

RAVENSTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON
Wednesday, 22 June 2022 at 7.30 pm
At Ravensthorpe Village Hall, High Street, Ravensthorpe, Northants**

1 OPENING PROCEDURES

1.1 **Present:** Cllr D Herbert (Chairman), Cllr R Marsh, Cllr M Worthington, Cllr D Hayes, Cllr J Matts, Cllr J Jones and Mrs C Holifield (Clerk)

1.2 **Apologies:**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr E Connor and District Cllr Bignell.

1.3 **Declarations of Interest**

None

2 MINUTES

2.1 The Minutes of the annual meeting of the Parish Council held on 18 May 2022 were approved by the meeting and the Chairman signed the minutes accordingly.

3 PUBLIC TIME

There were no members of the public present. The Clerk read out a report from District Cllr Bignell on the award of the new Highways contract for West Northants Council to Kier.

4 MATTERS ARISING

4.1 **Update in respect of Jubilee celebrations**

Cllr Hayes stated that the Jubilee events were very well supported and enjoyed by all. Funds raised (after costs) were being held by the Village Hall and a meeting would be held to decide what village projects should benefit. She stated that it was possible that more fund raising events may be organised to boost the funds.

Cllr Worthington thanked Cllr Hayes on behalf of the Parish Council and parishioners for the immense efforts made by her to ensure that the village was able to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee in style.

23/2022

 20/7/2022

4.2 Update on Annual Parish Council Long Term Insurance Agreement

The Clerk stated that following payment made last month to BHIB, the annual insurance had been renewed, this being the second year of a long term agreement.

5. BUSINESS

5.1 Consideration of request from Pocket Park co-ordinator for funds to purchase various items.

The Council considered Ruth Rolls' request for funds to purchase new drinking flask(s) and mugs for Working Party volunteers and also for root killing treatment and also treatment for the wooden benches. It was resolved that an amount not exceeding £100 would be made available for the said purchases. Clerk to liaise.

5.2 Consideration of maintenance/replacement of village benches

Cllr Matts stated that the memorial bench at the junction of Scott Close/High Street was broken beyond repair. It was resolved to purchase another Balmoral 6ft Park Bench (the same as the one on the Village Green) to replace it. Cllr Worthington to speak with the Hickman family to ensure that there would be no objection to this and then liaise with Clerk who would order bench from Cyan. It was also resolved that in addition to the existing Memorial plaque, a further small plaque commemorating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee would be appropriate.

5.3. Consideration of any action to be taken in respect of overgrown vegetation on the Causeway

Cllr Worthington stated that she had been approached by a parishioner regarding the safety issues of crossing the Causeway due to the overgrown vegetation which has narrowed the road surface for pedestrians/cyclists/vehicles severely impeding visibility. It was resolved that the Chairman would report the issue through Fix My Street and that the Clerk would contact Anglian Water who were responsible.

As a separate issue, Cllr Jones stated that a number of trees had taken root on the wildlife side of the reservoir which were now growing up and would also soon cause a visibility issue. Clerk to contact Anglian Water.

Clerk left the meeting at this point

24/2022

 20/7/2022

5.4 Clerk's Annual Staff Appraisal

Following a meeting held by Cllr Marsh and Cllr Matts with the Clerk prior to the Council meeting, it was resolved to increase the Clerk's hourly rate to NALC scale 23 (currently £14.67 per hour). In addition, it was resolved to increase the number of hours from 31 to 33 per month. It was also resolved to increase her working at home allowance from £18 to £20 per month.

Clerk returned to the meeting

6 PLANNING

6.1 Planning Applications

None

6.2 Planning Decisions

None

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 May Salary	n/a	327.71	Online
Mrs C Holifield – Clerk's Office Expenses	n/a	18.00	Online
HMRC – PAYE (April to June 22)	n/a	250.60	Online
SSE Swalec – Street Light Electricity (May 22)	Various	183.60	Direct Debit
Stephen Hartwell – Village Mowing	202235/48	1022.40	Online
E-on Energy – Street light maintenance	112811	123.92	Online
WAVE – Allotment Water (March to Jun 22)	0606707	15.96	Direct Debit

7.2 Income Received (to 31 May 2022)

Allotment rental payment of £35.

25/222

D. Holifield 20/7/2021

7.3 Balance at Bank

The Chairman signed the bank reconciliation statement for the period ending 31 May 2022. Balance at bank was £29,617.12 of which £5,275.45 related to the balance of the Easement monies and £5,379.31 to a CIL payment.

7.4 Submission of Annual VAT Return

The Clerk stated that she had recently submitted the annual VAT return and a refund of £2,148.71 was expected.

7.5 Notice of Public Rights Exercise for y/e 31 March 2022

The Clerk stated that she had published the relevant notifications for the annual Public Rights Exercise on the noticeboard and on the website. The period for the exercise would be 3 June to 22 July 2022.

8 CORRESPONDENCE

- o NCALC Update May/June edition – circulated to Councillors by email.
- o Email complaint from parishioner regarding loose dogs fouling on the West Haddon Road – Clerk stated she had reported issue to the WNC Dog Warden to deal

9 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

- 9.1 **Pocket Park** – No report received
- 9.2 **Allotments** – No report available
- 9.3 **Highways** – Nothing new to report except that there were a number of anticipated road closures in the area due to white lining and pot hole repairs.
- 9.4 **Tree Report** - Nothing to report
- 9.5 **Street Lights** – Nothing to report.
- 9.6 **Footpath report** – Nothing to report
- 9.7 **Speed Awareness Device** – No specific speeding issues whilst located at the East Haddon Road entrance to village. Agreed to move the device to the Guilsborough Road near Little Lane.
- 9.8 **Village Hall/Playing Field Liaison** – Cllr Worthington reported that the Village Hall had been very busy over the Jubilee weekend but would be quieter over the summer holiday period. The Playing Field were busy organising the Beer Festival/Family day taking place on 16 July. A working party was taking place on 26 June to carry out a clean-up of the Pavilion/Playing Field and Play Area.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA TO BE HELD ON:
Wednesday, 20 July 2022 at 7.30 pm**

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm

26/2022

 20/7/2022