

WENHASTON WITH MELLS HAMLET PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk Richard Day

1richardday@gmail.com

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 15th November 2023 at 7.30pm. in the Village Hall.

Present; Cllr. P Wildish, (Chair) Cllr. A Musk, Cllr. M. Wilkinson, Cllr. D Stammers, Cllr. C Way, Cllr. K Canham, Cllr. S Mann, County Cllr. R Smith, District Cllr. B Keys-Holloway, Clerk Richard Day and 2 Parishioners.

1. Chair welcomed all to meeting. Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs. Townsend, Cushion, Leech 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 18/10/23 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Musk, seconded by Cllr. Wildish and unanimously approved.
5. CLERK REPORT:

Request from Football Club received regarding term of existing management agreement for the pavilion. In order to qualify for grant funding from the football federation a minimum of 5 years must be available before expiry. We are requested to extend the current agreement to facilitate this. ACTION. Agreed in principle. Clerk will advise Football Club and either renew or extend existing agreement to meet needs.

The renewal of the Post Office lease has been completed and is held on behalf of the PC by Cross Ram, Solicitors, Halesworth.

The lighting for the car park at sports ground has been installed by Cllrs. Mann. Townsend and Stammers, with the only cost being for materials. Thanks were expressed to these Councillors for their work.

I have made no progress with the grass cutting arrangements for the Cemetery etc.

Several parishioners have contacted the Parish Council following the recent flooding. In all cases the co-ordinated approach outlined by SCC has been provided. All Councillors have been provided with this information. In one instance a site visit has been made by Chair, Vice Chair and representative from Wenhaston Commons Group to fully understand the specific issues and provide guidance.

I am advised that the Relief in need charity intend to amalgamate with Pepyn and Lessey charity.

A full response was made after significant consultation with Parishioners regarding the National Grid Ventures proposals for the village. Feedback from Parishioners is positive in terms of the balanced nature of its content. ACTION. Parish Council to meet cost associated with providing information to Parishioners via leaflet delivery by volunteers. Proposed by Cllr. Way

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seconded by Cllr. Musk and unanimously supported. Clerk to arrange payment/reimbursement against invoice.

Cllr. Wildish had organised a general tidy up at the War Memorial prior to remembrance Sunday. Cllrs. Expressed their full appreciation.

Alan Miller has planted 500 narcissi bulbs within the village as agreed with the Parish Council,

New domain names for Wenhaston PC have now become available via CAS Ltd with the required gov.uk designation. The PC email address will now be amended as per the mandatory requirement.

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. It was noted that the church cemetery had now been cleared following recent representations via District Cllrs.
9. (i) It was agreed that Cllrs. Wildish and Wilkinson would attend a site meeting with Wayne Saunders (SCC Highways) regarding the feasibility and cost of parking restrictions in The Street, Wenhaston. Clerk to arrange. (ii) Cllr. Wildish proposed a grant of £1K to the tennis club to assist with the improvements to lighting repair/renewal, Cllr. Mann seconded and all voted in agreement. (Grant to be made upon receipt of paid invoice or confirmed order for work) (iii) Cllr. Wildish provided an update on the Emergency Planning arrangements with particular reference to winter months. (iv) Cllr. Wildish proposed that repair and refurbishment of the bus shelter at Star Hill should commence, Cllr. Wilkinson seconded and all voted in agreement. Cost will be £1500 based on quotations received and will involve a complete refurbishment using like for like replacement materials. (v) Village Hall Management Committee have now provided costings for the remainder of the security improvements at the Village Hall totalling £2952. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would support on a matched funding basis in line with the original proposal and therefore a grant of £1476 will be made available upon completion of the work. (vi) The cost of re hedging work at the cemetery will be £1392 net of vat and work will now commence following proposal from Cllr. Canham, seconded by Cllr. Wildish and unanimously agreed.
10. Several complaints have been made regarding overgrown hedges in the village impacting upon road users and presenting increased risk/hazard. An entry will be placed in the Warbler reminding property owners of their responsibilities and obligations in these matters. In addition Clerk will write specifically to one address where immediate remedial action is required due to the high level of risk reported.
11. A donation of £100 was proposed for the Poppy Appeal by Cllr. Wildish, seconded by Cllr. Stammers and unanimously approved.
12. Clerk outlined the challenges faced in preparing a draft budget for 2024/25. In formulating the basis of the draft budget to be presented at the next meeting the following factors will be included. Charges levied by the Parish Council will be increased in line with inflation. Details of known cost increases, which include amended NALC pay scales, together with estimates for the increased cost of the new contract for grass cutting in the village will also be factored in. The objective proposed by Cllr. Wildish, seconded by Cllr. Way will be to keep

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any increase in spending to a minimum. Once the draft is adopted then agreement will be sought on the level of precept request. (Carry Forward to next meeting.)

13. Clerk provided a summary of the risk assessment work which is being undertaken. A summary of findings and actions will be provided to Members in due course.
14. PLANNING. (i) Cllrs. unanimously ratified the earlier decision to support appn. Ref DC/23/3982/FUL. Construction of a garden studio at Fellside, Chapel Lane, Wenhaston, (ii) No further correspondence.
15. No reports
16. CORRESPONDENCE. No further correspondence.
17. RFO REPORT:
Balance at bank is £ 61358.84 prior to authorisation of payments totalling £7235.77. Statements have been reconciled and are available for member audit. Report proposed for acceptance by Cllr Wildish seconded by Cllr. Way and unanimously approved.
18. Meeting closed at 8.55pm. Date of next meeting 20/12/23.

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