

WENHASTON WITH MELLS HAMLET PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk Richard Day

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Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 18/3/26 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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

1. In the absence of Cllr. Musk, Cllr Townsend would act as Chair for the meeting and he welcomed all. Apologies received and accepted from Cllr. Musk.
2. There were no declarations of interest.
3. There were no requests for dispensation to vote.
4. The minutes of the meeting held on 18/2/26 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Canham seconded by Cllr. Leech and unanimously approved.
5. **CLERK REPORT.** I inspected the allotment area following the request for funding to pay for ground clearance, hedge cutting and general maintenance and it is fair to say that significant work is required. Following conversations with the Chair of Wenhaston Allotment Association and PC Chair a suggestion was made to approach our District Councillors for a grant from the enabling fund. I understand that this has been successful.

A summary of the position of the Football Club has been received and circulated prior to this evening's meeting. As a result a representative from the Football Club will be in attendance at our next meeting and a separate agenda item will be included.

Annual renewal premium for the insurance of the sports pavilion will be £623.64 and sums insured have been reviewed and are deemed adequate, payment will be made prior to the renewal date later this month.

6. None.
7. A copy of County Cllr. Smith's report is available from the Clerk. Cllr. Smith was thanked for his service to Wenhaston during his term of office and for his support in a number of projects. Cllrs wished him a long and healthy retirement.
8. A copy of the report from District Cllrs. Is available from the Clerk.
9. (i) The design and cost of the proposed bench to commemorate the late Heather Phillips MBE and to recognise her service to the village over many years was approved. In addition a further replacement bench will be obtained and installation will be arranged upon delivery. The cost will be £1850 in total and following review of options on supplier, Glasdon Ltd were preferred. Proposal made by Cllr. Way, seconded by Cllr. Cooke and agreed unanimously.

10. **PLANNING.** (i) Clerk advised members that the outcome of the call for sites by East Suffolk Council Planning Dept. would be published next week. This is simply the start of a process and the notes which will accompany the information should be referred to in the event of any Parishioner query.
11. Following debate and a proposal from Cllr. Way, seconded by Cllr. Stammers it was unanimously agreed that future meetings would commence at 7pm and that the first item would continue to be the public forum. Should no members of the public be in attendance the meeting proper would commence immediately.
12. The Village Hall Management Committee reported that the installation work for the kitchen and Café area was now complete apart from a couple of fairly minor pieces of work. Councillors expressed appreciation for the work that had been undertaken in managing the project and fund raising and viewed the outcome as a big improvement for users of the facilities.
13. **CORRESPONDENCE.** E/mail received from residents on Blackheath concerning a large oak tree and interruption to internet and telephone service as a result of cable damage by branches. Openreach have been approached to undertake preventative work but will only act once damage occurs. Occupants request that Parish Council covers the cost of the work stating that we are the landowners. An email was distributed by the Clerk, along with a response clarifying that the Parish Council is not responsible for the requested preventative work and are not the landowners. Openreach have confirmed that should cable damage reoccur then they will accept responsibility for remedial work.
14. **RFO REPORT.** Payments for authorisation this month total £ 3071.47. Additionally direct debits will be collected for Sports/play area rates £214.82 and £59.74 Water Rates (allotments.) Balance held at bank prior to these payments is £44182.67, this has been reconciled to spreadsheet records and is made available for monthly member audit. Report proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Mann, seconded by Cllr. Leech and unanimously agreed.

15. Meeting Closed at 8.15 pm. Date of next meeting 15th April 2026. 7.00 PM