



WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY 9th MAY 2023, Village Hall after the Annual Council Meeting – Expected 8.20PM

(DRAFT) MINUTES

Present: Cllr Hansford (Chairman) Cllr Neville (Vice Chairman), Cllr Phythian, Cllr Goodall, Cllr Swallow and Amy Miller (Clerk and RFO) two residents.

1. Declarations of Interests from Councillors

None

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Guttridge and Cllr Blackmore

3. Public Time

A resident wished to discuss the rewilding project. They felt although some progress had been made, particularly in the cemetery there was still more to do in the church yard. Concerns were raised about the increased number of cuts in the fastest growing period and the need to find another area in the church yard to rewild following the decision not to continue with rewilding around the modern graves. Suggestions were made for more suitable areas to be considered such as around the older graves. Cllr Hansford was keen to thank the resident for their help, advice and support but reiterated this was a learning curve for all and there were several consultees, all who had valid opinions and thoughts. The rewilding is seen as an ongoing project that needs to evolve and grow with the support of all.

A resident attended to discuss the planning application in 9(a)

4. Minutes of Meeting Held on 11th April 2023.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th April 2023, 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)

None.

6. Church Yard (Cllr Phythian)

There was no update other than the discussion held in public time.

7. Speeding in and through the Village

Cllr. Swallow updated - the speed cameras were all in good working order.

8. Playing Fields/Playground

- (a) The monthly playground report had not been carried out, but all repairs noted over the last couple of months had been carried out by Cllr Blackmore.
- (b) Cllr Blackmore had completed several of the smaller repairs. The tightening of two screws on the monkey bars, fixing the bird prevention spikes above the swings into position, fixed the squeak in the double air walker and some remedial works to the football nets which get holes from the mowing.
- (c) The annual RoSPA check has been confirmed for June.
- (d) Everything necessary has now been sent off to the LR for registry of ownership of the allotments and playing fields. The PC wish to thank Mr Hegarty for his hard work, perseverance and assistance with this matter.

9. Planning

- (a) NE/23/00130/FUL– application for stone build machinery store and home office at the rear barn 17 Main Street. The LPA has asked the PC to remove their objection however following a discussion with a resident and concerns of bricks and mortar permanent structures being permitted beyond the building line the PC agreed not to remove their objection but would be willing to consider a temporary wooden structure\garden structure such as a shed on the site.
- (b) NE/23/00410/FUL – 15 Main Street, temporary garden structure – no objection

10. Accounts

As at 30/04/2023 the bank balance stood at £32,241.00

To **AGREE** the following payments:

Clerk Salary (April)	£480.64
Clerk Microsoft 365	£59.99
RJC (grass cutting 2792)	£264.00
RJC (grass cutting 2796)	£264.00
Insurance	£623.33
Salix DD	£385.10

To **Note** the following remittances:

Coronation Fruit Orchard Donations	£605.00
Annual Precept	£17,385.00
2023 VH rental	£5.00

11. 2022/20232 Year End Internal and External Audit

Council **NOTED** that the expenditure of £54,747 for the year breached the £25,000 limit triggering an external audit requirement.

- (a) Council **CONSIDERED** and **APPROVED** the Internal Audit Report. Annual Governance Statement 2022/2023 presented by the Clerk/RFO. The Statement was signed by the Chairman.
- (b) Council **AGREED** the Annual Governance Statement 2022/2023 presented by the Clerk/RFO. The Statement was signed by the Chairman.

- (c) Council **AGREED** the Annual Accounting Statement 2022/2023 presented by the Clerk/RFO. The Statement was signed by the Chairman.
- (d) Council **AGREED** the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights to inspect the Council's Accounts, as recommended by the auditor, Monday 5th June 2023 to Friday 14th July 2023. This was signed off by the Chairman.
- (e) Council **AGREED** the Analysis of Variances using the proforma supplied by the auditors and the Bank Reconciliation prepared and presented by the Clerk/RFO by the auditor which would be submitted to the External Auditor. These were signed off by the Chairman.

12. Annual Memberships

It was unanimously **AGREED** to continue memberships with NCALC and ICO.

13. Insurance

Three insurance quotes had been received including one from our current insurer. The clerk having compared each quote on a like for like basis, presented the findings and it was **AGREED** to change and insure with BHIB this year.

14. Allotments

The "help out day" of the Coronation weekend saw good progress on the clearance of the allotment that is being dedicated to the village fruit orchard. Cllr Goodall is going to spray the allotment and look to move forward with hiring a man and a digger to finish clearing the larger roots and levelling.

15. Church Yard & Cemetery

A memorial application was approved for the late Mr Danks.
The adapted mowing regime discussed in public time when the church yard would be cut twice monthly during the fast periods of grass growth was agreed, otherwise the grass would get too long and when cut, smother any growth of wildflowers.
A request for tree works on the sycamore tree by the post box in Lyndsey Close was agreed.

16. Coronation Celebrations

It was agreed that the Sunday picnic had been well attended with over 200 visitors on the playing fields with their picnics and drinks enjoying the sunshine, surroundings and celebrating the Coronation in the company of friends and neighbours. Congratulations to Sue Goodall – winner of the fruity bake!
Over 30 volunteers helped on the "help out day" clearing the allotment and were rewarded with tea and cake for their efforts.
The Parish Council wish to thank all those who helped organise, set up and also those who supported the events over the fantastic Coronation Weekend.

17. Ongoing

An 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) Planning continuity and awareness
- (c) Petanque\boules pitch.
- (d) EV chargers at the Village Hall.

18. Correspondence

- (a) Internal audit Tuesday 18th April completed.
- (b) Oundle Open Gardens 10am - 3pm 21st May
- (c) Donations for the Coronation Fruit Orchard to be planted in the autumn.
- (d) A request from a resident for a bouncy castle on the playing field

19. Councillors' Opportunity to Update Colleagues

Cllr Swallow suggested a terracotta plaque for the village hall that had been made and fired in the village to commemorate the Coronation. To be considered.

20. Woodnewton Newsletter

It was **AGREED** the next monthly newsletter feature would remind residents we are still collecting donations for the Coronation Fruit Orchard to be planted in the autumn.

21. Date of next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Monday 5th June 2023

22. Close of Meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.33

Chairman's Signature.....

Date 6th June 2023

Prepared by Amy Miller Clerk and RFO

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14th May 2023