

**RAVENSTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON  
Wednesday, 15 February 2023 at 7.30 pm  
At Ravensthorpe Village Hall, High Street, Ravensthorpe, Northants**

**1 OPENING PROCEDURES**

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

1.2 **Apologies:**

Apologies were received and accepted from Unitary Cllr Bignell and Cllr D Hayes

1.3 **Declarations of Interest**

None

**2 MINUTES**

2.1 The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 18 January 2023 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 Chairman reported that the vegetation on the Causeway had been cut back but not by Anglian Water. Local farmer Mike Wills had requested permission from Anglian Water to cut back the vegetation as it had caused damage to one of his tractors and was dangerous. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Mr Wills to thank him for carrying out this task.

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**4.2 Update on response from agent regarding possible community use of Cuffy's orchard on Guilsborough Road**

The Chairman stated that the Clerk had been in contact with the agent at Berry's and the response received informed the Council that the owner did not wish to allow any community use of the area. The hedgerow facing the road would be trimmed back.

**5. BUSINESS**

**5.1 Update on plans for use of Jubilee monies**

Cllr Worthington (on behalf of Cllr Hayes) stated that it was planned to publish 100 copies of the completed History project at a cost of £335 with any monies from the sale of the booklets to go back into the fund. £300 had also been spent on purchasing three trees: a Hornbeam to be planted by the bench on the East Haddon Road approaching the village, an ornamental tree to be planted by the memorial bench at the junction of High Street/Scott Close and an Acacia to be planted on the green at the junction of West Haddon Road/East Haddon Road.

**5.2 Update on plans to celebrate the King's coronation**

Cllr Worthington stated that a tea and live screening of the Coronation would take place in the Village Hall on Saturday, 6 May 2023.

**5.3 Consideration of Street Light Upgrades using CIL monies**

The Council considered the schedule of costs for replacing the oldest street lights which had been forwarded by the Clerk prior to the meeting. After discussion, it was resolved that it would be better to replace as many lanterns as possible with the CIL monies available to reduce on electricity and maintenance costs going forward.

The Chairman agreed to look at the ivy on street lights 12 and 13 to see whether he could remove it or whether the Council would need professional help.

Clerk to look at the costings and the monies available from the CIL payment and report back to the Council with the best replacement plan.

Councillors also asked if the Clerk could see whether there was any choice in respect of the colour temperature of the new LED lamps.

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**5.4 Consideration of complaint from parishioner regarding parking problems in Church Gardens as a result of increased use of the playing field and action being taken by the Playing Field Committee in this respect**

Cllr Worthington stated that the parishioner who had complained to the Clerk had now been contacted by the Committee and he had been given a contact number should any problems with obstructive parking occur in the future. In the meantime, the Committee would look to ensure that the Playing Field car park would be unlocked and that all users of the playing field would be requested to park in the car park rather than in Church Gardens. It was, however, noted that dog walkers were also parking in Church Gardens. Playing Field Committee would be monitoring the situation.

With regard to the serious problems caused by obstructive parking on Bonfire Night it was felt that the problem was exacerbated in 2022 by the cancellation of Hollowell Fireworks which meant far more people attended than was normal. It has been agreed by the Committee that more planning in respect of car parking would have to take place this year prior to the event.

**5.5 Consideration of purchase of roadside banners to alert HGV drivers of the speed limit in the village**

The Chairman stated that given the number of banners required and the costs of producing a decent one that would withstand the weather etc, he felt that the idea was not worth pursuing and this was agreed by the Council.

**6 PLANNING**

**6.1 Planning Applications**

None

**6.2 Planning Decisions**

**WND/2022/0498 – Cultra, 1 Coton Road, Ravensthorpe**  
Construction of detached summer house/office pod

*Planning permission approved*

**7 FINANCE**

**7.1 Payments**

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



Payee	Invoice Number	Amount (£) including VAT where applicable	Payment type
Mrs C Holifield – Clerk's Salary February	n/a	413.71	Online
Mrs C Holifield – Office Expenses February	n/a	27.10	Online
SSE Swalec – Street Light Electricity (Jan 23)	n/a	169.61	Direct debit

## 7.2 Income Received (to 31 January 2023)

Pit rental of £80.

## 7.3 Balance at Bank

The Chairman signed the bank reconciliation statement for the period ended 31 January 2023. Balance at bank was £28,400.95 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 the bank had sent her a new bank mandate for the Council to complete. She had already obtained Mr Herbert's signature and the form was then signed by the Chairman, Cllr Matts, Cllr Jones and the Clerk requesting the removal of Mr Herbert's name from the bank account.

## 8 CORRESPONDENCE

- Northants CALC Update January/February edition previously circulated to Councillors
- Emails from parishioner complaining about parking issues in Church Gardens due to Playing Field events (see 5.4 above)
- Hedgehog Highway Project – email circulated to Councillors

## 9 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

- 9.1 **Pocket Park** – No report available
- 9.2 **Allotments** – Cllr Hogben reported all in order and hedge bordering footpath had been cut. Annual risk assessment to be carried out for March meeting. Clerk stated annual rent payment letters had been sent recently.
- 9.3 **Highways** – Cllr Matts stated that he had nothing to report.



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- 9.4 **Tree Report** - The Chairman stated that Mr Venton of WNC had recently been involved with some tree works on the West Haddon Road and, as a consequence, may update the TPO list as there were some anomalies with the species listed not matching the actual trees.
- 9.5 **Street Lights** – Nothing to report
- 9.6 **Footpath report** – Cllr Bushell stated she had walked footpaths DL2, 3 and 5 and all was in order. She would walk the remaining footpaths and report back in March.
- 9.7 **Speed Awareness Device** – The Chairman stated that the device was now on the High Street and would remain there until the end of March and the data would then be reviewed.
- 9.8 **Village Hall/Playing Field Liaison** – Cllr Worthington stated that there was nothing new to report for the Village Hall. For Playing Field see 5.4 above.

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

- Annual Risk Assessment for Allotments
- Internal Finance Checks
- Street Light upgrades
- Gardening the Bank
- Repair to Noticeboard

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm



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