

## RAVENSTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT RAVENSTHORPE VILLAGE HALL ON Wednesday, 20 November 2019 at 8.00 pm

#### 1 OPENING PROCEDURES

- 1.1 **Present:** Cllr R Marsh (Chairman), Cllr J Matts, Cllr M Worthington, Cllr E Connor and Cllr J Jones, Mrs C Holifield (Clerk) and 2 members of the public
- 1.2 **Apologies:** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Hawkins and Hewison.
- 1.3 **Co-option of Councillor to fill Casual Vacancy:** It was unanimously resolved to co-opt Katie Bazini as Councillor to fill the Casual Vacancy following the resignation of Mary Bishop. Katie signed the acceptance of office form and was invited by the Chairman to join the Council.
- 1.4 **Declarations of Interest:**  
Personal: None  
Personal and Prejudicial: None

#### 2 MINUTES

- 2.1 The Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on 16 October 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

#### 3 PUBLIC TIME

Alan Worthington, Chairman of the Ravensthorpe Playing Field Committee, stated that he had attended in case the Council had any queries in respect of the changes in the constitution of the Ravensthorpe Memorial Playing Field (previously circulated to Councillors for their consideration). The Chairman said he would bring forward item 5.4 so that the matter could be discussed whilst Alan was present. Further to a short discussion, it was resolved to accept the changes that had been proposed.

Mr Worthington also gave an update in respect of the Playing Field activities and stated that whilst the Playing Field was in a good shape financially and Committee member numbers had increased, there was still a shortage of people to assist in tasks that needed to be completed. After discussion, it was agreed that Alan should put an article in the Village Newsletter explaining the problems experienced and asking for volunteers to assist (even if only on an ad hoc basis).

*Mr Worthington left the meeting at this point*

#### 4. MATTERS ARISING

None

*RM.*

## 5 BUSINESS

### 5.1 Consideration of quotations for purchase of Speed Awareness Device

The Chairman stated that a meeting had been arranged for the end of November with Steve Barber of Highways to discuss suitable locations for siting a device and information about potential suppliers. However, following information and quotations obtained by the Clerk and circulated prior to the meeting, it was agreed that a lithium battery operated device would be the most sensible option rather than solar powered given that the Council would like to be able to move the device to different locations. It was also agreed that following a review of the Council's finances that the device could be purchased from the Precept monies rather than the Easement monies.

### 5.2 Consideration of quotation for provision of additional noticeboard space

The Clerk stated that Cllr Hewison had been in touch with Brian Aldwick and he had agreed that he could make an additional noticeboard to fit in with the existing boards on the back of his garage wall at a cost of £250. It was resolved that Brian should be asked to make the board.

### 5.3 Consideration of further action to be taken in respect of overgrown shrubbery along High Street opposite Village Hall and at junction of Chequers Lane

It was resolved that Cllr Matts would speak to the householder responsible for the overgrown shrubbery and try to come to an arrangement with him for Cllr Matts' hedge cutting contractor to deal with the offending vegetation when he next came to the village to carry out work.

### 5.4 Consideration and approval of Memorial Playing Field constitution amendments

See Public Time above.

### 5.5 Consideration of draft budget and approval of Precept for 2020/2021

Cllr Jones presented the draft budget for 2020/21 (previously circulated to Councillors) for consideration. It was resolved to accept the budget as prepared and to request a Precept amount of £17,500 for 2020/21 (a reduction of £500 from the 2019/20 Precept). Final proposed budget attached to these minutes.

### 5.6 Consideration and approval of The Woodland Trust's proposal to erect a ladderboard in Top Ardles Wood to display notices regarding dog fouling and their dog code of practice.

The Clerk stated that the Warden responsible for Top Ardles Wood had suggested, that although it was impossible to police dog fouling, the Trust would be willing to erect a new ladderboard at the entrance to the Wood clearly displaying notices relating the Trust's policies regarding exercising dogs in the woodland. It was resolved to accept this proposal.

**5.7 Consideration and approval of meeting dates for 2020**

It was resolved that, provided the Village Hall was available, Council meetings in 2020 would be held on the following dates:

15 January, 19 February, 18 March, 22 April, 20 May, 17 June, 15 July, 16 September, 21 October, 18 November. It was proposed that the Annual Parish Meeting be held on 22 April 2020.

**5.8 Consideration of possible celebrations to mark VE day in 2020**

With the agreement of the Council, the Chairman stated that he would write an article for the Village Newsletter to see whether there would be interest from the various organisations in the village to do something to commemorate VE day.

**6 PLANNING****6.1 Planning applications**

None

**6.2 Planning Decisions**

None

**6.3 Planning Other**

**DA/2019/0921 – Land at Teeton Road, Ravensthorpe**

Removal of 118m of hedgerow

*No observations*

**7 FINANCE****7.1 Payments**

The following invoices/items were approved by the Council for payment.

Payee	Amount £	Cheque Number
Mrs C Holifield – Clerk's November salary	272.20	Online
Clerk's Administration Expenses	19.00	Online
HMRC – PAYE (Oct to December 2019)	204.00	001307
Stephen Hartwell – Village Mowing (1 cut)	486.00	Online
E-on – Street Light repair (Number 9)	420.00	001308
SSE Swalec – Street Light electricity October 2019	251.29	Direct Debit

**7.2 Income Received**

None

### 7.3 Balances at Bank

The Chairman signed the bank reconciliation statement for the period ended 31 October 2019. Balance at bank was £25,331.80 of which £6,565.50 is the balance of the easement monies.

### 8 CORRESPONDENCE (for information only)

- 8.1 Email from DDC notifying change of date of Parish and Town Councils meeting to 30 January 2019
- 8.2 Email from Alan Worthington, Chairman of Ravensthorpe Memorial Playing Field, regarding proposed changes to constitution. (see Public Time above)
- 8.3 Email from Anglian Water advising of proposed works in respect of resilience scheme at Ravensthorpe Water Treatment Works.
- 8.4 Email from NCALC re possible need to promote candidacy for Parish Council elections in May 2020.
- 8.5 Email from parishioner re raised kerb on Guilsborough Road opposite Little Lane causing problems for vehicles (see Highways report below)

### 9 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

- 9.1 **Pocket Park** – Ruth Rolls report had previously been circulated to Councillors by email. It was resolved to support her request for a small sum (up to £60) for the purchase of some whips to improve the hedgerow. Councillors also wished to thank Ruth for the considerable efforts she was making to maintain and improve the Park.
- 9.2 **Allotments** – Cllr Worthington stated that she had done a quick tour of the allotments and all appeared to be satisfactory. Cllr Bajzini agreed to take over the task of monitoring the allotments with immediate effect.
- 9.3 **Highways** – Cllr Matts stated that he was not sure what more could be done to the kerb on the Guilsborough Road which was subject to a complaint from a resident (see 8.5 above). After discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would contact Highways to see whether a reflective bollard/post could be erected on the pavement to alert drivers to the kerb.
- 9.4 **Trees** – No report available.
- 9.5 **Street Lights** – The Clerk stated that Cllr Jones had reported two faulty lights in The Lane, Coton (numbers 37 and 38) and these had been reported to E-on.
- 9.6 **Village Hall/Playing Field** – Cllr Worthington stated that the Village Hall was extremely busy with many events scheduled in the run up to Christmas. A new Pilates teacher had been found to take over some sessions in the Hall. See Public Time above for Playing Field report.

**10 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA (15 January 2020 at 8.00 pm)**

- Decision to be made on speed awareness device
- Commemoration of VE Day
- Promotion of Candidacy for forthcoming Parish Council elections

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

*R. Marsh,*  
*15/1/20*  

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20.19.13

**RAVENSTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL  
BUDGET 2020/21**

Estimated bank balance year ending 31 March 2020 8832

**Estimated Income 2020/21**

Allotment/Pit Rents	475
Bank Interest	14
NCC Annual Mowing Allowance	515
VAT refund	1000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10836</b>

**Estimated Expenditure 2020/21**

Street Lighting	3100
Street Light Maintenance	500
NCALC plus Internal Audit	550
Village Hall Rent	160
Village Mowing Contract	4860
Insurance Premium	400
Clerks Salary	4500
Clerks Expenses/Office Costs	300
Councillor/ Clerk Training	150
Annual Subscriptions	71
Pocket Park Mowing	300
Cleaning Bus Shelter	80
Gardening – The Bank	105
Trees and hedges	300
Allotment Water	110
Sundries/Donations	500
Maintenance of Benches	150
Pocket Park Expenses	50
Contingency Fund	500
Election Expenses	150
Section 137	0

Other Expenditure

Repairs to Street Lights 2500

**TOTAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET 19336**

**PROPOSED PRECEPT for 2020 17500**

Estimated Bank Balance 2020/21		
Reserves	5000	
Contingency for Street Lights	4000	9000