

RAVENSTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON

Wednesday, 21 February 2024 at 7.30 pm

At Ravensthorpe Village Hall, High Street, Ravensthorpe, NN6 8EH

1 OPENING PROCEDURES

1.1 **Present:** Cllr D Hayes (Chairman), Cllr J Matts, Cllr M Bushell, Cllr T Hogben, Cllr E Connor, Cllr R Marsh, Cllr J Jones, Mrs C Holifield (Clerk) and Unitary Cllr P Bignell.

1.2 **Apologies:**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Worthington.

1.3 **Declarations of Interest**

None

2 MINUTES

2.1 The Minutes of the Parish Council ordinary meeting held on 17 January 2024 were approved by the meeting and the Chairman signed the minutes accordingly.

3 PUBLIC TIME

Unitary Cllr Bignell stated that WNC were imposing higher fines on fly tippers and were keen to prosecute any offenders using covert cameras to provide evidence. He stated that there was an ongoing school transport consultation for over 16 year olds. Northampton town had been awarded a 'Purple Flag' world accreditation for its nighttime economy. Finally, residents were being encouraged to recycle small electrical items (such as toasters, irons, etc) by putting these out for collection with the black bin.

4 MATTERS ARISING

4.1 **Update on application for grant for solar powered speed awareness device**

The Clerk stated that the Road Safety scheme grant application had been successful and that £3,915 had been received into the bank account. Payment had been made to WNC for the installation of the required pole and an order had been placed with Coeval for the solar device.

06/2024



4.2 Update on location of Jubilee Memorial Bench

Cllr Matts stated that due to other commitments and the very wet weather he had yet to install the bench but this was in hand.

5. BUSINESS

5.1 Consideration of further action to be taken in respect of Ravensthorpe Reservoir car park and other issues with Anglian Water

The Clerk stated that she had received a response from Angela Tarry, the officer responsible for Ravensthorpe who stated that she was on maternity leave but would arrange for questions to be answered if forwarded by email. The Council resolved that they would prefer to have a representative from Anglian Water present at a Council meeting. Clerk to see whether another officer from Anglian Water could attend the March meeting.

5.2 Consideration of making an insurance claim in respect of damage caused by unknown vehicle to street lamp number 43 in Dairy Field

The Clerk stated that E-on had visited the site and made the lamp safe. However, they had provided a quotation in the amount of £710 (excluding VAT) to replumb the post and to provide a new LED lantern as the existing lantern was not repairable. It was resolved to make a claim on the insurance policy for which the excess was £125.

5.3 To consider what the Council can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in the Parish

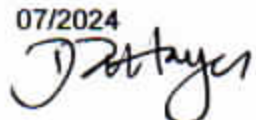
Following circulation of the information provided by NCALC in respect of the requirement for the Council to have a biodiversity policy going forward, it was resolved to adapt the model policy that had been provided.

5.4 Consideration of action to be taken in respect of Annual Village Event (to take place between 1 March and 1 June)

Following discussion of the information circulated by the Chairman prior to the meeting, it was resolved to hold an event on a Saturday morning from 10 am to Noon in April or May. Clerk to ascertain availability of Village Hall and liaise with Chairman.

5.5 Consideration and approval of fixed term electricity supply contract

Following discussion, it was resolved to enter into a new 3 year fixed term electricity contract with YU energy for the street lights to commence when existing unmetered supply contract comes to an end on 30 June 2024. Clerk to action.

07/2024


5.6 Consideration of change of Parish Council website and domain name

Further to information provided by NCALC regarding a Cabinet Officer initiative to assist Councils to change to a.gov.uk domain, the Council resolved that it would continue to share the Village website (for which it contributed to the cost) and continue with the existing domain name.

5.7 Consideration and approval of replacement of obsolete street light number 8 on Guilsborough Road

It was resolved to replace the existing light which was no longer working and is now obsolete with a new LED lantern and part-night cell at a cost of £746 (excluding VAT).

5.8 Approval to make application for a portrait of King Charles III

The Clerk stated that all Parish Councils were being offered to opportunity to apply for a free framed portrait of King Charles. It was resolved that she would contact Bob Pike (Chairman of the Village Hall Committee) and if the Village Hall would like to have a portrait she should place an order.

6 PLANNING

6.1 Planning Applications

None

6.2 Planning Decisions

2023/5732/OUT – Lingles Farm, West Haddon Road, Ravensthorpe

Outline application (all matters reserved except for access) for the erection of 4 dwellings (2 self builds and 2 bungalows) with associated workshop/stables/haybarn building, access and landscaping works

Planning permission approved by WNC

7 FINANCE

7.1 Payments

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

08/2024



Payee	Invoice Number	Amount (£) (including VAT at appropriate rate where *)	Payment type
Mrs C Holifield – Clerk's Salary February 2024	n/a	440.11	Online
Mrs C Holifield – Office Expenses February 2024	n/a	20.00	Online
E-on – Street light repairs to boxes	121969	48.00*	Online
West Northants Council – erection of pole	424001966824	700.69*	Online

7.2 Income Received to 31 January 2024

Pit rent of £80, Allotments rents of £2190 and PCC Road Safety grant of £3,915.

7.3 Balance at Bank

The Chairman signed the bank reconciliation statement for the period ended 31 January 2024. Balance at bank was £25,911.40 of which £4,775.45 related to the balance of the Easement monies

7.4 Business Savings Account

The Clerk stated that following the raising of a formal complaint, an online savings account linked to the current account had now been opened and she had transferred £15,000 to this account to start earning interest. The current rate being 1.35%.

8 CORRESPONDENCE

- NCALC update Jan/Feb 24 edition – circulated by email
- NCALC invitation to attend WNC Local Plan Zoom Briefing on 27 February (Chairman and Clerk to attend)

9 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

- 9.1 **Pocket Park** – No report available
- 9.2 **Allotments** – Cllr Hogben stated that all was in order. Clerk stated that all rentals for the year commencing 1 March had now been received.
- 9.3 **Highways** – Cllr Matts stated that he had arranged with Steven Hartwell to come and clear the overgrown vegetation on the footpath around the Village Green and encroaching onto the High Street opposite the Village Hall.
- Litter Pick** – It was resolved to hold the annual village litter pick on Saturday, 16 March 2024 – Volunteers to meet at Village Hall at 10.00 am. Cllr Marsh to co-ordinate.

09/2024

J. Atayes

- 9.4 **Trees** – Cllr Marsh stated that he had nothing new to report.
- 9.5 **Street Lights** – Cllr Marsh stated that the part-night cells fitted to the newly upgraded street lights did not appear to be working. He agreed to carry out a check and Clerk to then liaise with E-on to find out what was wrong.
- 9.6 **Footpaths** – Cllr Bushell stated that she had nothing new to report as it had been too wet to go across the fields.
- 9.7 **Speed Awareness Device** – Cllr Marsh stated that the device had been moved to the East Haddon Road.
- 9.8 **Village Hall Liaison** – Cllr Worthington had provided a written report to state that the table tennis sessions would be starting in March
Playing Field Liaison – Cllr Worthington provided a written report to state that following the AGM, the committee remained unchanged with Adam Gooch the Chair. Key developments planned for the year include: lit footpath from car park to the pavilion, replacement fencing, storage and loft insulation. Committee would be looking for support. Beer festival dates 12 and 13 July. Dates set for tidy up sessions are 23 March, 8 June, 14 September. All volunteers welcome.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA TO BE HELD ON:
Wednesday, 20 March 2024 at 7.30 pm**

- Annual Parish Event
- Police Liaison Representative
- HGV lorries in the village
- Annual Risk assessment for allotments
- Internal Finance Checks
- Internal and External Audits
- Update on Litter Pick

Meeting closed at 8.35 pm

10/2024

