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WENHASTON WITH MELLS HAMLET PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk Richard Day clerk@wenhastonmells-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19th August 2026 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Present; Cllr. A Musk (Chair), Cllr. J Townsend (Vice Chair) Cllr. G Leech, Cllr. F Desborough, Cllr. C Way, Cllr. Stammers, 9 Parishioners and Clerk Richard Day.

1. **Chair welcomed all to meeting. Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs. Canham, Mann, Cooke and Wilkinson. The Public Forum involved all Parishioners present expressing concern and requesting Parish Council action to prevent fire on Blackheath Common. All of those present resided in property adjacent to the common and recent events at Dunwich and Minsmere together with the prolonged dry spell has increased the level anxiety. Several e/mails had also been received within the past 2 weeks expressing similar views. (See Agenda item 11 for Parish Council response.)**
2. **There were no declarations of interest.**
3. **There were no requests for dispensation to vote.**
4. **The minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2026 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr.Musk seconded by Cllr.Desborough and unanimously approved.**
5. **CLERK REPORT. Councillors had been advised of the passing of former Parish Councillor Terry Cushion and wished to place on record appreciation of his work as a Parish Councillor and to express their condolences to the immediate family at this sad time.**

   Wenhaston Utd FC have confirmed to me that they will continue to operate in the coming season as support had now been found to help run the club and that players will be recruited to compete.
   All other matters are covered within agenda headings.
6. **None.**
7. **No County Council report received.**
8. **No District Council received.**
9. **Matters brought forward from previous meetings. (i) The required information regarding a bar code to be placed within the telephone box to provide a link to the village website is being dealt with by Cllr. Way and an update will be provided at the next meeting.**
10. **No planning correspondence.**

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11. Following representations and e/mails from concerned property owners regarding fire risk on Blackheath (see agenda item1) The Parish Council had been asked for guidance and support to mitigate risk. The following measures will be/ have been implemented. Clerk pointed out that the Parish Council did not own Blackheath, rather it was unregistered land managed under an Environmental Scheme of Arrangement in conjunction with Natural England, Wenhaston Commons Group and Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Advice and support had been sought by the Parish Council from Suffolk Fire and Rescue and the above groups to help mitigate risk. (i) Confirmation of siting of all hydrants has been recorded and is held by Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service. (ii) All existing firebreaks will be inspected and any remedial work on their condition will be carried out by Wenhaston Commons Group. This is likely to commence Autumn at the earliest as a fire risk would result from machinery used in current conditions. (iii) New/additional firebreaks will be installed on land bordering Blackheath in conjunction with Cllr. Musk and a water bowser will be available on site in case of emergency (iv)Wenhaston Commons Group and Blyth Woods have placed warning notices regarding fire risk at all entrances to Wenhaston Commons. (v) Heathside Haven Holiday complex have banned the *use of* BBQs. *on their site. This was introduced prior to the recent government* directive. (vi) A request has been made to the Fire and Rescue team for a site visit to advise on the adequacy of the arrangements once completed. (vii) All access tracks have been inspected to ensure they are navigable by emergency vehicles. The one track which requires attention on Church Common will be cut back. (Cllr. Musk) These tracks will also act as additional firebreaks. The Parish Council will consider at the next meeting a programme of maintenance for the new firebreaks and tracks and request that Wenhaston Commons Group attend to the existing firebreaks.
    Clerk also outlined a number of initiatives and measures which property owners should consider investigating further with a view to adopting to mitigate risk and also acknowledged the support and advice provided by Wenhaston Commons Group and Suffolk Fire and Rescue in formulating these measures.
12. The Parish Council has obtained approval to co opt an additional Councillor to fill the current vacancy. Information has been posted on website and noticeboards inviting contact/expression of interest.
13. No reports from Parish Council representatives on Village Committees/Groups.
14. CORRESPONDENCE.
    (i) Request as circulated prior to meeting for donation towards the cost of a equipment at Wenhaston Primary School. Proposal for donation of £200 was unanimously supported.
    (ii) Request from Parishioners to support their suggested policy changes to the East Suffolk Local Plan. (Circulated pre meeting) was supported. Clerk to write confirming.
    (iii) Letters of concern regarding fire risk to properties adjoining Blackheath Common. (See agenda item 11)
    (iv) Confirmation of required sponsorship cost for Village Show this year has been confirmed as £250.00. Agreement for covering donation

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proposed by Cllr Musk seconded by Cllr. Townsend and unanimously agreed.

15. RFO REPORT. Expenditure vs Budget analysis has been completed for Qtr1 has been provided to members. There are no areas of concern and variances to plan are explained within notes to the document.
Payments for authorisation this month total £ 2979.78 and balance at bank is £52291.76 prior to payment, this has been reconciled to speadsheet figures and is available for monthly member audit. Report proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Way, seconded by Cllr Stammers and unanimously approved.

16. Meeting Closed at 8.05pm. NEXT MEETING 21st October 2026.

A Musk

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WENHASTON PARISH COUNCIL.

SUMMARY OF PAYMENTS FOR AUTHORISATION AT MEETING 19th AUGUST 2026.

PAYMENTS.

WENHASTON VILLAGE HALL	£250.00
I.T. SERVICES AT CAS LTD	£144.00
VERTAS LTD.	£825.60.
J.G. WING	£350.00

In addition to the above salary payments will be made in accordance with contractual arrangements.

The following will become due prior to the next meeting and authorisation will be obtained against invoices.

PKF. LITTLEJOHN LLP.	£ 252.00
KOMPAN LTD	£161.61
J.G.WING	£560.00
HMRC	£696.95

RECEIPTS.

There have been no receipts although the second precept instalment will become due prior to the next meeting and receipt will be recorded within the meeting minutes.

E.M.Day RFO A Musk

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