



WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 6th October 2025, 8.00pm, Village Hall

(DRAFT) MINUTES

Present: Cllr Blackmore (Chairman), Cllr Neville (Vice Chairman), Cllr Phythian, Cllr Swallow, Cllr Brookes. Cllr Kisiel, Amy Miller (Clerk and RFO) and 1 resident.

1. Declarations of Interests from Councillors

None

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Guttridge

3. Public Time

A member of the Woodnewton History Group attended to discuss the Mildmay Charity. The charity, which had a PC member as a trustee has since been wound up and there are still some unanswered questions. The resident was keen to address these to see if the PC could shed light on the winding up of the charity's finances and also to ask permission, which was granted, to write up the last few years minutes prior to being signed off by the PC and taken to Northampton archives.

4. Minutes of Meeting Held on 1st September 2025.

Having been previously circulated, were **AGREED** and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5. Church Yard and Cemetery (Cllr Phythian)

The rewilding in the cemetery was discussed with regards to further appetite to buy more wildflower seeds to diversify and extend the rewilding in line with our biodiversity goals. It was agreed a proposal would need to be brought to the meeting and there would be a requirement for volunteers and a plan for planting in the spring.

The tender document for the village maintenance, having been previously circulated, was discussed and a few minor changes were **AGREED**. These included the addition of the strimming of the Coronation Orchard three times per annum, some amendments to hedge cutting dates and an updated rewilding map across the village.

6. Speeding in and through the Village

All vehicle activated signs are working well. The quarterly stats July to September have been collated and the headline stats presented by Cllr Kisiel

Nassington Road - average incoming speed 24.1mph, average outgoing speed 25.9mph and the number of vehicles entering the village in this direction 14,000.

Percentage of vehicles incoming 30mph or below, 91%.

Oundle Road - average incoming speed 26.8mph, average outgoing speed, 30.7mph and the number of vehicles entering the village in this direction 51,000. Percentage of vehicles incoming 30mph or below, 83%.

Apethorpe Road - average incoming speed 24mph, average outgoing, 24.2mph and the number of vehicles entering the village in this direction 35,000. Percentage of vehicles incoming 30mph or below, 90%.

7. Playing Fields/Playground

(a) Following a comprehensive report from Cllr Guttridge last month a monthly report was not carried out as works were underway. Weeds had been sprayed around equipment to prevent further strimmer damage, Near the large slide uneven wooden shuttering was cut and refitted reducing trip hazards. Strimmer damage although present was not deemed to be a big issue, it was agreed posts in the ground rotting below surface level were more likely to occur before strimmer damage caused failure but, regular weed killing would help prevent further strimmer damage, On the agility balance beam self-adhesive tape with a grit surface had been applied. Further works required include the finger traps in the roundabout to be filled, the toddlers play area fencing to be fixed (cleanup day) the B frame to be repainted (cleanup day) and all rubber matting to be lifted and reglued around the roundabout when the weather becomes warmer and likewise, for the matting around the big slide.

(b) It was **AGREED** by all and **RESOLVED** to order the necessary Wicksteed parts, including plugs and bolt caps, rubber seat assembly for the zip wire, fittings for the swings and a cross beam for the "pick up sticks" climbing unit, totalling £441.76 (excl VAT) to continue further repairs and two bags of postfix circa £7.50 each and two posts (courtesy of Cllr Blackmore) for repairs to the infant play area (cleanup day)

8. Planning

(a) NE/24/00371/FUL – 32 Orchard Lane – Single storey rear extension. Replacement garage with bedroom over. Attic conversion - Planning Appeal.

9. Clerk Appraisal and Salary Review

Following the clerk's annual appraisal, it was **RESOLVED** an increase of one scale point pay increase as per the clerk's contract and to note the national pay award increase, back dated to 1st April 2025.

10. Accounts

As at 31/09/2025 the bank balance stood at £32,265.00

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

Clerk Salary (September)	£587.20
Clerk Salary (back payment)	£169.60
RJC grass cutting (IV5030)	£276.00
RJC grass cutting (IV5044)	£414.00
SSE DD	£47.40
ICO DD	£47.00
Playground repair materials (PG)	£17.50
Playground repair materials (Amazon)	£29.81

The following remittances were **NOTED:**

Allotment rents (trf)	£660.00
Allotment rents (chq)	£132.00

11. Village Tree Works Audit

It was **AGREED** a full audit of trees that fall under the responsibility of the PC would be carried out by our resident tree surgeon at a time to suit and a record taken of tree location, safety and maintenance requirements per tree.

12. Allotments (Cllr Brookes)

Following further discussions regarding plastic deer fencing requirements another viable solution to the deer problem on the allotments and Orchard was suggested, putting a natural barrier in place. This would be in the form of tree planting/hedging and backfilling spaces between current vegetation. This would support our commitment to the village biodiversity aims and the national scheme of climate and nature and be more aesthetically pleasing. Cllr Brookes to investigate possible tree planting/hedging grants.

The clerk **NOTED** all allotment rents had been received.

13. Village Maintenance (Cllr Swallow)

The bonfire site was discussed; it would officially open Saturday October 18th for three weeks until Sunday 9th November.

As **APPROVED** previously, Cllr Swallow had purchased 4 sacks of bulbs to be planted on Oundle Road and around the village.

A **REMINDER** that the village clean up date is 18th October, 10am, a comprehensive job list was compiled.

Cllr Swallow also noted the hedge between Main Street and The Paddocks needed trimming back – clerk to liaise with owners to see if this is possible.

14. The Village Pound

Having discussed further it was **AGREED** no further action to be taken with this common land.

15. Streetlights

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the new one-year energy contract with SSE after the clerk had collated several quotes.

16. Ongoing

A rolling agenda item to **CONSIDER** which topics should be included on future agendas, discussed when relevant. This will be titled "rolling agenda items" to ensure items are remembered, although they may not be addressed at every meeting.

- (a) Village Information Boards
- (b) Continuing support of biodiversity projects and schemes
- (c) Children's tree planting scheme
- (d) Refurbishment/replacement of the village hall notice board
- (e) Newsletter updates

17. Correspondence

- (a) Woodnewton History Group – Mildmay Trust minutes conclusion
- (b) City Fibre response – ongoing with Jo Williams and Simon Fairhill

18. Councillors' Opportunity to Update Colleagues

Cllr Kisiel updated that he had been researching replacements for the VH noticeboard for something more robust. Having discussed further he was keen to explore possible grants.

19. Woodnewton Newsletter

It was agreed the next Newsletter feature would thank residents for their support and help at the village cleanup day and remind everyone the bonfire will close Sunday 9th November.

20. Date of next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Monday 3rd November 8.00pm.

21. Close of Meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.46

Chairman's Signature.....

Date 3rd November 2025

Prepared by Amy Miller Clerk and RFO

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16th October 2025