

WENHASTON WITH MELLS HAMLET PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk Richard Day

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Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 15/2/23 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, Cllr. S Mann, County Cllr. R Smith, District Cllr. T Goldson, Clerk Richard Day and two Parishioners.

1. Chair welcomed all to meeting. Apologies received and accepted from County Councillor Smith and Cllr. Watson
2. There were no declarations of interest.
3. There were no requests for dispensation to vote.
4. Minutes to the meeting held on 18/1/23 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Musk seconded by Cllr. Mann and agreed unanimously.
5. CLERK REPORT:
Street lighting problem in Narrow Way has been reported and acknowledged by SCC. Awaiting response/action.

Dog waste bin on Blackheath has been destroyed/vandalised and repair/replacement awaited, this will incur cost estimated at approx. £350.00

Concrete base for telephone box return has been installed thanks to Cllrs. Mann and Stammers and delivery of the restored unit is imminent.

I have had a series of meetings with Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Wenhaston Commons Group and a draft Service Level Agreement has been circulated for member review prior to this meeting. (See separate agenda heading)

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. (A) Review of cost and feasibility of providing lighting at sports area car park. Cllr. Wildish proposed that this was agreed and Cllr. Welby seconded. This is subject to the following conditions. (i) As prime beneficiaries of the improvement the school should fund the operating cost which will be power and maintenance. The hedge between school and parking area should be kept trimmed by the school so that lighting is effective. (ii) School staff to refrain from parking on the roadside and use the car park. Cllr. Mann will advise Headteacher verbally of the decision and conditions and if acceptable then Clerk will confirm in writing. Total cost circa £250 plus possible cost of digger hire. (B) Cllr. Wildish updated on preparations for the Parish Council stand at the forthcoming Village Hall open

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- day. This will highlight the work of the PC and hopefully generate interest from Parishioners in becoming a Parish Councillor.
10. Clerk updated on the position following Risk Assessment work which is now completed. (Outcomes require expenditure at play area of approx. £2.5k to replace/repair worn equipment, quotes being obtained)
 11. Clerk provided an update on progress with renewal of the HLS agreement with DEFRA/Rural England for the management of Blackheath. Following a full explanation of the proposed service level agreement requested by Suffolk Wildlife Trust to continue, with Wenhaston Commons Group, to manage the common on behalf of the PC, Cllr. Stammers proposed acceptance of the terms, Cllr. Way seconded and all voted in agreement. This will allow application to be made for a new Countryside Stewardship Agreement which SWT will manage on behalf of PC. If the application is successful the PC will require delegation of part of the administrative work to a representative from Wenhaston Commons Group. This is subject to further discussion but agreed in principle, as it allows access to technical knowledge essential for effective administration of the scheme. (Clerk will update at future meeting)
 12. Planning. (i) DC/223/0352/FUL. Car port at Fox Hill, Bartholomews Lane, Wenhaston. Unanimously supported (ii) There was no further correspondence.
 13. Clerk provided guidance on pre election period (PEP) and outlined arrangements and key dates. The necessary statutory notices will be posted in due course and the process for nomination was outlined. The event will be publicised at forthcoming Village Hall open day and via an entry to Warbler.
 14. Cllr Stammers proposed a commemorative beech tree should be planted to mark the forthcoming Coronation of King Charles III. Cllr. Canham seconded and Cllr. Stammers will investigate possible site for the tree and if agreed then will arrange. All voted in agreement.
 15. Following a previous presentation by the group and a subsequent written request for a donation to assist with various 'Green' projects within the village it was unanimously agreed to donate £500.00 as requested by Blyth Woods/ Wilder Wenhaston. This initiative meets objectives and aims set out within the neighbourhood plan.
 16. Wenhaston historical photographs. Carry forward to next agenda.
 17. No reports from Committee representatives.
 18. Correspondence. Covered within above headings.
 19. RFO REPORT:
Balance at Bank is £58151.93 prior to authorisation of payments this month totalling £3735.29 Bank balance has been reconciled and is available for monthly member audit. Report proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Musk seconded by Cllr. Way and agreed unanimously.
 20. Items for next agenda. Lamp posts 41 and 36 and telegraph pole between (DP47) Possible street lighting improvement.

Meeting closed 8.40 pm. Next meeting 22/3/23

Stammers
22/3/23