

Minutes of the Meeting of Woodwalton Parish Council held on Wednesday 31st January 2018 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllrs P Peck (Chair), B Gilbert and L Lee

In Attendance: L Ellis (Clerk), County Cllr T Rogers, District Cllr R Howe and 3 residents

Key:

CCC = Cambridgeshire County Council

HDC = Huntingdon District Council

PC = Parish Council

1	Chairman's Welcome	The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2	To receive apologies and reason for absence	None.
3	Member's declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests	None.
4	Public and press participation session with respect to items on the agenda	A resident reported that he was attending the meeting to listen to the debate on the memorial green, he was concerned that it is getting churned up.
5	To sign and approve minutes of the meeting held on 29 th November 2017	To take the minutes as read and approve them as a true and accurate record. The minutes were then duly signed by the Chairman.
6	Matters arising from the minutes (information only)	The Clerk to contact the Village Hall Committee again to request that they consider removing the ceiling decorations as they are a possible health & safety risk.
7	Reports from District & County Cllrs	<p>District Cllr. Howe reminded Councillors that for personal reasons he had resigned his position. He was thanked for his help and all agreed that he will be missed.</p> <p>He reported that the HDC budget had been signed off, he highlighted that there had been a reduction in expenditure and an improvement in income. With inflation it was noted that there would be a 2% increase in Council Tax. HDC has the lowest Band D rate in the shire counties. Reserves are where they should be with 3 months' of annual revenue. During the last 5 years pay increases have been kept to a maximum of up to 1%.</p> <p>HDC are commercialising their CCTV system to obtain more revenue. They are going into partnership with outside companies in order to sell capacity.</p> <p>County Cllr Rogers reported that CCC needs to find £4.5m, it is therefore likely that Council Tax will rise by 5% but CCC will still be the lowest in comparison to other shires. The support grant from Government has been halved over the last 4 years.</p>

Signed..... Dated.....

		<p>CCC is going to be more commercialised and they will have an interest in building social housing. The Commercial & Investment Committee are looking at buying into a Bank thereby investing their money through this channel.</p> <p>Adult Care and Child Care numbers have increased and care homes have been closing, it is possible that CCC will look into building their own care homes.</p>
8	Reports from Parish Cllrs	Cllr Peck reported that all Councillors had attended the funeral of ex Parish Councillor David Pinder, without him we would not have a Speed Watch scheme or the Local Highways Improvement. All agreed that he will be sadly missed.
9	Correspondence	<p>Correspondence duly noted.</p> <p>It was noted that a number of residents and District Cllr Howe were approached by BBC Radio Cambridge to talk to a reporter to discuss the character of the village. It was unfortunate that more notice was not given so that more residents could have been involved.</p>
10	Health & Safety	Nothing to report at this time.
11	Planning	None received.
12	<p>Financial report and payments to be made inc:-</p> <p><u>Expenditure:</u> <u>December:</u> £155.22 - Salaries (SO) £28.90 - e-on (DD)</p> <p><u>January:</u> £155.22 - Salaries (SO) £29.85 - e-on (DD) £810.00 - Global Tree Solutions (000402) £55.50 - Cambs ACRE (000403)</p>	<p>All payments were unanimously approved and all associated documentation was initialled by two signatories.</p> <p>Agreed.</p> <p>Agreed.</p> <p>It was noted that due to additional work being required to remove a tree limb that the original estimate has been increased by £125 + VAT.</p>
13	Network Rail Four Tracking project update	<p>Council considered the letter received from Ross Morrison, Scheme Project Manager for Network Rail. It was disappointing to note that Network Rail believe that with the introduction of an additional rail line that it is unlikely that the scheme will create a significant increase in noise by the additional train paths that are being created. They have indicated that they will continue to monitor any increases in long term noise and where it is appropriate to do so they will consider appropriate mitigations.</p> <p>Council agreed that this response is unsatisfactory. District Cllr Howe agreed to write a letter to Network Rail requesting that they install a noise attenuation barrier, the line is extremely close to residential properties and only 500m of fencing would be required. The letter will be shared with Abbots Ripton PC.</p>

Signed..... Dated.....

14	Update on the Local Highways Improvement Initiative	Nothing to report at this time. District Cllr Howe left the meeting at this juncture (8:20pm)
15	To discuss the Speed Watch scheme	The Chairman reported that Woodwalton no longer had a Speed Watch Co-ordinator and a Champion and no one from the team wished to fill these positions, new members are required as the team is currently not operational. The Chairman has approached Paul Scholes for help and information, he has indicated that Woodwalton would not be disqualified for being non-operational but would require refresher training after a period of 12 months. It would be acceptable if other villages provided help but they should not provide a whole team. It was agreed that the Chairman would produce a poster to advertise for new members.
16	To consider the 2018 HDC grounds maintenance quotation	Council considered the HDC grounds maintenance quotation. It was agreed that the Clerk should request that the quotation be amended to reflect only a maximum of 8 cuts per annum rather than the 12 quoted for, and to ask that if additional cuts were required would they be able to provide them upon request.
17	Update on the street lighting issue	The Clerk reported that UK Power Network had advised that they had not yet been able to resolve the lighting issue. They have approached a resident and The Elephant & Castle who had both refused access over their land. A resolution is being investigated.
18	Update on the parking on the memorial green	The Clerk reported that a suggestion has been put forward whereby a proper turning circle be installed with low kerbing at the current turning area. Kerbing would protect the edge of the green. Councillors agreed to investigate the suggestion to improve the situation by installing kerbing but without a turning circle. Quotations to be obtained and residents approached for their views on the proposals. County Cllr Rogers left the meeting at this juncture (8:52pm)
19	To select a new waste bin	The Clerk to order, via HDC, a new waste bin and to make the necessary arrangements for it to be emptied by them on a regular basis.
20	To consider a location for a gifted Oak tree	It was noted that Global Tree Solutions (GTS) have indicated that The Green was not the optimal location for the gifted tree and that it should be planted on the Chestnut Green. It was thought that there could be possibly be a problem with the Chestnut trees. The Clerk to request that GTS provide the Council with the exact location for the planting of the gifted Oak tree.
21	To review assignment of Cllr responsibilities	It was agreed that this item should be deferred until the Parish Councillor vacancies are filled.
22	Date and items to be raised at the next meeting	Wednesday 28 th March 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Network Rail Four Tracking project ❖ Speed Watch scheme ❖ New waste bin ❖ Parish Councillor vacancies ❖ Gifted Oak tree ❖ Annual Parish Meeting ❖ Memorial Green ❖ Grounds maintenance contract ❖ Lighting issue (UKPN)

Signed..... Dated.....

	Meeting closed	The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, the meeting then closed at 8:58pm
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Signed..... Dated.....