



WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 7th July 2025, 8.00pm, Village Hall

(DRAFT) MINUTES

Present: Cllr Blackmore (Chairman), Cllr Neville (Vice Chairman), Cllr Phythian, Cllr Guttridge, Cllr Brookes. Cllr Kisiel, Amy Miller (Clerk and RFO) and 1 member of the public.

1. Declarations of Interests from Councillors

None

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Swallow

3. Public Time

One member of the public attended wishing to make the Parish Council aware of the wildlife damage, predominantly deer, that was being inflicted across all the allotments. It had been noted as an agenda item for the Orchard and hoped the problem could be considered in conjunction. The allotment holders were finding this particularly demoralising but were aware of the financial constraints of expensive fencing however keen to see if anything could be done – agenda item for September meeting.

4. Minutes of Meeting Held on 10th June 2025.

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 and Cemetery (Cllr Phythian)

No update

7. Speeding in and through the Village

All vehicle activated signs are working well. The quarterly stats April to June, from the cameras have been downloaded and these are the headline stats.

Nassington Road - average incoming speed – 24mph, average outgoing speed 26.2 mph and the number of vehicles entering the village in this direction 14,400. Percentage of vehicles incoming 30mph or below, 92%.

Oundle Road - average incoming speed – 27.6 average outgoing speed, 31.2 mph and the number of vehicles entering the village in this direction 53,600. Percentage of vehicles incoming 30mph or below, 74%.

Apethorpe Road - average incoming speed – 24.4 mph average outgoing, 24.5 mph and the number of vehicles entering the village in this direction 35,400.
Percentage of vehicles incoming 30mph or below, 82%.

8. Playing Fields/Playground

- (a) The annual playground inspection had been carried out by RoSPA in June. There were no high-risk urgent attention or dangerous issues flagged. Issues that were raised included strimmer damage to wooden posts, some split support timbers but no action required, replacement of rusty bolts on the seat of the zip wire and attention to the rubber matting which was uneven in places.
- (b) Cllr Blackmore updated that he had attended to the paintwork on the exercise equipment and repaired the bump stops on the air walker. Cllr Blackmore and Cllr Guttridge agreed to meet at the play area to discuss and collate a maintenance schedule.

9. Planning

- (a) NE/25/00371/FUL – 32 Orchard Lane - Single storey rear extension. Replacement garage with bedroom over. Attic conversion – Notice of Refusal
- (b) NE/25/00377/FUL - Remove Conservatory. Single storey rear extension, replacement external windows and doors. Internal alterations. – Permission Granted.

10. Accounts

As at 31/06/2025 the bank balance stood at £33,632.00

The following payments were **AGREED** and signed off

Clerk Salary (June)	£553.28
Newsletter	£60.00
SSE (streetlights DD)	£48.24
RJC grass cutting (IV5008)	£276.00
RoSPA playground inspection	£216.00

The following remittances were **NOTED**:

11. Village Grass Cutting

Proposed by Cllr Blackmore and seconded by Cllr Neville, it was **AGREED** by all, the grass cutting in the village would be aligned and fall under one councillor's responsibility, Cllr Pythian, who currently oversees the grass cutting for the cemetery and church yard.

12. Allotments (Cllr Brookes)

Quotes had been gathered for stakes and tree guards for the protection of the fruit trees in the Coronation Orchard. However, like the play area there would also be the need for strimmer protection, so it was suggested to look at these in conjunction and make a decision at the next meeting.

With regards to the strimming of the Orchard it was proposed by Cllr Balckmore, seconded by Cllr Pythian that this would be managed this season by volunteers and the village clean-up day but would be added to the village maintenance contract due to go out to tender for 2026 at the end of this season.

13. Village Maintenance (Cllr Swallow)

The bonfire site was discussed, and it was agreed there was too much poor-quality bonfire remnants left to attempt to level off. Removal would require a licenced waste contractor, or a more affordable option was potentially a skip and if possible, the help of a local farmer to load. The clerk to get skip quotes, liaise with possible help for skip loading and to formally resolve at the next meeting.

14. Projects

Various ideas were suggested but were not set in stone. These included village information boards commencing with one for the Coronation Fruit Orchard and potentially others covering a short village history and walks in the and around the village.

Another suggestion in recognition of the importance of the village newsletter was a monthly contribution from the PC on a rota basis for a one-page article - content of interest to all and relevant to the village and surrounding.

Continuing our support of biodiversity projects in the village it was suggested further preparation and planting of wildflowers in the cemetery near the refurbished bench; a continuation of the works started a couple of years ago which have been both productive and successful.

There was also a suggestion of a children's tree planting project, offering children in the village an opportunity to plant oak saplings.

It was suggested that the projects stayed as a rolling agenda item to be discussed as appropriate and relevant.

15. Correspondence

(a) Election expense forms signed and to be returned by the clerk

(b) City Fibre response – ongoing. The clerk is liaising with other local village clerks to write a joint letter to both City Fibre and NNC.

16. Councillors' Opportunity to Update Colleagues

No Updates

17. Woodnewton Newsletter

There is no August Newsletter but there will be a reminder of the Autumn village clean-up day to be held October 18th (resolved at the next meeting)

18. Date of next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Monday 1st September 8.00pm.

19. Close of Meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.34

Chairman's Signature.....

Date 1st September 2025

Prepared by Amy Miller Clerk and RFO

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10th July 2025