



WOODNEWTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, TUESDAY 11th April 2023 VILLAGE HALL, 7.30pm

(DRAFT) MINUTES

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

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Goodall

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 spoke on topics of interest they had been involved in over the last year.

Cllr Neville (VICE CHAIR) – Alex oversees planning applications, printing off all information, checking for any impact on neighbours\the street scene etc and updating the council. It is noted the council view holds no more or less weighting than any other consultee or commentor. As mentioned in the Chairman's report Alex also spoke about the planning application and appeal for the 5G Mast on Orchard Lane. She thanked the village for their support and involvement. 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. She explained how the project was developing and adapting to people's responses and suggestions. It had been agreed that this year, in the Church Yard, the modern graves behind the Church would be managed so the graves could be easily accessed. Alison is also a valued member of the council regularly showcasing her artistic abilities designing flyers and promotional material for many of our village events which she helps organise.

Cllr Swallow oversees all thing Highways, Pavements and Pathways along with our path warden Merklyn Hauk. Cllr Swallow is committed to helping Woodnewton be the best it can be. He has been instrumental in setting up a village litter picking day which was well attended and very successful covering the village and the routes entering and exiting the village. He also secured a number of daffodil bulbs and organised their planting across the village. He has even been spotted rake in hand sowing grass seed after an enthusiastic village clean-up day last year.

Cllr Guttridge is our CFO and has full oversight of all things financial as a second pair of eyes checking all reconciliations and accounts that form the basis of our annual audit process. He works closely with Cllr Blackmore helping to maintain and refurbish the playground equipment. This year he has been very involved with several difficult planning applications, representing the Parish Council at the NNC Planning Committee in Thrapston and following up with the NNC Planning Committee in a bid for accountability on their part when using incorrect and misleading information to make decisions. Lastly, Peter is the Kings Cliffe Liaison Meeting representative to ensure we are fully up to speed with all things Auean.

Cllr Blackmore gave a brief update on headline stats from the village speed cameras which made interesting hearing. He then updated on his success securing another large grant for the playground enabling the building of the new outside table tennis table and the suite of adult exercise equipment pieces. 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 Blackmore worked closely with the Grunseid family to help with their generous donation of the new 4 seat see saw and picnic table and benches.

6. Question Time

Several topics were raised.

Dog waste bins were raised. These were considered last year as an extra cost to the village. Black bins in this area can be used as waste bins for bagged dog waste of which we currently have three in the village. To place further dog waste bins in the village would be another cost to keep emptied, would not benefit the whole community and would probably, be issueous in their location.

One resident expressed an interest in water testing the Willow Brook as part of a project and was keen to feedback and update through the Parish Council and the village newsletter with findings.

There was a request for another Defibrillator on Main Street in the village. The Village Hall Committee has been pursuing this but they need a power supply to operate and as

yet facilities have not been forthcoming. It was suggested maybe there could be a sign in Main Street to the current defibrillator.

There were more general comments about the speed cameras, Coronation plans and planning that were all answered by Councillors as necessary.

The residents that attended the meeting all thanked the Councillors for their commitment to the village and hard work.

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

Chairman's Signature.....

Date 9th May 2023

Prepared by Amy Miller Clerk and RFO

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20th April 2022

Annual Village Meeting 2023

Chairman's Report

2022/23 has been another busy year for the Council, Royal occasions and planning issues have taken up most of our time.

As always, I would like to thank Alex, Paul, Peter, Alison and Marcus 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 2023/24 which covered all known costs and expected increases whilst maintaining a reasonable reserve to cover contingencies. The budget requires a precept increase of 7.5% from £15,172 to £17,385

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

The wildlife project has been established in both the churchyard and the cemetery. It obviously takes time to establish but some successes have been found with bedstraw for example returning. Some adjustments to the plan based on feedback have also been made to make access to some of the graves easier.

Playing field and playground

After many delays the installation of the gym equipment and a table tennis table was finally accomplished thanks to the dogged determination of Councillor Blackmore. The equipment is open to all and is used regularly but I would like to re-assure residents that there is no plan to measure their fitness levels.

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.

During a grant application, it came to light that in decades past, the playing field and associated land containing the village hall and allotments was never properly registered with the Land Registry as being owned by the Parish Council. With assistance from Richard Hegarty to whom we are immensely grateful this situation has been rectified.

Clean Up Day: this twice-yearly event remains a vital part of the Council's work and allows us to do several 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. In addition, this February Cllr Swallow organised our first dedicated litter picking which sadly was very successful (a lot of litter was collected!)

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.

Speeding

The new speed cameras are working well and allow the Council to periodically publish the speed data recorded in the newsletter.

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.

In July we heard that an appeal had been lodged for the 5G mast on Orchard Lane that was originally turned down by NNC in October 2021. Subsequently in October 2022 the appeal was dismissed.

Following disappointment with the planning process regarding a particular application in the village, Council engaged with NNC to express our concerns with the whole process and the factual inaccuracies contained within Officer's report. The Parish Clerk and Cllr Guttridge put a lot of work into the response and the subsequent follow up with NNC.

Royal Occasions

The Council, and other volunteers organised the Platinum Jubilee celebration for the late Queen in the playing field on 3rd June. Over 250 people attended, and a great time was had by all. At the end of the day the Jubilee beacon was lit. The new commemorative flag was also installed. Thank you to everyone who helped and made the whole jubilee celebration such a success.

Sadly, in September, the new flag was flown at half-mast following the death of the Queen. A book of condolence was made available in the Church.

We are looking forward to the Coronation celebrations on May 7th and 8th. On Sunday 7th May we are holding a 'big picnic' in the Playing Field and on Monday 8th (in line with the King's wishes for community projects) we are appealing for helpers to clear the land at the top of the allotments in readiness for the planting of the Coronation fruit orchard. Any donations towards the trees would be gratefully received.

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 2022-2023

	Current YTD 30/03/2022	Current YTD 30/09/2022	Current YTD 31/12/2022	Current YTD 31/03/2023	Budget 2022 to 2023	Budget
EXPENDITURE HEAD						
Administration - Insurance/M'ships/Fees	£1,297.74	£2,103.81	£2,168.41	£2,366.41	£1,820.00	£546.41
Administration - Office Costs	£95.99	£158.99	£269.99	£341.97	£520.00	£178.03
Salary - Clerk	£1,320.00	£2,640.00	£3,960.00	£5,727.04	£3,760.64	£1,966.40
Salary - Website Administration	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£676.00	£676.00
Playground (Inspections and Repairs)	£0.00	£274.47	£284.25	£284.25	£520.00	£235.75
Playground Project/ KG Memorial	£11,245.45	£11,245.45	£33,939.99	£33,939.99	£0.00	£0.00
Street Lights - Electricity	£305.25	£406.08	£551.26	£669.13	£416.00	£253.13
Grass and Village Maintenance	£1,090.98	£4,332.84	£4,960.74	£9,319.89	£10,603.84	£1,283.95
Project Speed Cameras (Fixed Asset) -	£0.00	£0.00	£26.26	£26.26	£0.00	£26.26
Project (Salix Loan Repayment)	£385.10	£385.10	£770.20	£770.20	£800.80	£30.60
Communications	£0.00	£60.00	£60.00	£60.00	£197.60	£137.60
Clean Up Day/Jubilee Costs	£0.00	£75.00	£75.00	£75.00	£197.60	£122.60
Cemetery, Allotments and Church Yard	£20.16	£199.32	£364.37	£1,166.58	£520.00	£646.58
Training Including Mileage	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£260.00	£260.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£15,760.67	£21,881.06	£47,430.47	£54,746.72	£20,292.48	-£514.25

	YTD 30/03/2022	YTD 30/09/2022	YTD 31/12/2022	YTD 31/03/2023	Budget 2022 to 2023
INCOME					
Reserves c/f from 2022	£19,962.34	£19,962.34	£19,962.34	£19,962.34	£19,962.34
Precept	£16,172.00	£16,172.00	£16,172.00	£16,172.00	£16,172.00
Allotment Rents	£0.00	£288.00	£576.00	£576.00	£576.00
NCC Grass Cutting Contribution	£464.06	£464.06	£464.06	£928.12	£464.06
Village Hall Ground Rent	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Woodnewton Players' Shed Rent	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Burial Income (Exclusive Rights etc)	£235.00	£235.00	£371.00	£1,083.00	£235.00
VAT Refund	£0.00	£1,963.20	£3,716.55	£7,323.60	£3,716.55
Grants	£6,820.00	£6,820.00	£17,015.00	£17,015.00	£6,820.00
Sundry	£0.00	£38.64	£70.83	£70.83	£70.83
KG Memorial Donation	£7,728.64	£7,728.64	£7,728.64	£7,728.64	£7,728.64
INCOME 2022 to 2023	£31,419.70	£33,709.54	£46,114.08	£50,897.19	£35,783.08
TOTAL 2022 to 2023 (Income plus carry over)	£51,382.04	£53,671.88	£66,076.42	£70,859.53	£55,745.42
Reserves	£35,621.37	£31,790.82	£18,645.95	£16,112.81	
(Income + carry forward reserves less expenditure)					

EXPENDITURE HEAD

Administration - Insurance/M'ships/Fees

Administration - Office Costs

Salary - Clerk

Salary - Website Administration

Playground (Inspections and Repairs)

Street Lights - Electricity

Grass and Village Maintenance

Project (Fixed Asset)

Project (Salix Loan Repayment)

Communications

Clean Up Day

Cemetery, Allotments and Church Yard

Training Including Mileage

NCALC Sub, Insurance, ICO Licence, Newsletter Grant

VH Hire Clerk Expenses

Clerk Salary

ROPSA Inspec + Repairs

Elec

HJ Horticulure and RJC

Newsletter advert

Allotment Water, Allotment projects, Repairs

Courses