

WENHASTON WITH MELLS HAMLET PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk Richard Day

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Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 16/10/2024 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 Mann, Cllr. C Way, County Cllr. R Smith, District Cllr. G Wakeling, Clerk Richard Day and 4 Parishioners.

1. Chair welcomed all to meeting. Apologies received and accepted on behalf of Cllrs. Cooke and Canham.
2. No declarations of interest made.
3. There were no requests for dispensation to vote.
4. The minutes of the meeting held on 24/9/24 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Musk seconded by Cllr. Townsend and unanimously approved.
5. CLERK REPORT:
Site meeting undertaken with cemetery contractor and the following agreed, 1. Clearance work to be undertaken around new fencing / hedging to generally tidy up and allow recently planted hedge to thrive. 2. Regular cutting of half of the unused cemetery space to commence in the spring to improve quality of grass in preparation for bringing into use as existing area will be full in approx. 12/18 months.

Grit bins will be re stocked during the next few weeks. Please would Councillors check any bins they pass for general condition, absence of debris/rubbish etc and advise me of any issues prior to the refilling process.

Remembrance Sunday arrangements have been made and wreath is with Cllr. Wildish. It was unanimously agreed that a donation of £100 would be made to the poppy appeal in addition to the cost of the wreath.

6. No matters arising from previous minutes.
7. Copy report available from Clerk.
8. District Councillors report had been circulated prior to the meeting and a copy is available from the Clerk upon request. A summary will be published in Wenhaston Warbler.
9. (i) It was agreed that any decision regarding the generator would be deferred until a review and update of the emergency plan was undertaken. This would involve assessing available resources and updated guidelines for emergency planning using the village hall. (ii) Cllr. Musk has indicated a willingness to serve as a future Chairman. The bank mandate is being amended to increase

A Musk

20/11/24

the number of authorised signatories. (iii) The proposed entry explaining the Parish Council's decision not to support Wilder Wenhaston's request for 'Dark Skies' practices in the village will be published in the forthcoming edition of Wenhaston Warbler.

10. PLANNING. No correspondence.

11. Cllr. Wilkinson provided an update on the measures taken at the Village Hall in respect of the leak in the main hall.

12. CORRESPONDENCE:

i. Sole Bay Care Fund Charity requested a donation from the Parish Council to assist with the cost of providing hot lunches at Wenhaston Primary School for those children whose parents are struggling financially. The total cost of providing this service for children from Wenhaston will be £9514.05. After debate it was decided to defer any decision until a representative from the charity attended a future meeting to provide further information.

ii. A further e/mail has been received from Wilder Wenhaston Group requesting copies of all relevant correspondence in connection with the decision by the Parish Council when deciding not to support the request to move towards 'Dark Skies' in the village. Clerk will provide all requested information which includes copy emails (redacted to conceal personal information) Copies of guidance received from Suffolk County Council and summary of parishioner verbal responses to consultation. The group also requested publication by the PC of a draft policy document, prepared by the group outlining their proposals and entitled Wenhaston with Mells Hamlet Parish Council Dark Skies Policy. There was no support from Councillors to this request as it was felt that it conflicted with the decision made at the previous meeting regarding this matter.

13. RFO REPORT.

Second precept payment of £12000 credited to bank account. Balance of accounts prior to payments of £ 1519.14 requiring authorisation this month is £54796.90. This has been reconciled to spreadsheet and is available for member audit.

2nd quarter expenditure vs budget figures have been reviewed and there are no issues of concern. Where expenditure exceeds budget figure ytd this is solely as a result of seasonal expenditure and summary has been annotated to this effect. Document provided to Cllrs. prior to meeting.

Work will commence on draft budget for the next financial year together with a review of current scale of charges for services provided by the PC.

RFO report was proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Musk seconded by Cllr. Wildish and unanimously agreed.

A Musk

20/11/24

14. At the closure of the meeting Cllr. Wildish declared that he wished to stand down as Chairman with immediate effect. Arrangements will be made at the next meeting on 20th November to elect a successor.

Meeting closed at 9pm.

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20/11/24