

playground equipment. Finally he is the Kings Cliffe Liaison Meeting representative to ensure we are fully up to speed with all things Augean.

Cllr Swallow joined us this year and covers all thing Highways, Pavements and Pathways along with our path warden Merklyn Hauk. Cllr Swallow after seeing the results of the Parish survey secured a £5,000 grant for our new speed cameras in a bid to reduce speeding through the village and has worked with ENC and other Parish Councils to secure high quality equipment with minimum spend requirements from the Parish council.

Cllr Blackmore oversees all things Playground. After the successful street light replacement grant, he secured and completion of the project; he has moved on to secure a large grant for the playground. This grant will enable us to have several outdoor adult exercise equipment pieces and an outside table tennis for our thriving table tennis crew. Cllr Blackmore has done an amazing job restoring, fixing and prolonging the life of so many pieces of equipment in the playground and on our playing fields. He is also our JAG and Police Liaison Representative working with other local Parish Councils.

Cllr Goodall also recently joined us and oversees the allotments. He is concentrating on getting to know all the plot holders and their plots. He has big shoes to fill but works closely with the allotment legend Mr Flack to keep things running smoothly. His current project is to clear the last part of the allotments in a bid to clear our waiting list.

6. Question Time

Several topics were raised.

A resident from St Mary's Hill explained about the issue of the old clay pipe sewer. The pipe is very old and narrow and runs down St Mary's Hill. Anglian Water have had to attend several times recently due to blockages. Once being the tree roots from the horse chestnuts in the church yard and at least two other times due to wet wipes and hygiene products blocking the narrow sewer which has, over its life had an ever-increasing catchment area. The resident wished for other residents to be aware and mindful of these issues as blockages leads to contamination of fresh water run off into the brook.

Concerns were raised about the trees on Orchard Lane near the allotments and possible remedial works required – a closer look would be taken on the village clean-up day.

Dog waste bins were raised. These remain on the agenda as an ongoing rolling item. Black bins in this area can be used as waste bins for bagged dog waste of which we currently have three in the village - more are being considered.

One resident was concerned with the rewilding project in the Cemetery. Hopefully these fears were allayed when it was explained all graves would be respected, kept clean, tidy, and cut regularly. The rewilding would only be for the part of the Cemetery which is not in use and unlikely to be for some time.

There were more general comments about the speed cameras, Jubilee plans, tree works that were all answered by Councillors as necessary.

7. Close of Meeting - The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.15

Chairman's Signature.....

Date 3rd May 2022

Prepared by Amy Miller Clerk and RFO

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19th April 2022

Annual Village Meeting 2022

Chairman's Report

2021/22 has been another busy year for the Council. The easing of restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic has meant the Council has been able to resume normal business and meet in person. Our May meeting was the first time we had met in person for 14 months and it is so nice to be able to interact face to face with everyone.

In May we welcomed Marcus Swallow to the Council following the elections and in June, Alison Phythian, and Nigel Goodall were co-opted meaning that for the first time for many years we had a full complement of seven Counsellors. At this point I should also thank Alex, Paul & Peter for their continuing service and especially our Clerk, Amy, without whom the Council would not function.

Budget

Following consideration of alternatives Council agreed a budget for 2022/23 which covered all known costs and expected increases whilst maintaining a reasonable reserve to cover contingencies. The budget would require a precept increase of £622 pounds or 4% from £15,550 to £16,172.

Rather than go through each month I thought I would summarise the work we have done in the main areas for which the Council is responsible.

Cemetery and churchyard

In addition to the normal maintenance and arrangements for burials the Council embarked on an ambitious project to enhance the wildlife and biodiversity in the churchyard and the cemetery. Following a detailed survey of the various habitats it was decided to implement a long-term plan of managed interventions in areas where there are already a diverse range of species to encourage them to develop into sustainable populations. This plan would be done sympathetically in relation to the upkeep of graves and the general look of the areas. It is reiterated that the plan is not to let these areas just grow wild and be taken over by brambles and self-set trees etc, but be a properly managed project.

Playing field and playground

After last year's ambitious project led by Counsellors Blackmore & Gutridge to refurbish the roundabout and rocking horse this year's activity had centred around general maintenance of the equipment, removal of broken equipment and repairs to the safety surface. After many delays the plan to install gym equipment and a table tennis table has finally made progress thanks to the dogged determination of Councillor Blackmore.

The Bonfire site was made available to residents in October as usual for the disposal of garden waste even though there wasn't a village fireworks and bonfire event. The Council thinks it important that this facility is 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

Allotments:

The allotments continue to go from strength to strength under the stewardship of Cllr Goodhall. Plots are kept at a high standard which is a credit to the tenants.

I should also like to thank Roger Flack who retired from the Council in May and who had put so much effort in as a Councillor and Allotment Holder to get the allotments to where they are today.

Speeding

After many years of trying the Council has finally been able to install 3 speed cameras at each of the entrances to the village. These cameras indicate the speed to approaching vehicles entering the 30-mph zone, can be programmed to flash messages and record speeds and the information can be downloaded.

These cameras are a big improvement on the old cameras that we had on loan for a period, are permanently wired into the lighting system and require much less maintenance.

Planning

The Council is consulted by North Northants Council (NNC) on many planning applications over the course of the year. These applications are normally the usual; extensions, windows, trees, and change of use. The Council can object on a limited number of reasons however our objections do not carry any more or less weight than anyone else.

However, in 2021, we had an application for a 5G mast located in the middle of the village on orchard lane adjacent to the playing field. Due to the vagaries of the planning system this application would have been approved by default had NNC not responded within the required time frame. The Council took a proactive view from the beginning to engage with the applicants to understand the issues to consider alternatives and to generally work with them if possible. A public meeting was held to inform residents which over 85 people attended. The Council also held a site meeting with our local representative and wrote to NNC and our local MP. The village joined together in opposing the site and 131 public comments were registered on the planning portal. We even had our own protest camp for a while. It is fair to say that this was the biggest planning issue that's the village has seen in many years. On October 7th NNC refused the application and we have not heard of any follow up or new applications from the applicant since. The village came together on this issue, and it just goes to show what can be achieved when a community makes the effort to have its voice heard and subsequently the powers that be listened and reacted.

Resident survey

For the first time in 15 years the Council completed a survey to better understand the issues concerning residents and their ideas for the future. 104 responses were received which represented 204 people or 46% of the population. This was a great response and has already impacted on the work of the Council and provided evidence which is used in grant applications.

Local Issues

The Council continues to monitor and respond where appropriate to local issues, mainly development. This includes the expansion of housing in Oundle numbering some 700 houses over the next five years potentially. The warehouse developments at Thrapston and the Peterborough Gateway Development at the A1-A605 roundabout. We do not have the opportunity to input into all these projects but where we do, we can and our responses are normally centred around the impact on services such as health and education provision and the likely increase in traffic levels on our narrow country roads rather than the actual developments themselves.

Ongoing

The Council will continue to work to improve the quality of life and the environment within the village. We have very little power and a relatively small budget to achieve all the things that we would like to do. The Council achieves most of its success by appealing to the goodwill and community mindedness of residents to trim hedges, cut verges, pick up dog mess et cetera. Most of the maintenance work and other small tasks are all done by volunteers which saves the Council a lot of money each year. We are thankful to everyone who has contributed to village life over the past 12 months in whatever way and however large or small

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
Chairman, Woodnewton Parish Council

BUDGET 2021 -2022

EXPENDITURE HEAD	Current YTD 30/06/2021	Current YTD 30/09/2021	Current YTD 31/12/2021	Current YTD 31/03/2021	Budget 2021 to 2022
Administration - Insurance/M'ships/Fees	£1,412.92	£1,692.92	£1,902.92	£1,902.92	£1,750.00
Administration - Office Costs	£90.98	£247.44	£247.44	£569.69	£500.00
Salary - Clerk	£993.01	£1,853.62	£2,714.23	£3,841.04	£3,616.00
Salary - Website Administration	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£650.00
Playground (Inspections and Repairs)	£74.00	£264.91	£1,132.34	£1,132.34	£500.00
Street Lights - Electricity	£114.32	£229.91	£352.47	£512.50	£400.00
Street Lights - Repairs	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Grass and Village Maintenance	£1,224.00	£2,244.00	£5,895.67	£9,492.25	£10,196.00
Project Speed Cameras (Fixed Asset) -	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£7,284.33	£0.00
Project (Salix Loan Repayment)	£385.10	£385.10	£770.20	£770.20	£770.00
Communications	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£190.00
Clean Up Day	£0.00	£0.00	£70.26	£70.26	£190.00
Cemetery, Allotments and Church Yard	£196.58	£196.58	£196.58	£317.71	£500.00
Training Including Mileage	£0.00	£44.00	£88.00	£88.00	£250.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£4,490.91	£7,158.48	£13,370.11	£25,981.24	£19,512.00

INCOME	YTD 30/03/2021	YTD 30/09/2021	YTD 31/12/2021	YTD 31/03/2021	Budget 2021 to 2022
Reserves c/f from 2021	£21,102.91	£21,102.91	£21,102.91	£21,102.91	£21,102.91
Precept	£15,550.00	£15,550.00	£15,550.00	£15,550.00	£15,861.00
Allotment Rents		£336.00	£576.00	£576.00	£420.00
NCC Grass Cutting Contribution					£464.06
Village Hall Ground Rent				£5.00	£5.00
Woodnewton Players' Shed Rent				£12.00	£12.00
Bural Income (Exclusive Rights etc)		£220.00	£310.00	£310.00	£0.00
VAT Refund	£528.78	£528.78	£1,543.15	£3,139.37	£0.00
Grants			£5,000.00	£5,233.30	£0.00
Sundry		£15.00	£15.00	£15.00	
INCOME 2020 to 2021	£16,078.78	£16,649.78	£22,994.15	£24,840.67	£16,762.06
TOTAL 2020 to 2021 (Income plus carry over)	£37,181.69	£37,752.69	£44,097.06	£45,943.58	£37,864.97
Reserves (Income + carry forward reserves less expenditure)	£32,690.78	£30,594.21	£30,726.95	£19,962.34	

EXPENDITURE HEAD

Administration - Insurance/M'ships/Fees	NCALC Sub, Insurance, ICO Licence, Newsletter Grant
Administration - Office Costs	VH Hire Clerk Expenses
Salary - Clerk	Clerk Salary
Salary - Website Administration	
Playground (Inspections and Repairs)	ROPSA Inspec + Repairs
Street Lights - Electricity	Elec
Grass and Village Maintenance	HJ Hoticulture and RJC
Project (Fixed Asset)	
Project (Salix Loan Repayment)	
Communications	
Clean Up Day	
Cemetery, Allotments and Church Yard	Allotment Water, Allotment projects, Repairs
Training Including Mileage	Courses

2021-22 Projects

Church Wall Repairs
Allotments
Adult Exercise Equipment

don't budget costs nett of VAT