

# WENHASTON WITH MELLS HAMLET PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk Richard Day

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Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 20/11/2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Present; Cllr. A Musk, Cllr. G Leech, Cllr. M Wilkinson, Cllr. D Stammers, Cllr. J Townsend, Cllr. T Cushion, Cllr. S Mann, Cllr. C Way, Cllr. S Cooke Cllr. K Canham County Cllr. R Smith, Clerk Richard Day and 6 Parishioners.

1. (i) Cllr. Stammers proposed Cllr. Musk as Chairman, Cllr. Way seconded with unanimous agreement from Councillors. The Declaration of Office was duly signed and Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Cllrs. requested that acknowledgement and thanks should be recorded in respect of the hard work and dedication of Peter Wildish, former Chair and Councillor during his term of office. (ii) Cllr. J. Townsend was proposed as vice chair by Cllr. Mann, seconded by Cllr. Stammers and unanimously supported.
2. No declarations of interest made.
3. There were no requests for dispensation to vote.
4. The minutes of the meeting held on 16/10/24 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Cooke seconded by Cllr. Mann and unanimously approved.
5. CLERK REPORT:  
Thank you to those Councillors and Parishioners who cleaned and tidied the area around the War Memorial and to Cllr. Wildish who attended the service on behalf of the Parish Council.

I have received the notice requesting determination of next year's precept. A draft budget will be provided at the next meeting and will include known/projected cost increases for 2024/25. I will also review the PCs scale of fees charged to ensure costs are being covered and provide recommendations at the December meeting. Agenda item December.

Clearance work at the cemetery has been completed to allow the newly laid hedge to thrive.

I have received confirmation that the amendments to the bank account have now been processed and are operational.

Cllr. Wildish has now formally resigned from the Parish Council and therefore a vacancy will be declared in due course. Cllr. Wildish has written to Councillors in appreciation of their support during his six years as a Parish Councillor and latterly as Chair.

*A Musk*

*18/12/24*



6. No matters arising from previous minutes.
7. Copy report available from Clerk.
8. No report from District Councillors,
9. Dr. Cathy Ryan made a presentation on behalf of Solebay Care Fund Charity and outlined the work undertaken and support provided for Wenhaston residents. Of pressing concern at the moment is the number of children attending the village school who, as a consequence of parents' financial position, do not enjoy a hot meal at lunchtime. The Charity funds the cost at the present time and this equates to £1980 for a 12 week term. There is currently a shortfall in funding for the winter/spring quarter. A request for a donation to support the work of the charity had been made at the previous meeting. Cllr. Canham proposed a donation of £1000, specifically ringfenced and earmarked for support of Wenhaston families was made available, Cllr. Way seconded and unanimous approval was given. The matter will be revisited at the time the expenditure budget for the next financial year is considered.
10. A review of Cllr. roles was undertaken as a result of the recent resignation of Cllr. Wildish, the objective being to involve as many Cllrs. as possible in active participation and spread the workload. The following was unanimously agreed. PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP comprises Cllr. Cooke, Cllr. Wilkinson. Cllr. Way. Cllr. Canham. EMERGENCY PLANNING GROUP comprises Cllr. Leech, Cllr. Mann. Cllr. Townsend. SCHOOL LIASON CLLR. Cllr. Mann OFFSHORE and SIGNIFICANT NATIONAL PROJECTS Cllr. Way. Cllr. Cushion Cllr. Cooke. INTERNAL CONTROL PROCEDURE MONITORING. Cllr Wilkinson.
11. Following proposal by Cllr Musk, seconded by Cllr. Stammers it was agreed that RFO duties would now be undertaken by Elaine Day who already acts in this capacity for Holton Parish Council and is fully aware of the requirements of the role and undertakes all accounting and audit work on their behalf. Additionally administrative support will continue to be provided to the Clerk as required. Contracted hours will be amended to Clerk 4 p/w RFO 8 p/w. Salary scales are unchanged and the NALC approved and recently published award will be adopted. The change was unanimously approved.
12. PLANNING. (i) DC/24/3444/OUT. Development of 3 self -build dwellings with associated garages and parking on land at Bickers End , Blyford Lane Wenhaston. Cllrs. unanimously ratified the decision to oppose this application for the reasons published. A presentation in support of the application had been made pre meeting by the agent submitting the application but this did not provide any further information than already published and available. (ii) DC/24/3750/FUL. Demolition of conservatory and construction of flat roof extension at rear together with front porch and replacement windows at The Dapples, Hall Rd. Wenhaston. Unanimously supported. (iii) No further correspondence,
13. No reports.

*A Musk*

*18/12/24*



**14. CORRESPONDENCE:**

Request from Blyth Woods for grant towards development costs of woodland at Church Lane. Total cost estimated at £600.00. Cllr. Mann proposed a donation of £600. Cllr Stammers seconded and the new facility will be made available to children at primary school and also reduce the amount of water run off thus mitigating flooding problems, this was unanimously approved

Letter of disappointment received and acknowledged from Parishioner regarding the recent decision by the PC not to support darker skies in the village. Letter acknowledged although some of the points made are factually incorrect. (No further action, letter circulated to Cllrs. prior to meeting)

**15. RFO REPORT:**

Payments for authorisation total £ 1575.77. Balance at bank prior to authorisation is £53693.10 which has been reconciled and records are made available for member audit. Report proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Townsend seconded by Cllr. Mann and unanimously agreed.

**16. Meeting closed at 8.40pm. Date of next meeting 18/12/24**

*A must*

*18/12/24*