

# WENHASTON WITH MELLS HAMLET PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk Richard Day

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Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 21/12/22 at 7.30pm. in the Village Hall.

Present; Cllr. P Wildish (Chair), Cllr. A Musk (Vice chair) Cllr. J Townsend, Cllr. H Phillips, Cllr. K Canham, Cllr. C Way, Cllr. G Leech, Cllr. M Welby Cllr. D Stammers, County Cllr. R Smith, District Cllr. T Goldson and Clerk Richard Day.

1. Chair welcomed all to meeting. Apologies received and accepted from Councillors Watson and Mann.
2. There were no declarations of interest.
3. There were no requests for dispensation to vote.
4. Minutes to the meeting held on 16/11/22 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Musk seconded by Cllr. Wildish and agreed unanimously.
5. CLERK REPORT: All matters appear under separate agenda headings.
6. There were no matters arising from previous minutes.
7. A copy of the report from County Cllr Smith is available from Clerk.
8. A copy of the report from District Cllr Goldson is available from Clerk.
9. Items carried forward from previous meeting. (i) Review of cost and feasibility of providing lighting at sports area car park primarily for school staff. Decision deferred pending receipt of further information regarding cost. (ii) A full review of CIL monies held had been provided by Clerk. Following further receipt last month a total of approx. £19k is held of which £8K has been allocated to future expenditure. This information was carried forward to agenda items 10 and 13 below.
10. Following agreement at the previous meeting to an expenditure budget of £26790 for 2023/24 Clerk provided projections for bank balance at the financial year end, committed and anticipated capital expenditure figures and an updated position on specific reserves held. Following debate Cllr. Way proposed that increased expenditure budgeted for should be met from reserves with no increase in precept. Cllr. Leech seconded and all voted in favour of a precept request of £24000.00. (ie no increase)
11. Cllr. Welby confirmed completion of the review of Council's internal control procedures as set out within the approved summary document. He proposed acceptance and confirmed satisfactory findings. Cllr Canham seconded and all voted in favour of signature of the document by Chair
12. Chair/ Clerk summarised the position regarding the allotments following the demise of WALGA. The tenancy is to be transferred under existing terms and timescale to a new group being formed. Wenhaston Allotments Association will have an inaugural meeting at the Village Hall and a committee will be formed. Parish Council Chair and Clerk will support in the first instance on administrative matters and there may be a request for temporary financial

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support pending completion of registration and arrangement of Bank account etc. (To be confirmed in due course)

13. Requests for grants. (i) Councillor Canham proposed a donation of £200 towards the costs involved with the village show. Cllr. Way seconded and all voted in agreement. (ii) VHMC requests assistance from Parish Council for funding a number of projects including a new entrance gate, gents' toilet upgrade, replacement notice boards and improved exterior lighting. A full breakdown of costs supported by quotes will be required prior to further consideration but Clerk will allocate a provisional reserve within the accounts to ringfence funds for possible future use from CIL funds. Cllr. Canham proposed that the noticeboard used by the Parish Council should be replaced and a contribution of 50% of the cost of gate/ entrance work should be made. Quotations have been provided and this will involve contribution costs of £446 and £2,200 respectively. Cllr. Wildish seconded and all voted in agreement.
14. The current Environmental Stewardship Agreement (ESA) for Blackheath Commons expires early next year, SWT and Wenhaston Commons Group have recommended that a new agreement is sought. This would involve application by WCG who would then use SWT as a contractor for Blackheath as is now the case but also for other commons related work. Parish Councillors were circulated with supporting information prior to the meeting and Cllr. Stammers proposed acceptance of the suggested approach, Cllr. Musk seconded and all voted in favour of rejecting the offer to extend and agree to the suggested approach made by SWT and WCG
15. Cllr. Wildish updated on Emergency Planning meetings attended since last meeting.
16. Correspondence. Concern has been expressed regarding the condition of the Jubilee Oak which does not appear to have survived the dry summer. Following proposal Cllr. Stammers offered to source a replacement, this was supported by all Councillors with one exception, where it was felt that the oak should be placed at the cemetery. Cllr. Stammers will now arrange a suitable replacement for current position.
17. RFO Report. Balance held at bank is £63847.26 which is prior to payments to be authorised which total £1898.68. Bank statements have been reconciled to ledger and are available for monthly member audit. RFO Report proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Wildish seconded by Cllr. Leech and unanimously agreed.
18. Meeting closed 8.30 pm. Next meeting 18/1/23. (Agenda items to include succession planning and 2023 election of Councillors.)

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