

WENHASTON WITH MELLS HAMLET PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk Richard Day

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Minutes of meeting of the Parish Council held remotely on 18/11/20 at 7.00pm.

Present; Cllr. P Wildish (chair), Cllr. C Way (Vice chair), Cllr. M Welby, Cllr. C Watson, Cllr. K Canham, District Cllr, T Goldson and Clerk Richard Day.

1. Chair welcomed all to meeting. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from County Cllr. Smith, District Cllr. Cackett, Cllrs. Phillips, Musk, Mann and Cox.
2. There were no declarations of interest.
3. There were no requests for dispensation to vote.
4. Minutes to the meeting held on 21/10/20 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Welby, seconded by Cllr. Canham and agreed unanimously.
5. Clerk report: The sports area and outside gym are closed with notices posted to this effect UFN. Children's play area remains open following risk assessment, appropriate action and reference to Govt. guidelines regarding Covid.

Transfer of ownership has been confirmed regarding the telephone box. I have established a contact point for the signage if required, a specific cost has not been obtained at this stage as there may be other specialist materials to obtain. I have been advised that it will not be low cost!

Anonymous letter received complaining about light pollution from a property on Bramfield Rd. There is a process for dealing with this nature of complaint but without detail of complainant or sufficient information I cannot provide advise/direction.

The latest consultation document re Sizewell C has arrived and has been made available to Councillors.

6. Matters arising from previous minutes: None.
7. No report.
8. District Councillor Goldson outlined current position re Covid for area.
9. Items carried forward from previous meeting:
 - (i) Succession Planning – Chair confirmed that he would remain in office until a suitable replacement is found – matters are progressing on this front.

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10. Councillors had reviewed the initiative involving designation of Quiet Lanes in Suffolk but after debate it was decided not to pursue this further at this stage.
11. Covid restrictions have meant that the planned meeting with a Parishioner regarding the Village having an active environmental global warning awareness group had not taken place. Chair confirmed that he would ensure this was arranged as soon as circumstances allow and 5 Councillor's provisionally agreed to attend.
12. Councillor Canham proposed a new dog waste bin for Blackheath together with replacement of a number of existing bins which are in poor condition. Cllr Welby seconded and all voted in agreement. Clerk will arrange and chase NORSE regarding the existing order for replacement (Bus shelter location) Cllrs. Welby and Canham were thanked for their work in clearing the areas around other bins in the village.
13. Carried forward to next meeting. (Pepyn and Lessey additional Trustees)
14. Cllr. Canham proposed Ian Brearty as a new Parish Councillor, Cllr. Welby seconded and all agreed. Clerk to invite Ian to next meeting.
15. DC/20/4264/LBL and DC/20/4263/FUL re St Vulcans, Back Road, Wenhaston – various matters which Parish council have no objection to – All voted in agreement.
16. Cllr Wildish provided an update on the progress with various urgent repairs at the Village Hall which included severe roof leak and improvement to boiler efficiency.
17. (i) Parish council have had no response to the request, for volunteer group to support various greening issues suggested for Wenhaston. Despite continued efforts to contact no response has been received from SCC representative regarding grass verge management, which following research would also require a volunteer group. As Parish Council support was contingent upon formation of such a group no progress can be made. (See previous minutes)
(ii) Following receipt of a request (Supported by detailed up to date current financial information) to assist the Village Hall manage the financial impact on their income, which has been impacted by Covid restrictions, the following was agreed unanimously. An immediate grant of £3200.00 would be made (utilising CIL monies held) and a contingency reserve of £2575.00 would be set aside during the next financial year in case of further need. This was proposed by Cllr, Way and seconded by Cllr. Welby.

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18. RFO REPORT:

Balances at bank are C/A £48777.61 D/A £3142.03 Total £51,191.64 This is prior to approval and issue of cheques totalling £1,186.50. Balances have been reconciled to ledger and are available for member audit. RFO report accepted following proposal by Cllr. Wildish, seconded by Cllr. Welby and agreed unanimously.

I have completed a review of charges levied by Parish Council and recommend that these are increased on the same basis as the recent review of allotment rental ie by the cumulative inflation figure, backdated to the previous review. This mainly applies to Cemetery Fees. Proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Canham, seconded by Cllr. Welby and agreed unanimously.

Draft Budget 2021/22.

Current expenditure ytd is broadly in line with budget. Figures to the end of Qtr2 have already been provided to Councillors although there will be increases applied for the services we use next year, these equate to 3% based upon the information I have at present. The Parish Council currently holds significant funds but within these are £20K reserves for specific areas of future expenditure and also additional general reserves. Members should also consider Agenda item 17 (Additional cost) and the agreement in principle given to Cemetery fencing costs of approx. £7.5K. We still have 4 months of costs to cover during the remainder of this financial year.

Precept setting will be delayed this year as the basis for calculation is still being determined, however we should agree an expenditure budget and set the precept in due course. If there is a desire to keep precept requirement down then increased expenditure will need to be subsidised from reserves. Cllr. Canham proposed that a draft budget was prepared based upon the above factors and Cllr. Wildish seconded. All voted in favour and Clerk will present at next meeting.

19. Items for December agenda:

- Litter pick equipment/material.

Date of next meeting 16/12/20 (Venue to be confirmed)

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