

WOODLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of General Meeting held on

11th July 2024 - 7.30pm Woodland Village Hall

Present

Cllr Peckett, Cllr Timms, Cllr Teasdale, Cllr Brydon, Cllr Gardner, Cllr Snowdon. Cllr James Cosslett (DCC Evenwood and Barony) Apologies Cllr Rutter

Declaration of Interest

None

Confirmation of minutes

All outstanding minutes agreed with alteration to June meeting to state nature of meeting was acting clerks meeting.

Matters Arising

1. Parish clerk - candidates discussed in closed meeting and candidate voted on and agreed unanimously
2. Probationary period for clerk agreed at 4 months
3. Playground - formation of sub-committee Cllr Gardner, Cllr Snowdon. Cllr Snowdon suggested asking school and toddler group to become involved and Mr Brian Abbott to assist with fundraising. Details to be posted on website and newly created Facebook page asking parishioners who wish to be involved to make contact.

Playpark presentation

Cllr Snowdon reported that after contacting HAGS to enquire about the cost of removing the remnants of the Mobilis and making good with new she was informed that cost would be in the region of £30,000 upwards.

She presented her findings and reported that the top half of the playground was in fairly good order and catered for younger children, but that there was little in the playpark for older children (aged 6 upwards) and therefore it was suggested that the lower half be re-designed with this age group in mind.

4 different suppliers designed and quoted for the design of the lower playpark area, this was narrowed down to 3, with 2 of the quotes being deemed most suitable.

The companies chosen have researched the environmental factors and use recycled materials wherever possible. Cllr Snowden showed those present at the meeting the designs. Both designs are multi activity play equipment, One caters for 35 children the other 26 and so many more children can make use of the equipment with age range of 7-12. One quote was £48,000 including VAT the other was £48,000 excluding VAT including installation, with installation time of approx. 2 weeks dependent on weather One design made of galvanised steel, the other coated steel. VAT can eventually be claimed back. Images of designs will be available to view on website/Facebook page. Cllr Cosslett advised that there would be an amount of around £27-£28,000 surplus available from town and villages fund which can be earmarked for Woodland Playpark. Cllr Cosslett to confirm exact amount, he did state that Woodland as a parish had been underfunded for quite some years. Playpark first constructed in the nineties and has ted her findings and suggested that the top half of the playground was in Cllr Brydon to replace the roof on the small climbing tower in the upper section of the playground. Possibility of having some geothermal images, such as hopscotch or snakes and ladders on the paths leading through the playground and suggested asking The Edge Hotel who have been willing to fund raise for the playpark if they would be willing to hold fund raising events towards this. Cllr Brydon mentioned a relative of his having a printing company who could possibly provided some images for this purpose. Letter to be sent to Lord Barnard, who owns land on which playpark is situated asking for permission to refurb and also if he would be willing to donate towards the cost. Other suggestions for companies willing to donate were, Glaxo, Woodland Village Hall, S & A, National Lottery Fund, North Star Housing, Co-op, Northern Power.

Suggestions that there should be a standard letter created which could be sent out to potential donors in the area. Woodland School have agreed to put information regarding the playpark refurb on their digital noticeboard.

Suggestions that the school become involved in planning the playpark along with interested parents.

Facebook page

Proposals discussed to set up Facebook page to keep residents and beyond informed and involved with Parish Council business. Facebook page to be used solely as a noticeboard/info page and anyone wishing to comment would have to do so via email to the parish clerk. All the councillors present were unanimous in supporting the creation of a Facebook page. Cllr Timms and Cllr Gardner to set this up prior to next meeting.

Finance and Accounts

Bank balance £13,221 currently,

Still unable to make payments despite making 3 visits to Virgin Money to change mandate. Several invoices needing to be paid - internal audit, CDACL, Woodland Show donation, parts for repair to playground, ROSPA, and refund to Woodland Community Group of £840 for years rent for storage in cemetery chapel. Cllr Peckett has today received an email from Virgin Money asking for the same information to be sent again.

Payments authorised for the above outstanding invoices.

Grass Cutting

Due another cut in the next few weeks. Difficult job due to the length of the grass. Cllr Peckett to discuss with grass cutting contractor on their next visit to Woodland.

AOB

Cllr Snowdon received email from DCC regarding incident she had raised some months ago about no stopping signage outside the playpark. DCC are looking into the matter and will report back. Policies and Procedures Cllr Timms has put together scheme of delegation document. To be emailed to everyone for approval before next meeting. All councillors present agreed the sum of emergency expenditure should be £150. Document to be reviewed annually at AGM. Cllrs Gardner and Timms to

find which policies/procedures need to be reviewed and send updated documents via email to all councillors for approval

Planning

Nothing to report

Cllr Gardner had received an enquiry from a resident regarding the outbuilding/large shed erected at Garden House. Cllr Gardner explained to the resident that the parish council is unable to comment on structures for which planning permission has not been sought.

Correspondence

County Durham local network boundary changes planned for future; Woodland will remain in Evenwood area. Other areas will be Barnard Castle, Lower Teesdale, Upper Teesdale and Evenwood. Details on a map via their website under area action partnership. They claim altering the boundaries will save £500,00 per year

New scheme of community energy suggesting micro systems in towns and villages by either using the electricity produced or feeding back into the national grid and using the money from feed-in tariff payments for village uses. Cllr Gardner to investigate this further before the next meeting.

Next meeting

Thursday 12th September 2024 at 7.30 pm at Woodland Village Hall

These are true and accurate minutes of the meeting as agreed by the council

Date Signed

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Please note, all parish council meetings will be audio recorded for the purposes of accurately producing the minutes. The recording will be retained by Woodland Parish Council until the minutes have been agreed and signed. The recording will then be deleted unless the retention is requested by a lawful authority.