

WENHASTON WITH MELLS HAMLET PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk Richard Day

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Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 18/12/2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Present; Cllr. A Musk (Chair), Cllr. J Townsend (Vice chair) Cllr. G Leech, Cllr. M Wilkinson, Cllr. D Stammers, Cllr. T Cushion, Cllr. S Mann, Cllr. C Way, Cllr. S Cooke Cllr. K Canham County Cllr. R Smith, District Cllr. G Wakeling and Clerk Richard Day.

1. Chair welcomed all to meeting, there were no apologies for absence.
2. No declarations of interest made.
3. There were no requests for dispensation to vote.
4. The minutes of the meeting held on 20/11/24 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Canham seconded by Cllr. Wilkinson and unanimously approved.

5. CLERK REPORT:

Report submitted regarding the flooding issues on Blyford Lane. The initial response was not encouraging and depending on the findings from the investigations by Highways Dept. SCC then a joint site visit may be appropriate. Cllr. Stammers has agreed to help with this.

Risk assessment reviews commenced and playarea/sports equipment will require attention. As soon as full details are available any risks above Low Category will be addressed. In addition re painting of the outside gym is overdue and quotes for the work will be obtained with a view to a spring date for the work required.

Approval to co opt Parish Councillor received, Agenda item at next meeting.

The generator has been tested and is in satisfactory working order. We are advised that regular, extended use would extend the lifespan of the equipment. Thanks to Cllr. Mann for his help with this.

6. No matters arising from previous minutes.
7. Copy report available from Clerk.
8. District Councillors' report had been provided and circulated prior to meeting. A copy is available from Clerk
9. Cllr. Mann is making further enquiries as to whether or not assistance will be required during 2025/26 with the hot meals for all project at the village school.
10. A draft expenditure budget had been prepared and circulated for debate. This included a projected and known cost increases, suggestions for possible savings on costs and implementation of increases to charges made for the provision of Council services following a review. Cllr. Canham proposed adoption of the draft document, Cllr. Way seconded and all voted in agreement to an expenditure budget of £28900. This represents an increase of £1930 on the current year. Reserves will remain at present levels and appear as a note to the agreed budget document to be provided prior to the next meeting.,

*A Musk
15/12/25*

11. 2025/26 Precept requirement was debated following agreement on budget. Full consideration was given to the positive impact of increased charges for second homes in the village as a result of changes made by East Suffolk Council. Cllr. Way proposed a precept request of £26897 which Cllr Leech seconded. This was unanimously agreed and the resultant charge will equate to £57.54 for a Band D property and appear as a NIL increase on Community Charges billing. The shortfall on expenditure vs precept will be met from increases in charges for services as levied by the Parish Council.
12. PLANNING. (i) DC/24/4144/FUL Construction of a first-floor side extension at Fernleigh, Blackheath Rd. Wenhaston. Unanimously supported. (ii) No further correspondence.

13. No reports.

14. No further correspondence.

15. RFO REPORT:

Balance at bank is currently £52241.29 this is prior to payments for authorisation this month which total £3466.05, Bank statements have been reconciled to spreadsheet records and are available for monthly member audit. Payment from Rural Payments Agency totalling £4461.14 is due and not included in the figures. An invoice is awaited for the same amount which will then be paid across to contractors undertaking the management work on the commons under the Countryside Stewardship Agreement Report proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Stammers, seconded by Cllr Musk and unanimously agreed.

16. Meeting closed at 8.30pm following which a presentation was made on behalf of the Parish Councillors to Peter Wildish in acknowledgement of his outstanding service to the Council during the last 6 years of which the majority of the time was in the role of Chairman. Date of next meeting 15th JANUARY 2025

*A Musk
15/1/25*