

WENHASTON WITH MELLS HAMLET PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk Richard Day

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Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 20th December 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. T Cushion, Cllr. S Mann, Cllr. G Leech. Cllr. J Townsend, Cllr. M. Welby and Clerk Richard Day.

1. Chair welcomed all to meeting. Apologies received and accepted from County Cllr. R Smith and District Cllrs. G. Wakeling and B. Keys- Holloway.
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 15/11/23 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Musk, seconded by Cllr. Wildish and unanimously approved.

5. CLERK REPORT:

Work on bus shelter at Star Hill to commence early in New Year,

Date still awaited for meeting with SCC. Highways representative regarding The Street, Wenhaston. (Parking)

Notice placed in Warbler by Chair regarding property owners obligations for their hedges where they impact upon road users. Letter sent and acknowledged in respect of the major problem highlighted at last meeting. Review at next meeting for progress.

Work on cemetery hedge is now completed. Very impressive job by contractor.

6. There were were no matters arising from previous minutes.
7. No report
8. A copy of District Cllrs. report is available from Clerk. This had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.
9. No matters carried forward from previous meetings
10. A draft budget for 2024/25 had been prepared by Clerk using the parameters suggested at the previous meeting, projected bank position at end of current financial year and existing commitments to expenditure. Where possible reductions in expenditure had been made. Following a proposal from Cllr. Wildish, seconded by Cllr. Leech the draft budget showing expenditure of £26970 was unanimously approved. It should be noted that this will involve a significant reduction in available funds for grants/donations during 2024/25.
11. Following agreement on 2024/25 expenditure budget Cllr. Mann proposed that the precept request for 2024/25 should remain at the current level of £24,000. Cllr. Wildish seconded and all voted in agreement. The shortfall on agreed expenditure will be offset by other income streams.
12. Following proposal by Cllr. Wildish, Cllr. Wilkinson was nominated to replace Cllr. Canham as the Parish Council representative on the Village Hall

Richard Day
17.1.24

Management Committee. This was seconded by Cllr. Musk and unanimously agreed. Cllr. Canham will take different responsibilities within the VHMC structure.

13. Clerk updated members with the ongoing risk assessment work. Upon receipt of awaited information from VHMC and Allotment Holders Association this work will be completed and a report provided. (Carry forward to next meeting) The review of internal control procedures had been completed, signed off by the appointed member and circulated to all members pre meeting. As a result Cllr. Wildish proposed signature and acceptance of the review confirming the effectiveness of procedures together with internal audit arrangements on behalf of the Parish Council, Cllr. Way seconded and all voted in agreement. The document was duly signed.

14. PLANNING. (i) DC/23/4510/FUL Decision to support unanimously ratified. (ii) DC/23/4528/FUL 4 Bay cart lodge, small bedroom extension and 2 new windows at Low Farm Barn, Narrow Way, Wenhaston. Unanimously supported. (iii) No further correspondence.

15. No reports

16. CORRESPONDENCE. No further correspondence.

17. RFO REPORT:

Payments for authorisation total £1869.52 this month. Balance at bank, prior to these payments is £ 54298.07. Bank accounts reconciled to records and are available for member audit.

Report proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Wildish and seconded by Cllr. Mann with unanimous agreement.

18. Agenda item for next meeting. Pedestrian entrance on to Blackheath Rd. from new development at ex Wooten's site and proximity to road junction.
Meeting closed at 8.25pm. Date of next meeting 17/1/24.

Wildish

17.1.24.