



WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY DECEMBER 4th, 2023, Village Hall, 8pm

(DRAFT) MINUTES

Present: Cllr Hansford (Chairman) Cllr Neville (Vice Chairman), Cllr Goodall, Cllr Swallow, Cllr Pythian, Cllr Blackmore, Amy Miller (Clerk and RFO), 2 members of the public.

1. Declarations of Interests from Councillors

None

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Guttridge

3. Public Time

Two members of the public attended to express their thoughts on the litter bins in the village. Both felt the number of current bins (three) was inadequate and that more would encourage less rubbish and less dog waste issues. There was suggestions of further bins by the Nene Way on Nassington Road and near the grit bin on the road to Conegar Farm. It was explained there is a cost for more village bins, both in terms of the bins themselves and the related waste collection contract. It was **AGREED** to add this as an agenda item for further discussion at the January meeting and associated increased costs to be clarified by the clerk.

4. Minutes of Meeting Held on 6th November 2023.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th November, having been previously circulated, were **AGREED** and signed by the Vice Chairman as a correct record.

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

None.

6. Church Yard (Cllr Pythian)

Cllr Pythian updated that the rewilding in the Cemetery had been cut back but not the Church Yard. Cllr Hansford offered to help with this.

It was noted that some of the village hedge cutting still had not been carried out. This was done and invoiced late December last year, clerk to check with contractor as to when these works will be done.

7. Speeding in and through the Village

All speed signs are working well – no further update.

8. Playing Fields/Playground

- (a) Cllr Pythian provided a comprehensive playground report Several issues were highlighted for monitoring including the rotting fence post in the small play area, some roughness requiring sanding on the pickup sticks, some splitting on the adventure trail post, on the south goal post one of the fixings has sheared and on the adult exercise equipment the washer is escaping from the joint in the double air walker.
- (b) Clerk to ask VH permission to install a tap in the disabled toilet to attach a pressure washer to, in order to maintain outdoor space and equipment.

9. Planning

- (a) NE/23/00961/TCA – 18 Main Street – cypress tree reduction – Permission Granted
- (b) NE/23/00848/TCA– 14 Main Street – holly tree and stump removal – Permission Granted

10. Accounts

As at 30/11/2023 the bank balance stood at £21,771

The following payments were **APPROVED**:

Clerk Salary (November)	£480.64
Clerk Salary (back pay)	£256.00
Woodnewton Newsletter	£150.00
Salix Loan DD	£385.10
Wave DD (allotment water)	£52.71
Npower (final bill)	£105.87
Parish Online	£21.60

The following remittances were **NOTED**:

NNC Grass Cutting Grant	£464.06
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11. Financial Update

Discussions took place with regards to the precept setting for 2024/25 The current financial year has a budget of £22,143 and a precept of £17,385, with the shortfall agreed to be financed out of reserves. Costs for next year were discussed. Keeping current inflation rates in mind, the budget was split out by known costs for 2024/25 (ie. mowing contracts, electricity) flexed costs for unknowns. There are no large projects being planned. A budget was agreed of £21,916 for 2024/25, a reduction on the prior year purely due to the VAT element of known invoices being removed out of the costs line and the recoverable VAT income being removed from the income line. A 12.5% increase would be required to support this budget and protect the carry forward reserves expected to be circa £13k (of which £10k is ringfenced for works to the church wall) The budget would require a minimum precept increase of £2,173 (£17,385 to £19,558) an increase of 12.5%. This was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Hansford and **AGREED** by all.

12. Allotments

No general update.

The Coronation Orchard was discussed after further research has been carried out. Following a donation of 2 pear and 2 apple trees it was agreed to purchase 1 crab apple, 1 quince, 2 greengage, 3 victoria plum, 2 bramley apple, 1 mulberry, 1 damson and 1 medlar plus the associated tree guards and stakes. The clerk to effect the order as soon as possible as it was agreed the trees should really go in this month and whilst the ground was wet.

It was then suggested the grass should be seeded in April.

13. Village Maintenance (Cllr Swallow)

The state of the road in Main Street outside number 17 was raised again – The Contractor had been informed of the depressed reinstatement in the carriageway by the council. Remedial works were due to have been carried out in due course. This has not been the case, clerk reraised the issue with North Northants Council. It was closed again with NNC reverting the works to the third party (the contractor) – clerk to try to speak to NNC Highways.

14. Village Notice Boards

The concept was further discussed. Cllr Swallow had researched the cost of the boards and it was suggested that perhaps, we start with just three, populated with Woodnewton History. Three boards with illustrations and a maximum of say 500 words over the three. Due to the current lack of funding available for these boards and work to be done with sourcing possible grants this item remains ongoing

15. Ongoing

An agenda item to **CONSIDER** items to be included on the agenda going forward 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) EV chargers at the Village Hall.

16. Correspondence

- (a) The commemorative garden bench is now in situ and looks good.
- (b) Email received from NACRE canvassing our support to join, however, we are members of NCALC who support us well and only require one subscription.

17. Councillors' Opportunity to Update Colleagues

Cllr Neville thanked Cllr Pythian for taking the poppies down.

18. Woodnewton Newsletter

It was **AGREED** the next monthly newsletter feature would welcome all new Woodnewton Residents, of which we have several, to the village.

19. Date of next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Monday 8th January 2024

20. Close of Meeting

The Vice Chairman closed the meeting at 21.50

Chairman's Signature.....

Date 8th January 2024

Prepared by Amy Miller Clerk and RFO

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9th December 2023