

RAVENSTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON Wednesday, 18 January 2023 at 7.30 pm At Ravensthorpe Village Hall, High Street, Ravensthorpe, Northants

1 OPENING PROCEDURES

- 1.1 **Present:** Cllr D Hayes, Cllr M Worthington, Cllr E Connor, Cllr J Matts, Cllr J Jones, Cllr T Hogben, Cllr M Bushell, Cllr R Marsh (7.50 pm) and Mrs C Holifield (Clerk).

In the absence of Cllr Marsh, Cllr Matts proposed and Cllr Connor seconded the appointment of Cllr Hayes as Chairman.

1.2 Apologies:

Unitary Cllr Bignell and Cllr Marsh (delayed arrival).

1.3 Consideration of any changes in roles for Councillors

It was resolved that Cllr Hogben would take over responsibility for the Allotments and Cllr Bushell would take responsibility for Footpaths. Cllr Hayes to take responsibility for Staff matters. Any other changes to be decided at the May annual meeting.

1.4 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Matts declared a personal interest in item 5.3 of the agenda

2 MINUTES

- 2.1 The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 23 November 2022 were approved by the meeting and the Chairman signed the minutes accordingly.

3 PUBLIC TIME

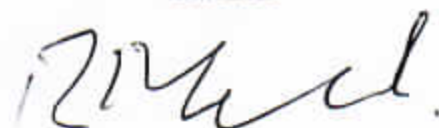
There were no members of the public present.

4 MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Update on overgrown vegetation on Causeway (Coton Road)

The Clerk stated that Anglian Water had informed her that the vegetation was due to be cut back by a contractor before the end of January.

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4.2 Update on request to Charles Jackson in respect of a voluntary restriction of speed of grain lorries travelling through Ravensthorpe

The Clerk stated that she has spoken with the Transport Manager of Charles Jackson who confirmed that drivers were already advised to travel at an appropriate speed through the village. She stated that Charles Jackson would not contribute to banners alerting drivers to slow down as this would set a precedent for other villages. It was agreed that the Clerk would look into costing for movable banners and report back at the next meeting.

4.3 Update on documentation completion for Precept request in amount of £16,000 for 2023-24

The Clerk confirmed that she and the Chairman (Cllr Marsh) had signed the Precept request form in the amount of £16,000 and this had been sent to WNC and receipt acknowledged.

4.4 Update on Community Bus Scheme

The Chairman reported that 9 residents had used the community bus as it had been well received. It is intended that a regular service would start on 16 February with weekly trips to either Daventry or Rugby being organised. Noted that users should be in possession of a bus pass otherwise the cost of the journeys very expensive.

5. BUSINESS

5.1 Update on plans for use of Jubilee monies

The Chairman stated that there was nothing to report at this stage.

5.2 Consideration of street light upgrades

The Clerk stated that her contact at E-on had yet to carry out a survey of the lights but had promised to have information ready for consideration at the February meeting.

5.3 Consideration of Council's response to proposal to use Highgate House Hotel in Creton to accommodate asylum seekers

Chris Heaton-Harris MP had informed all interested parties prior to the meeting that the Hotel was being 'stood down' as a possible venue for housing the asylum seekers as being unsuitable, therefore, no further action necessary at this point.

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6 PLANNING

6.1 Planning Applications

None

6.2 Planning Decisions

None

6.3 Planning Other (not in our Parish)

Cllr Marsh stated that he felt the Council should respond to the revised planning application WND/2022/0906 following the Appeal Decision for Plot 1, Tythe Farm, East Haddon.

After discussion it was agreed that the Council's observations were as follows:

Ravensthorpe Parish Council strongly supports the Planning Inspector's grounds for dismissing the appeal against the refusal of retrospective consent for Plot 1, Tythe Farm. The Council consider that the proposed minor modifications to the building do not adequately address any of the points raised by the Inspector or our previously voiced objections to the development. The building being of an extremely intrusive nature in such a rural landscape. The Council feels the present application should be refused and the developer should implement the Enforcement Notice without delay.

7 FINANCE

7.1 Payments

The following invoices/items were approved by the Council for payment by the method stated. Payments authorised and paid in December denoted by (*).

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Payee	Invoice Number	Amount (£) including VAT where applicable	Payment type
Mrs C Holfield – Clerk's Salary December	n/a	413.71	Online*
Mrs C Holfield – Office Expenses December	n/a	20.00	Online*
HMRC – PAYE (Oct to Dec 22)	n/a	349.00	Online*
SSE Swalec – Street Light Electricity (Nov 22)	Various	184.78	Direct Debit
E-ON – Street light replacement (no 36)	115490	324.00	Online
E-ON – Street light maintenance	115916	90.29	Online
NCALC – VAT recovery invoice	2495	63.40	Online
Mrs C Holfield – Clerk's Salary January	n/a	413.71	Online
Mrs C Holfield – Office Expenses January	n/a	27.97	Online
WAVE – Allotment Water (Sept to Nov 22)	11342163	40.45	Direct Debit
SSE Swalec – Street Light Electricity (Dec 22)	Various	200.94	Direct Debit

7.2 Income Received (to 31 December 2022)

Pit rental of £40 and bank cashback of 25 pence.

7.3 Balance at Bank

The Chairman signed the bank reconciliation statement for the period ended 31 December 2022. Balance at bank was £29,441.26 of which £5,275.45 related to the balance of the Easement monies and £5,379.31 to a CIL payment.

7.4 Removal of David Herbert from Bank Mandate

The Clerk stated that both she and Mr Herbert had been trying to remove his name from the bank mandate now that he was no longer a Councillor without much success. Clerk had therefore written a letter to the Manager of the Northampton branch of Yorkshire Bank which was signed by Cllr Marsh and Cllr Matts as authorised signatories requesting that action be taken.

8 CORRESPONDENCE

- Northants CALC Update November/December edition previously circulated to Councillors
- Various emails in respect of Highgate House Hotel and proposed use to accommodate asylum seekers.

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9 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

- 9.1 **Pocket Park** – No report available
- 9.2 **Allotments** – Cllr Connor reported that all was in order.
- 9.3 **Highways** – Cllr Matts stated that he had nothing to report. Cllr Jones asked if Clerk could see if Sandy Lane in Coton could be swept as mud accumulating by the stream.
- 9.4 **Tree Report** - Clerk stated she had requested that the pavement on Guilsborough Road leading to the Orchards be swept as covered in leaves. The Chairman stated that she had had a complaint about the state of the pavement on the other side of Guilsborough Road. Report to Fix My Street with details.
- 9.5 **Street Lights** – Nothing to report
- 9.6 **Footpath report** – Nothing to report
- 9.7 **Speed Awareness Device** – The Chairman stated that the device was now on the High Street and set to 20 mph to see whether there was any difference in the speed of vehicles. He stated that the comparison he had carried out when the device had been on the Teeton Road did not show that drivers slowed down more when device set at 20 mph which was disappointing.
- 9.8 **Village Hall/Playing Field Liaison** – Cllr Worthington reported that everything was going well with the Village Hall although there were concerns over the rising energy costs. With regard to the Playing Field, the AGM had been postponed to 24 January. A recent football tournament held on the field also highlighted again the problem over parking which was being looked into.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA TO BE HELD ON: Wednesday, 15 February 2023 at 7.30 pm

- Plans for Jubilee Funds (Community Orchard)
- Banners for lorries
- Update on Highways issues
- Street Light upgrades
- Update on Planning Decision for WND/2022/0498

Meeting closed at 8.10 pm

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