

WENHASTON WITH MELLS HAMLET PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk Richard Day

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Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 18th October 2023 at 7.30pm. in the Village Hall.

Present; Cllr. P Wildish, (Chair) Cllr. A Musk, Cllr. J Townsend, Cllr. M. Wilkinson, Cllr. D Stammers, Cllr. C Way, Cllr. K Canham, Cllr. G Leech, County Cllr. R Smith, District Cllr. Keys- Holloway, Clerk Richard Day and 15 Parishioners.

1. Chair welcomed all to meeting. Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs. Mann and Welby
2. There were no declarations of interest expressed.
3. There were no requests for dispensation to vote.
4. The minutes to the meeting held on 16/8/23 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Musk, seconded by Cllr.Way and unanimously approved.
5. CLERK REPORT:

The unused area at the New Cemetery has been cleared after the summer growth and Cllr Musk was thanked for volunteering to complete this.

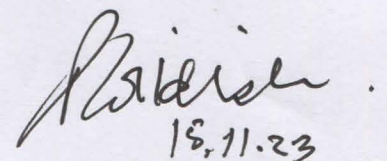
Repairs to the boarding at the sports area have been completed. Cllr Townsend was thanked for volunteering to complete this work.

A seat has been provided by two Parishioners and has been installed by Cllr. Musk at Well Green. Councillors expressed appreciation for the donation of the seat and the installation.

Following the recent reports made to SCC the following work has been scheduled. Provision of road markings and improvement/repainting of existing markings at St Michaels Way/ Narrow Way and Beckers View. Timescale approx. 10 weeks. Additionally, work is also scheduled to commence within approx. 3 weeks to improve the eroded/worn pavement at The Street. (See also agenda item 9(i))

The Cemetery maintenance will no longer be undertaken by Mr Coby following his retirement. I am in the process of compiling an updated job description and schedule of work prior to finding an alternative contractor.

6. There were were no matters arising from previous minutes.
7. A copy of Cllr. Smith's report is available from Clerk
8. A copy of District Cllrs' report is available from Clerk. No progress had been made with the reported condition of the Church Cemetery which had been highlighted following the previous meeting. Carry forward for action by next meeting. (Agenda item)
9. (i) Following proposal from Cllr. Wildish, seconded by Cllr. Canham it was unanimously agreed to co-opt the nominated Parishioner, Terry Cushion. Clerk


18.11.23

will now arrange. (ii) It was agreed to further progress the possible installation double yellow lines on a section of The Street, Wenhaston to mitigate pavement incursion and provide sufficient room for vehicles pass and emergency vehicles to access. Clerk will contact SCC Highways for an evaluation and costing, Parishioners affected will be consulted. (iii) Costing still awaited for replacement of Cemetery hedge. Carry forward to next meeting. (iv) Councillors unanimously supported the request from Halesworth dementia carers charity for a donation. £250.00 was approved and it was confirmed that Wenhaston residents are eligible for support.

10. Cllr. Wildish provided a full update on proposals from National Grid Ventures (Lion Link) Cllrs. had also attended various presentations /webinars prior to this meeting. Parishioners in attendance had also had the opportunity pre-meeting to express their views. Parish Council will now provide a consolidated response to the proposals and this will be compiled before 28/10/23 and circulated and published on the Parish Council website. The proposals in current form are providing much concern in the village and Councillors undertook to recognise this when responding to the proposals made so far.
11. See above.
12. The Village Hall Management Committee have now agreed upon a preferred contractor and accepted a quotation for the work having looked at two other quotations. A total cost of £10.1K has been agreed and as per the original agreement, the Parish Council will contribute on a matched funding basis following proposal from Cllr. Wildish, this was seconded by Cllr. Canham and unanimously supported. CIL monies will be made available to assist with this improvement to Village amenities. We await further details regarding possible security improvements.
13. Clerk provided confirmation that the External Audit Limited Assurance Review had been successfully completed and signed off by external auditors and there were no areas of concern.
14. PLANNING. Cllrs. unanimously ratified the earlier decision to support appn. Ref DC/23/3070/FUL. (Balmaha, St. Michaels Way, Wenhaston)
15. The agenda item "20s plenty" was withdrawn from the agenda following recent Govt. announcement on the scheme.
16. Clerk confirmed that an agreement offer had been received from DEFRA in respect of the Countryside Stewardship of Blackheath Common. This was unanimously supported by Cllrs. and duly signed on behalf of the Parish Council by way of acceptance. All matters are now in place including management plans and service level agreements with Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Wenhaston Commons Group.
17. CORRESPONDENCE. Matters circulated pre meeting. (i) Letter of concern from Parishioner regarding the overgrown condition of the closed cemetery at St. Michaels Churchyard (ii) Further allegations from Parishioner of breaches of planning regulations at Bickers End, Low Rd. Wenhaston. (The matter has already been brought to the attention of Planning Dept. (Enforcement) (iii) Suggestion for future use of Telephone Box. Cllr Way to evaluate the suggestion and report back as the internal work has now been completed. (iv) Request from tennis club for donation towards cost of new floodlights. (Carry

Wildish,
15.11.23

forward to next meeting pending receipt of further detail to support the request)

18. RFO REPORT. Second precept payment has been received and is included within the reconciled balance at bank of £64,426.17. This available for member audit. Payments for authorisation total £3516.66 this month and are not included in the above figure, The payment for rates (Pavilion at Sports field) totalling £201.81 are now to be made by direct debit. Report proposed for acceptance by Cllr Musk seconded by Cllr. Wildish and unanimously approved.
19. Items for next agenda. (i) Emergency Planning Arrangements, (ii) Repair to Bus Shelter on Star Hill. (Cllr. Musk to obtain quote) (iii) Action to be agreed on overgrown hedges where private dwelling boundaries are adjacent to roads and presenting problems to traffic. (iv) Donation to Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Meeting closed 9.05pm. Date of next meeting 15/11/23

Wildish
15.11.23.