



WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 5th January 2026, 8.00pm, Village Hall

(DRAFT) MINUTES

Present: Cllr Blackmore (Chairman) Cllr Neville, 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

None

3. Public Time

Cllr Fairhall attended to update that NNC annual council tax was agreed, a 4.99% increase for the next financial year, however, further cost savings are still required to meet budget. He also updated that the NNC Local Plan, initial consultation period expected in Feb 2026, has been pushed back 18 months\2 years.

4. Minutes of Meeting held on 1st December 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** to accept the NNC grass cutting grant for the 2026/27 season of £782.70.

Cllr Phythian had carried out further research on the overseeding of rewilded areas and noted current areas would need to be weeded, cut short, the removal of all debris, further scarification and that Autumn is perhaps, the best time for overseeding. This would also allow time for any grant funding opportunities for this project.

Several tenders had been received for the 2026-2028 grass cutting and maintenance contract. These were discussed; it was agreed to continue to split the works between two contractors as historically. It was **AGREED** by all, that the bulk of the contract would be awarded to HJ Horticulture who have proved a valuable partner for a number of years and has been both flexible as requirements change and with their tender. The church yard grass cutting was also discussed with a couple of issues to flesh out before 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) The Wicksteed parts have been delivered. The final remedial works will be carried out when the weather is less inclement.

8. Planning

There were no applications or updates

9. CAN (Climate and Nature Champion – Cllr Phythian)

No update

10. Accounts

As at 31/12/2025 the bank balance stood at £22,311.00

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

Clerk Salary (December)	£587.20
SSE (direct debit)	£107.08
Wicksteed (playground)	£530.11

The following remittances were **NOTED**:

Memorial Stone	£57.00
HMRC VAT rebate	£2,239.70

11. Village Hall Noticeboard (Cllr Kisiel)

Cllr Kisiel continues to work on this but for ease and reduced time frame will pursue the Ward Empowerment Fund deemed a better fit for the grant funding. Cllr Kisiel to liaise directly with Cllr Fairhall.

12. Allotments (Cllr Brookes)

No update. A short memo would be sent out in the spring reminding allotment holders of their duties.

13. Village Maintenance (Cllr Swallow)

The bonfire has been burnt once. The PC are hugely grateful for the support and wished to minute its thanks for the local farming resident who assisted with machinery to push up the bonfire and to all those Councillors who gave their time to oversee its safe burning. There is still a residual which needs to be burnt again, the remnants to be picked of rubbish and the site, finally cleared and levelled. The gate to the bonfire will continue to be locked.

As there no is no longer a fireworks night in the village, concerns the bonfire raises amongst residents as a haven for both hibernating animals and vermin plus the difficulty disposing of the bonfire "pile;" it was **AGREED** to look to shred the material from clean up days on the day, rather than pile and burn.

A village litter pick will be arranged whilst there is no grass and hedge growth. This is being scheduled for Saturday 28th February 10am.

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) Children's tree planting scheme

- (c) Neighbourhood Plan\consultation on the local plan from Feb 2026 (expected 2028)
- (d) Newsletter articles

15. Correspondence

- (a) An email from the UK Representative of the Jewish American Society for Historic Preservation, regarding Coco the Clown and the request of a further plaque in recognition of his Jewish ancestry was discussed. It was agreed this fell outside the scope of The Parish Council but thought there was sufficient recognition of him in the village already.
- (b) The Community Governance Review was discussed. It was agreed to monitor the consultation closely but had nothing to input at this stage.

16. Councillors' Opportunity to Update Colleagues

Cllr Blackmore updated that he had placed additional "please pick up your dog waste" signs around the village as a reminder to those who do not.

17. WoodNewton Newsletter

It was agreed the next Newsletter feature would feature the details for "The Village Litter Pick" – February 28th 10am.

18. Date of next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Monday 2nd February 2026 8.00pm.

19. Close of Meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.23

Chairman's Signature.....

Date 2nd February 2026

Prepared by Amy Miller Clerk and RFO

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9th January 2026