

WENHASTON WITH MELLS HAMLET PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk Richard Day

clerk@wenhastonmells-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 24/09/2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Present; Cllr. P Wildish, (Chair) Cllr. A Musk, Cllr. G Leech, Cllr. M Wilkinson, Cllr. D Stammers, Cllr. J Townsend, Cllr. T Cushion, Cllr. S Cooke, District Cllr B. Keys-Holloway Clerk Richard Day and 5 Parishioners.

1. Chair welcomed all to meeting. Apologies received and accepted on behalf of County Cllr. Smith, District Cllr. Wakeling and Cllrs. Mann and Canham. Following proposal by Cllr. Wilkinson seconded by Cllr. Musk, Susanne Cooke was co opted to the Parish Council. This was unanimously supported and the declaration of acceptance of office signed.
2. No declarations of interest made.
3. There were no requests for dispensation to vote.
4. The minutes of the meeting held on 21/8/24 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Musk seconded by Cllr. Cushion and unanimously approved.

5. CLERK REPORT:

Cllr. Wildish has confirmed that the arrangements for the final work on village flood prevention measures are in hand following further meetings with residents.

A wasp nest has been reported at the outside gym, a warning sign has been posted and advice sought as to how to deal with the issue. The problem should resolve itself with the onset of autumn but we will monitor.

The Annual Return to Charity Commissioners in respect of Wenhaston Playing Field has been completed and submitted.

Following complaints an overgrown hedge/road incursion on Hall Rd/Wenhaston Lane has been reported to SCC Highways as it appears that this is on land under their ownership.

6. No matters arising from previous minutes.
7. No report.
8. District Councillors report had been circulated prior to the meeting and a copy is available from the Clerk upon request. It was agreed that Councillors would make relevant individuals aware of East Suffolk Councils initiative on cost of living issues and the support available.
9. Generator disposal/retention decision to be made at next meeting by which time it is hoped to be operational.
10. Following previous presentations by Wilder Wenhaston and subsequent to their original request for introduction of a series of measures to reduce light emission in the village the Parish Council had invited Parishioners to comment on the proposals, prior to a decision on whether to support the request. This

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had been undertaken by personal contact and responses made following an entry to the Wenhaston Warbler outlining the request made and the reasons for it. Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council had also been consulted for guidance on the relevance of the requests to current policies. The information had been collated and provided to Cllrs prior to the meeting to allow a decision to be made on whether support was to be given to the request from Wilder Wenhaston. Prior to the meeting members of the public had expressed their views and reasons for opposition. Councillors voted unanimously against the proposals made and in particular the following points were noted. 1/ The request to dim/filter the existing LED lighting was not supported by Suffolk County Council. The lighting fitted in Wenhaston runs at 3000 kelvins rather than the usual 4000 kelvins and had been subject to scrutiny prior to installation in order to comply with flora and fauna protection standards and were 'Dark sky' approved. The light emitted is golden rather than white and is targeted rather than scattered in delivery. The suggestion of blue filters being applied to LED lights is not recognised by SCC as being appropriate and is unlikely to meet with their approval. 2/ Significant levels of objection had been made by Parishioners most impacted by the proposals to dim and/or switch off street lighting earlier at night. Personal safety, poor pavement condition and security concerns were raised and specific instances described to support these views. Earlier switch off times were also opposed by persons who left the village hall in the late evening following events held there. Clerk will advise Wilder Wenhaston of the Council's response to their request and provide reasons to support the decision. An entry will also appear in Wenhaston Warbler in due course to advise Parishioners.

11. See agenda item (1) Co-option of Councillor. Clerk explained the requirement for an adequate succession plan to cover the role of Chair. A short presentation was made and full reassurance given on the levels of support available for the role. A description of the role was also provided to each Councillor. An invitation was made for any Councillor wishing to express interest or requiring more information to contact the Clerk direct. (Carry item forward to next meeting)

12. PLANNING. DC/24/2583/FUL. Re 35 Beckers View Wenhaston, Brick and timber open fronted summer house. Councillors unanimously agreed that supporting information did not provide sufficient detail to assess fully the possible impact of the proposal on neighbouring property and therefore the application could not be supported in current format.

13. Cllr. Wilkinson updated on the problems and remedial work at the Village Hall caused by water leak in the main hall.

14. See item 10 which includes parishioners objecting to the proposals for reduced street lighting in the village. Parishioner E-mails objecting to the proposals from Wilding Wenhaston regarding street lighting circulated to members prior to meeting.

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15. RFO REPORT:

The annual insurance policy is due for renewal and the schedule has been reviewed and is confirmed as appropriate and that asset values are accurate. I therefore recommend renewal premium of £916.75 is proceeded with.

Payments for authorisation, including the above, this month total £2536.47. Additionally a direct debit payment of £107.97 in respect of allotment water rates is due. Balance at bank prior to these payments is £46031.38 and this has been reconciled to spreadsheet and is available for member's monthly audit.

As a result of agenda item 11 it is appropriate to review the bank mandate for authorising signatures and I am in the process of attending to this,

Report proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Wildish seconded by Cllr. Musk and unanimously approved.

16. Meeting closed 8.15 pm. Next meeting 16th October 2024.

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