

Minutes of General Meeting Held Thursday 10th August 2023. **7.30pm. Woodland Village Hall**

Present.

Cllr Mr C Harding. Cllr Mr R Teasdale. Cllr Mr A Rutter. Cllr Mr N L Peckett.
Cllr Mr P Brydon. Cllr Mrs J Gardner

Apologies.

None

Declaration of Interest.

None.

Confirmation of Minutes.

Minutes of the meeting held 11/05/2023 were read and agreed.

Matters Arising.

1. Since the last meeting where Cllr Harding agreed to continue as Acting Clerk and Mrs D Peckett agreed to continue as RFO, both have resigned their positions. A Closed meeting of the Parish Council was held and it was unanimously agreed that Cllr Land would take over both positions. Following advice from the National Association of Local Councils Cllr Land agreed that the positions would be of a voluntary nature for a year to meet with the regulations and that Cllr Land would take up the position as a paid member of the Parish Council staff. Cllr Land resigned as a councilor to enable him to take on the positions
2. The chair announced that, following the above change of Clerk it left a position on the council. The vacancy had been posted and no election was required. The returning officer at DCC had given permission to co-opt. One application has been received from Maggie Timms.

Cllr Gardner asked at what point the members of the public were allowed to speak at the meeting. She has looked at the standing orders which states that members of the public may speak at the beginning of a meeting. The chair explained that “a parish Council meeting is not a public meeting”, it is open to the public. The public may have the opportunity to speak, if time allows and if it has been brought to the attention of the Chair or Clerk prior to the meeting. Cllr Gardner quoted the standing orders which state that Members of the public will always have the opportunity to speak at the beginning of the meeting not during any other business. Cllr Gardner requested that members of the public present who were Mr B Abbott, Mrs A Abbott, Mr D Newton and Mrs L Newton had the right to speak at the meeting. The Chair reiterated that no requests to speak at the meeting had been received so the council were not aware that anyone wished to speak. The Chair asked the members of the public if any of them had something to say. Mrs L Newton stated that she had something to say. The chair agreed to allow Mrs Newton to speak at this point to save the members of the public present having to stay for the whole meeting if they did not wish to do so.

Mrs Newton had three things that she would like to speak about:

1. The village hall committee had managed to get an agreement with the post office to open for a short period in the bar between 12 and 2PM on a Monday commencing in

September. There would be limited service. Some services such as Passports car tax etc. would not be available. The chair agreed to advertise this information on the Parish Council website.

2. Mrs Newton wanted to have some clarity on the social media policy for the Parish Council as there had been some confusion. As Chair of the Village hall she had been approached by members of the community regarding posts on social media groups that not everyone in the village has access to. She stated that information on the two main Facebook groups were not the same and that Mr Land has allowed his wife to post Parish Council business on his behalf. She was asking for clarification on the social media policy of the Parish Council. Mrs Newton asked that the current social media groups were not to be used by the Parish Council for their business. Mr Land explained that he had been asked to let as many people know about the meeting at Marwood social center as soon as possible so that as many people could attend as possible. Mr Land stated that he had used both social media groups in good faith. Councilor Gardner stated that Woodland Community Group FB page is totally unsuitable as a platform to publish WPC business as it is not open to all members of the public. Around 50% of the village is currently blocked from this site. Also that she does not agree with any further social media posts from anyone connected with WPC until the issue of how and when the PC uses social media is decided. The Clerk asked that if she receives any further complaints regarding himself or his actions, could they please be referred to him. He is available via the email address clerk@woodlandparishcouncil.gov.uk He asked that she does not take anything on on his behalf. Mr Land asked for clarification so that the decision could be recorded in the minutes. It will be recorded that there is an agreement from all Councilors that no further post on social media would be made regarding Woodland Parish Council business. That decision is recorded.
3. As a horse rider in the village Mrs Newton stated there has been in significant increase in instances that she had become aware of and now that there was a disabled horse rider in the village she wondered if there could be an increase in signage within the village warning drivers about potential horses and riders along the roads through the village. The chair had approached DCC over a year ago to ask for signs to be installed but no action had been taken. A discussion took place between councilors regarding the safety of young, not traffic accustomed horses being on the road and the issues with ditches and verges around the village. It was agreed that DCC would be approached by the Clerk again regarding signs. The chair suggested that the village could procure their own signs. The Clerk brought an idea that he had come across from another council where they had purchased signs and attached them to the wheely bins so that at least once a week drivers would be aware of speed limits horse riders and possibly dog fouling.
The members of the public left the meeting.

Finance.

Bank Balance £9507

Payments £1389 which includes the annual insurance

Cemetery.

1. The spoil heaps in the cemetery are growing, it has been reported to Burial services. No action has been taken. It was agreed that burial services would be approached by the clerk again.
2. The tap in the Cemetery has been repaired by Mr Land

Playground.

1. The annual safety report has been received and is available from The Clerk if requested

Repairs and future investment. The Chair has looked for someone local that would have a look at repairs but no one has been found. The equipment is looking tired. It was last replaced over 20 years ago. Grants are available to replace the equipment The Clerk is to investigate. There is also a potential to relocate the playground to the current Woodland part of the village green but it was decided that a decision would be postponed until the boundary change was in place. Further research will be undertaken by The Clerk.

Planning (New)

1. **DM/23/01633.** This has been referred to DCC for full planning committee decision. The Clerk asked Cllr Gardener for clarification regarding a report that had been commissioned by her detailing the average speed passing through that part of the village.
2. **DM/23/01591/FPA** ongoing. The Clerk was asked to send an email to DCC planning reiterating the issue of road safety and parking.
3. **DM/22/00601 FPA** Finally disposed of - Noted

Boundary Change

1. Postponed to September 2023. As that date is near it would be appropriate that the proposal would be referred to electoral services again. If it was to be resurrected an advertising campaign should be undertaken. The Clerk asked that support from all councillors for this would be available. The Clerk to action.

Correspondence & I.T.

1. Very little correspondence of a physical nature has been received. The main is in the form of an email. The Clerk looks through every email and currently forwards to the members anything that may be of interest. It was agreed that The Clerk would filter out anything that would seem not of immediate importance. All emails except advertising would be retained in the inbox for future reference.

Any Other Business.

1. Appointment of Clerk: Simon Land is now Clerk and RFO
2. Resignation of Councilors Simon Land and Cliff Harding
3. Councilor Vacancy, as a result of Simon Land resigning the process has been undertaken and the council now has the permission to co-opt
Due to the nature of the personal information contained with the application this part of the Meeting is closed to the public and will remain confidential.
It was decided that Mrs Timms would be co-opted onto the Parish Council.
4. Kininvie Junction. Proposed road closure, a new proposal was being prepared by DCC. Ongoing to be monitored.
5. PC meetings to increase to 6 times per year. Agreed. Any urgent decisions would be looked at by the Chair and Clerk, any decisions needing a majority decision would be added as an addendum to these minutes.

6. Speeding, The Clerk is to request that the speed van has a presence within the village. The cost of speed gates and process for installation would be investigated by The Clerk. Cllr Peckett mentioned that electronic speed signs were being installed in Cockfield so the situation regarding costs must have changed, Cllr Peckett will investigate.
7. Emergency Plan: The Clerk introduced draft 1.1 of the plan and explained why it had come about. Various ideas were voiced that would need to be visited in the near future, telecoms/internet resilience etc. Councilors agreed to read the plan previously circulated and comments returned to The Clerk.

Next Meeting

Thursday 9th November 2023 7.30pm

Woodland Village Hall

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting as agreed by the council

DATE.....

SIGNED.....

