



WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY MARCH 11th, 2024, Village Hall, 8pm

(DRAFT) MINUTES

Present: Cllr Hansford (Chairman), Cllr Goodall, Cllr Swallow, Cllr Pythian, Cllr Blackmore. Cllr Guttridge and Amy Miller (Clerk and RFO)

1. Declarations of Interests from Councillors

None

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Neville

3. Public Time

A number of residents attended the meeting.

One resident attended to explain their position with regards to a future planning application for change of land use from agricultural only to agricultural and horse grazing. No other changes are going to be applied for – change of use only.

Several residents attended after writing to the Parish Council expressing concerns over excessive use of bird scarers around the village, particularly on the fields beyond Main Street. Comments raised, included the excessive number of guns being used (6 between the Oundle Road and Conegar footpath as an) their loudness and questioning the direction they were pointing. People complained that it was causing increased anxiety in pets, with dogs not wanting to go into the garden or be outside. Residents were also affected saying there was consistent bangs going off deterring them from being able to relax in their own gardens and even inside, as the noise could be heard inside the home also. The consensus was, that the NFU guidelines for the use of gas guns, were being breached in several ways. It was agreed, in the first instance, that the clerk write to the local farmer highlighting the concerns raised before any further action was taken with the local council environmental department.

A resident also highlighted parking issues on the narrow part of Main Street, particularly when the pub was busy. Cars were parking on the pavement, obstructing property accesses so only small vehicles could enter/exit from Main Street and also restricting the type of traffic flow with concerns being raised that fire engines etc would be unable to pass through in an emergency. The Clerk to speak to the pub to see if more signage could be used to encourage patrons to use the car park to capacity.

4. Minutes of Meeting Held on 12th February 2024.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th February, having been previously circulated, were **AGREED** and signed by Chairman as a correct record. The minutes from the

meeting held on January 5th, 2024, were also signed

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

None

6. Church Yard (Cllr Phythian)

Cllr Phythian reported that there had been no feedback regarding the biodiversity piece in the village newsletter.

Further discussions were held regarding the grass cutting for the coming season. Two small areas needed to be included in the cutting regime, the entrance to Lyndsey Close and a small strip on Orchard Lane. However, conscious to stay within our budget it was **AGREED** the periphery areas of the playing fields could be cut less regularly. Cllr Pythian offered to have the conversation and see if an agreement can be made with the current contractor.

It was **RESOLVED** cemetery fees would increase by 6.7% (ONS Sep 12 month CPI rate) as agreed and recorded in the minutes of the November 2020 meeting and as per the cemetery rules 7.3. Clerk to calculate and post.

7. Speeding in and through the Village

All vehicle activated signs are working well – no further issues.

8. Playing Fields/Playground

- (a) Cllr Guttridge reported that the monthly inspection revealed there were no issues with broken equipment and that any jobs could wait until the village clean up day. Cllr Blackmore thanked Cllr Guttridge for fixing the the tennis table bat holder.
- (b) Cllr Blackmore to arrange for the plumber to fit the new outside tap at the village hall in readiness for the clean-up day.

9. Planning

- (a) NE/24/00120/FUL – 17 Pridmore Close – single and two storey rear extension – no objection
- (b) NE/24/00056/TCA – 59 Main Street – tree works – Permission Granted
- (c) NE/23/00193/FUL – 8 St Mary's Hill – extension, Appeal Dismissed
- (d) NE/23/01295/FUL – 2 Pridmore Close – first floor front and single storey side extension – Refused

10. Accounts

As at 29/02/2024 the bank balance stood at £16,460

The following payments were **APPROVED**:

Clerk Salary (February)	£520.00
Wave allotment water (DD)	£9.44
Spray for Coronation Fruit Orchard	£155.70
Tandee (Coronation Fruit Orchard)	£73.40

11. Financial Quarterly Review

The September to December quarterly review, following oversight from Cllr Guttridge, was **REVIEWED** and **APPROVED**. Budget to actual was in line and it is expected that we will end the year as budgeted.

In light of guidance stating no councillor should place orders and claim monies back from the PC, it should be the domain of the RFO or clerk only, a discussion was held regarding applying for a debit or credit card (a £24 pa charge) on the PC bank account. Following discussion it was **AGREED** that the clerk should apply for a credit card, as this has protection if there was an issue with a transaction on the bank account. The card is to be paid off monthly by direct debit

12. Annual Parish Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the APM will be held on Thursday 23rd May, in the village hall at 7pm.

13. Bird Scarers around the village boundaries.

This was dealt with during public time noted above.

14. Allotments

Cllr Goodall has spoken with the relevant plot holder, and it had been agreed part of the plot could be used for access to the Coronation Orchard.

It was **AGREED** by all to purchase two bramley apple trees that were now in stock with the local garden centre and a crab apple when one became available, plus three more stakes. Once these had been purchased the Orchard would be at capacity. It was also **AGREED** the grass seed should be ordered as soon as possible as it would need to be sown shortly, a meadow mix would be appropriate, clerk to order.

A resident had requested to donate a commemorative bench to the Orchard, which is greatly appreciated, no special requirements for security or bases were deemed necessary.

There is a waiting list for allotments and one resident has shown an interest in taking on an unclaimed plot and helping to clear it. However, clerk to make contact as it is thought a plot may, be coming available.

15. Village Maintenance (Cllr Swallow)

The litter pick on the spring clean-up day was discussed and Cllr Swallow noted two areas to concentrate on, Nassington road and the road to Halefield, both have not been picked recently. Clerk to order litter picking bags and waste bags.

It was noted the road on Main Street near the new barns had been resurfaced over the utility works, but the drain was still blocked on the corner of Main Street and Conegar lane.

16. Village Notice Boards

The History Group had responded and were happy to help. Further discussion and as thought previously, we would start with three boards, one for village history, one for village walks and one with a map of the village. This would require a succinct village history which could be difficult. Graphics would also need to be considered and Cllr Hansford suggested a possible resident who may be able to help. This project is very much still in the design phase.

17. Grant Funding

Cllr Swallow noted that a new round of Mick George funding was due to open if we had a suitable project. Several other funds were also discussed but many operate on

the system of requiring a capital input from the PC of circa 10-80% which we currently do not have, nor a specific project in mind other than the village notice boards which were going to be phased.

18. 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

19. Correspondence

(a) a number of letters have been received voicing concerns over the number and loudness of bird scarers around the village boundaries.

20. Councillors' Opportunity to Update Colleagues

Cllr Hansford reported he would cover a short zoom on employment changes, 24th April as clerk is unable to cover but is likely to be able to see a recorded version.

21. Woodnewton Newsletter

It was **AGREED** the next monthly newsletter feature would advertise the Annual Village Meeting – Thursday 23rd May 2023.

22. Date of next Meeting

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

23. Close of Meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.37

Chairman's Signature.....

Date 8th April 2024

Prepared by Amy Miller Clerk and RFO

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20th March 2024

