



## WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY April 8th, 2024, Village Hall, 8pm

### (DRAFT) MINUTES

**Present:** Cllr Hansford (Chairman), Cllr Neville (Vice Chairman) Cllr Goodall, Cllr Swallow, Cllr Pythian, Cllr Blackmore and Amy Miller (Clerk and RFO)

#### 1. **Declarations of Interests from Councillors**

None

#### 2. **Apologies for absence**

Cllr Guttridge

#### 3. **Public Time**

No members of the public attended the meeting.

#### 4. **Minutes of Meeting Held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024.**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March, having been previously circulated, were **AGREED** and but not signed by Chairman at this meeting.

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

None

#### 6. **Church Yard (Cllr Phythian)**

Cllr Phythian reported a resident had submitted some excellent points regarding biodiversity in the village, this was currently being digested.

Cllr Phythian had met with the contractor re the playing fields and some of the verges within the village boundaries. It has been agreed to include the entrance to Lyndsey Close and a small strip of verge on Orchard Lane, however, conscious to stay within our budget the trade-off was to leave periphery areas of the playing fields to wild, with some paths cut in and then fully strimmed at the end of the season. This would encourage the biodiversity and help stay within budget.

The Church Yard had its first cut of the year and the contractor who looks after it also oversees several other rewilded church yards. He has made suggestions, including leaving areas where wildflowers are identified, only cutting these, once the wildflowers are over and have seeded, then cutting for the rest of the season. This will help reduce, excessive heavy cuttings, feeding the area over the winter and supressing wildflower growth in the spring.

The Kier Urban Highways Grass Mowing Grant application has been received - it was agreed to find out what Kier would actually carry out before we opted out and took the

grant which has not increased in over five years. The Grant of £464 is only a small contribution to our grass cutting costs and it maybe more cost effective to allow Kier to carry out some of the cutting and reduce our contractor costs. Clerk to investigate further.

## 7. Speeding in and through the Village

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

Cllr Blackmore had downloaded the last six months of stats and the headline figures show:

Apethorpe Road – average speed into the village 24.4 mph and out, 24.5mph – 81.2% below 30mph of incoming traffic.

Oundle Road – average speed into the village 27.3 mph and out, 30.9 mph – 75.0 % below 30mph of incoming traffic.

Nassington Road – average speed into the village 23.9 mph and out, 26.2 mph – 91.7% below 30mph of incoming traffic.

## 8. Playing Fields/Playground

(a) Cllr Neville reported flaking paint issues on the new leg lift and chin up stations.

The equipment should still be under warranty - Cllr Blackmore was to follow up with Fresh Air Fitness.

(b) Nothing to update on.

## 9. Planning

There were no planning issues to discuss

## 10. Accounts

As at 31/3/2024 the bank balance stood at £15,791

The following payments were **APPROVED**:

Clerk Salary (March)	£520.00
Clerk reimbursement of seed	£94.19
Stamford Plumbing	£168.00

The following remittances were **NOTED**:

Coronation Fruit Orchard Donations	£80.00
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## 11. Financial Quarterly Review

The December to March quarterly review, following oversight from Cllr Guttridge, was **REVIEWED** and **APPROVED**. The year end Budget to Actual was also signed off and **AGREED**, in preparation for the year end audit. The income and expenditure figures on this report will form the basis for the audited accounts.

Application for the credit card is being progressed by the clerk.

## 12. Asset Register

After a couple of adjustments, the removal of some obsolete tech equipment donated to the newsletter committee and the addition of a new bench on Orchard Lane, it was **RESOLVED** that the Asset register was a true and fair view of the assets held by the Parish Council as at the year-end.

**13. Allotments**

One plot has become available and hopefully this will reduce the waiting list and give a new resident the opportunity to join the allotment community. Another resident who is also on the wait list has been contacted to see if they wish to utilise a currently unutilised area and help keep overgrowth at bay.

It was noted Cllr Goodall has been working hard on the Coronation Fruit Orchard having planted two further apple trees and preparing the land to apply the grass seed.

A resident has kindly ordered a commemorative bench for the Orchard, which is greatly appreciated, no special requirements for security or bases were deemed necessary.

**14. Village Maintenance (Cllr Swallow)**

The litter pick and jobs were discussed and noted for the spring clean-up day. It was also suggested that if the weather held over the period the bonfire would also be lit. It was noted that the two blocked gullies, one on the corner of Main Street and Conegar lane and the other just beyond remain blocked although reported on several occasions. Clerk to chase up with the Highways department as it is thought they are not the domain of Anglian Water.

**15. Village Notice Boards**

No update

**16. The Woodnewton Players**

The current lease between the Woodnewton Players and the Parish Council has terminated. It was **AGREED** by all to extend for another five years on the same terms. Clerk to effect.

**17. Correspondence**

(a) The internal audit has been booked for 23<sup>rd</sup> April

(b) A letter has been received from a resident regarding biodiversity within the village – the PC are currently digesting the information.

(c) Volunteer Action have requested to attend a PC meeting – clerk to engage re APM.

(d) An email has been received re an Emergency Planning Communication Meeting for the local villages - the clerk is pursuing.

**18. Councillors' Opportunity to Update Colleagues**

Cllr Phythian kindly offered to promote the clean-up day on social media.

Cllr Hansford was engaging with residents to help with and provide refreshments for the clean-up day.

**19. Woodnewton Newsletter**

It was **AGREED** the next monthly newsletter feature would thank those for all their help and support at the Village Clean Up Day.

**20. Date of next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024

**21. Close of Meeting**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.20

Chairman's Signature.....

Date 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Prepared by Amy Miller Clerk and RFO

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15<sup>th</sup> April 2024