

RAVENSTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON

Wednesday, 19 June 2024 at 7.30 pm

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

1 OPENING PROCEDURES

1.1 **Present:** Cllr D Hayes (Chair), Cllr M Bushell, Cllr M Worthington Cllr J Jones, Cllr J Matts, Cllr E Connor, Mrs C Holifield (Clerk) and Unitary Cllr P Bignell.

1.2 **Apologies:**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Marsh and Cllr Hogben.

1.3 **Declarations of Interest**

None.

2 MINUTES

2.1 The Minutes of the Parish Council annual meeting held on 22 May 2024 were approved by the meeting and the Chairman signed the minutes accordingly.

3 PUBLIC TIME

Unitary Cllr Bignell stated that WNC had managed to stay within budget for the 2023-24 financial year. Savings of £32 million had been achieved by the amalgamation of the three previous authorities into the Unitary Authority of WNC. Cabinet had agreed an additional £10 million capital investment into Highways Maintenance which would hopefully result in improvement to the roads in the county.

4 MATTERS ARISING

4.1 **Update on purchase of new water trough for the allotments**

Cllr Matts stated that the new and improved trough had been delivered and was now installed in the allotments. Purchase cost to come from Easement monies.

28/2024



5. BUSINESS

5.1 To consider planning bulbs/sowing wild flower seeds in appropriate areas of the village

The Chair stated that this topic had been raised by a parishioner at the annual parish event. After discussion, it was resolved that no action should be taken at the present time.

5.2 To consider action to be taken in respect of overgrown vegetation impeding footpaths

Cllr Bushell stated that following concerns received from a parishioner she had now spoken to the householder whose hedge was significantly impeding the footpath on the Teeton Road. He had undertaken to trim it back at the end of June when the nesting birds had gone. Cllr Bushell to monitor.

5.3 To consider response if available from WNC Deputy Director of Transport in respect of HGV's

Unitary Cllr Bignell stated that he still had not received the promised response. The Council felt that delaying tactics were being used until the North West relief road had been finished.

5.4 To consider and approve application for Rose of Northamptonshire Award

The Chair had circulated a draft application prior to the meeting which was approved and it resolved that it should be submitted the next day to meet the deadline.

5.5 To consider Council's response to Anglian Water's offer to meet with member of staff or to forward questions re concerns in respect of Ravensthorpe reservoir.

It was resolved that the Clerk should arrange a meeting between John Taylor of Anglian Water and the Chair and Cllr Bushell so that the issues regarding the reservoir could be discussed face to face.

6.1 Planning Applications

None

6.2 Planning Decisions

None

29/2024



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 at appropriate rate where *)	Payment type
Mrs C Holifield – Clerk's Salary June 2024	n/a	440.11	Online
Mrs C Holifield – Office Expenses June 2024	n/a	20.00	Online
Stephen Hartwell – Mowing village	187	623.64*	Online
Clear Councils Insurance – annual premium	100723637	535.92	Online
Wynnstay – water trough for allotment	10302212	258.68*	Card payment
WAVE – Allotment Water	13627373	24.81	Direct Debit
SSE Energy – Street Light electricity fixed rate	tbc	tbc*	Direct Debit
SSE Energy – Street Light electricity part-night	989602	85.19*	Direct Debit

7.2 Income Received to 31 May 2024

Bank cashback of £1.45

7.3 Balance at Bank

The Chairman signed the bank reconciliation statement for the period ended 31 May 2024. Balance at bank was £25,524.34 of which £3,947.45 related to the balance of the Easement funds.

8 CORRESPONDENCE

- NCALC Update May/June edition circulated to Councillors
- NCALC Councillor survey emailed to Councillors to complete individually
- Correspondence from parishioner re impassable footpaths due to overgrown vegetation/hedges (see above)
- Correspondence from WNC regarding Nature Recovery Engagement scheme

9 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

9.1 **Pocket Park** – No report available

9.2 **Allotments** – Cllr Hogben provided a written report to state all in order apart from leaking water trough which had now been replaced

30/2024



- 9.3 **Highways** – Cllr Matts stated that Highways had now repaired the potholes on the Teeton Top Road to a good standard. Markings had been made on the Guilsborough Road so it was hoped these potholes would be dealt with shortly.
- 9.4 **Trees** – The Chair stated that she had received correspondence from the Playing Field regarding the felling of a Walnut Tree which had been planted by the Parish Council many years ago in memory of a parishioner who had reached the age of 100. To be taken forward to July agenda.
In addition, she stated that she had been approached by a resident about a branch of one of the beech trees on the Village Green which was overhanging her property. It was agreed that Cllr Marsh should investigate and report back at the July meeting.
- 9.5 **Street Lights** – The Clerk stated that she had received security concerns from a parishioner about the new part-night cells on the Guilsborough Road. Agreed that the matter should be considered at the July meeting.
- 9.6 **Footpaths** – Cllr Bushell stated that there was overgrown vegetation on the footpath on the Green by the Bank. Clerk to liaise with Mr Pate to see if he can cut back. There were also some problems with footpath in the Churchyard. Cllr Matts agreed to deal with this. With regard to the entrance to the permissive path from the Coton Road across to the Millenium Wood, it was agreed that the vegetation should be cut back by the Council so that pedestrians could get past the side of the gate.
Problems with doo poo were being reported and it seemed to coincide with school holidays when children were exercising their pets. Notice to be put in the Village Newsletter that it is a legal requirement to carry poo bags and to clear up irrespective of the age of the person in control of the dog.
- 9.7 **Speed Awareness Device** – The Clerk reported that after a number of teething problems the device appeared now to be functioning properly. Cllr Marsh had reported having difficulties in downloading data and this needed to be resolved with Coeval. Payment for the device deferred until all issues resolved. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Marsh.
- 9.8 **Village Hall Liaison** – Cllr Worthington stated that the teas for the Open Gardens and the Craft Fair had been well received and had raised funds for the Village Hall.
Playing Field Liaison – Cllr Worthington stated that sales of the Lottery 200 were going well which was important as this covered the cost of mowing the field. Plans for the Beer Festival to take place on 12/13 July were well in hand.
- 9.9 **Police Liaison Representative** – Cllr Bushell stated that she had liaised with Glyn Lewis and he had handed over responsibility for the role to her. She had registered with NCALC and intended to take part in the online session on 25 June and would report back.

31/2024



**ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA TO BE HELD ON
Wednesday, 17 July 2024 at 7.30 pm**

- Maintenance of benches
- Clerk's Annual Staff Appraisal Report
- Part night cell street lights
- Update on meeting with Anglian Water representative
- Walnut Tree replacement
- Update on Beech Tree on Green
- Update on Hedge on Teeton Road

Meeting closed at 8.20 pm

32/2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Hayes', is written below the date.