



## WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

### Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025, 8.00pm, Village Hall

### (DRAFT) MINUTES

**Present:** Cllr Blackmore (Chairman) Cllr Phythian, Cllr Swallow, Cllr Brookes. Cllr Kisiel, Cllr Guttridge, Amy Miller (Clerk and RFO)

#### 1. Declarations of Interests from Councillors

None

#### 2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Neville

#### 3. Public Time

No members of the public attended.

#### 4. Minutes of Meeting held on 3rd November 2025.

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

#### 5. Church Yard and Cemetery (Cllr Phythian)

It was **RESOLVED** cemetery fees would increase by 3.8% (ONS Sep 12 month CPI rate) as agreed and recorded in the minutes of the November 2020 meeting and as per the cemetery rules 7.30. Clerk to calculate and post.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** in principle, the expenditure of £350 for further wildflower seed subject to thorough and coordinated ground preparation prior to planting.

Several tenders had been received for the 2026-2028 grass cutting and maintenance contract. These were discussed and the clerk was requested to get references where required for a final decision to be made at the next meeting.

#### 6. Vehicle Activated Speed Signs (Cllr Kisiel and Cllr Blackmore)

All vehicle activated signs are working well.

#### 7. Playing Fields/Playground

(a) There were no new concerns.

(b) Most remedial works have been completed. We continue to await the Wicksteed parts due in January for all the works to be completed.

#### 8. Planning

(a) NE/25/00371/FUL – 32 Orchard Lane – single storey rear extension with a replacement garage with bedroom over and an attic conversion - planning permission via appeal Granted.

## 9. 2026/2027 Precept and Budget Discussion

The budget for the 2026/27 was reviewed and discussed. The 2025/26 figures were flexed for known and expected increases. Larger items including the clerks salary which had had, several below inflation annual increases recently and the national insurance increases were accounted for, increased insurance premiums and the village grass cutting and mainenance figures from the tender submissions. It was **RESOLVED** the final increase in the precept would be 3.8% (Sep 2025 CPI) so that precept raised would cover the majority of expected costs and the carried forward reserves would be reserve\contingencies for the church stonewall, tree works requirements and general reserves. The 3.8% increase would result in a precept of £21,316.00 and the budgeted costs for the year are £22,440.00 with the shortfall being met from allotment rents, the highways grant, any cemetery fees received and further shortfalls from reserves.

## 10. Accounts

As at 30/11/2025 the bank balance stood at £26,156.09

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

Clerk Salary (November)	£587.20
SSE (credit card)	£106.19
NCALC course	£55.20
H J Horticulture	£5,257.71
Wave (allotment water) DD	£28.58

The following remittances were **NOTED:**

Highways Mowing Grant	£483.15
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## 11. Village Hall Noticeboard (Cllr Kiesel)

Cllr Kiesel updated. The best funding fit appears to be Augean grant up to the value of £5,000. It was agreed that several projects could be combined with an underlying theme of information dissemination\communication to residents and visitors to the village. It was suggested combining the need for a new village hall noticeboard with several information boards to be placed around the village. Cllr Kiesel to investigate and report back costings and requirements to move the project forward.

## 12. Allotments (Cllr Brookes)

A letter to the Parish Council from an allotment holder was noted with regards to allotment creep resulting in the erosion of the pathways between some allotments and a suggestion that some plots were not being tended to a sufficient standard. This would be revisited after the winter period if it seen as problematic.

## 13. Village Maintenance (Cllr Swallow)

The bonfire was discussed and will be lit at the next available weather window and appropriate prevailing wind direction. The gate to the bonfire will be locked to prevent further dumping and remain locked in a bid to keep the site clear for levelling and cleansing.

## 14. 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 – hedge planting - allotments

- (c) Children's tree planting scheme
- (d) Newsletter updates

### **15. Correspondence**

- (a) The Haddon 1 warehouse development on the A605 near the Peterborough Services consultation is open. The Parish Council discussed and agreed to submit an objection.
- (b) City Fibre response – ongoing. Cllr Fairhill's member enquiry had received a response and NNC are to investigate the complaints further starting with Apethorpe.
- (c) Letter from allotment holder.

### **16. Councillors' Opportunity to Update Colleagues**

Cllr Phythian updated in her capacity as the CAN champion (Climate and Nature Champion Scheme) having attended her first introductory meeting along with other CAN champions from the county. She highlighted the plentiful resources available and support networks we have access to. It is a new scheme that aims to identify, promote, and coordinate local action on climate and nature. The scheme is in its infancy but will hopefully help our understanding and development of biodiversity within the village.

Cllr Blackmore noted the concerns of residents with regards to increasing incidents of dog waste being left unpicked in the village. The council has given us more signage to place around the village however, it is noted, only a few choose not to pick up, and signage may not change that. He also noted that the footpath between Southwick Woods and Conegar Mill has only footpath status and should not be used by horses as a bridleway as it is chewing up the ground for walkers.

Cllr Guttridge updated on ENRMF and Thornhaugh combined Liaison meeting. The current site is close to be capacity and is being monitored including any water run off that is entering the Willowbrook. Testing is taking place but not upstream of the site. There were discussions around this and how much testing there should be, only surface water leaving the site is tested and there is limited third party testing of the brook.

### **17. Woodnewton Newsletter**

It was agreed the next Newsletter feature would wish residents "A Happy New Year."

### **18. Date of next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting is Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 8.00pm.

### **19. Close of Meeting**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.50

Chairman's Signature.....

Date 5th January 2026

Prepared by Amy Miller Clerk and RFO

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11<sup>th</sup> December 2025

