

RAVENSTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON

Wednesday, 26 October 2022 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 J Matts, Cllr J Jones, Cllr D Hayes, Mrs C Holifield (Clerk), Unitary Cllr Bignell and two members of the public

1.2 Apologies:

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr E Connor

1.3 Appointment of Chairman

The Clerk stated that following the resignation of the previous Chairman (David Herbert) as a Councillor during the summer, it was necessary to appoint a new Chairman of the Parish Council. Cllr Matts proposed and Cllr Worthington seconded the appointment of Cllr Richard Marsh as Chairman. Cllr Marsh accepted his appointment and took the chair for the meeting.

1.4 Declarations of Interest

None

2 MINUTES

2.1 The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 20 July 2022 were approved by the meeting and the Chairman signed the minutes accordingly.

3 PUBLIC TIME

The two members of the public stated that they were attending the meeting as invited by the Clerk in an observation capacity with a view to being co-opted as Councillors at the next meeting.

Unitary Cllr Bignell stated that Daventry Council offices were due to close to save on costs. All Planning Officers would be re-located to the offices in Towcester to join the Planning Officers of the former South Northants Council and the Borough Council.

With regard to item 5.3 on the agenda a review of the number of Ward Councillors was being undertaken with a view to reducing the number from 93 to 77 in 2024. He stated that it was unlikely that there would be any changes to the boundaries for Long Buckby ward.

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4 MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Update in respect of filling Parish Councillor vacancies

The Clerk stated that two applications had been received during the summer months and that both applicants were attending the meeting to observe how the Council operated. Copies of their applications having been forwarded to the Council prior to the meeting. It was suggested that should they still be interested that they could be co-opted at the November meeting.

4.2 Update on overgrown vegetation on Causeway (Coton Road)

It was reported that the vegetation on the Causeway was still causing issues and needed urgent cutting back. Given that the bird nesting season was over, Clerk to contact Anglian Water and request again that this matter be dealt with.

4.3 Update on Planning Decisions where non material amendments are made without reference to Parish Council

District Cllr Bignell stated that he had looked into this matter on behalf of the Council and had forwarded Planning Department's response to the past Chairman. He stated that the main problem was due to the short timescale available and the outdated IT software which did not facilitate notifying Parish Councils of such amendments.

5. BUSINESS

5.1 Approval of payment of £35 to Information Commissioner for annual data protection fee

It was resolved that the Council should continue to pay the annual data protection fee of £35 which would be taken by direct debit.

5.2 Consideration of report provided by Cllr Hayes in respect of potential use of Jubilee Funds

Cllr Hayes outlined the various ideas that had been put forward for spending the monies raised for the benefit of the community. The Council's preferred option would be for the planting of some native trees – possibly to replace some of the ash trees on the West Haddon Road suffering from ash die back disease and also to consider the planting of a single specimen tree at the junction of East Haddon Road/Long Lane. Cllr Matts to approach landowners to see what they felt about these ideas. It was also agreed that the idea of a community orchard was a good one if a suitable location could be found. It was recommended that Mr & Mrs Wiseman of the Ravensthorpe Nursery should be involved in any scheme to plant trees.

5.3 Consideration of response to survey 'Have you say on Ward Boundaries for West Northants Council

Further to Unitary Cllr Bignell's comments in public forum, it was resolved that no action was necessary

5.4 Consideration and approval of wording for the dedication plaque for replacement memorial bench High St/Scott Close

Cllr Worthington proposed the wording should read:
This bench is in memory of Eric Hickman MBE (1913-1995). It was replaced to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee 2022.
Once approved by the Hickman family, Clerk to source a suitable brass plaque.

5.5 Problems with reported use of litter bins for disposal of general household waste causing overflowing bins

The Clerk stated that West Northants Norse had reported that the cause of the overflowing waste bins on the Guilsborough Road was due someone disposing of large quantities of household waste in the bins. Councillors noted that this was totally unacceptable and would be vigilant and if any further problems noted would report to the Clerk immediately.

5.6 Update of Highways issues which had been initiated by previous Chairman including update on inclusion of Ravensthorpe in the WNC 20mph advisory speed limit scheme

The Chairman stated that the inclusion of Ravensthorpe in the 20mph advisory scheme was to be welcomed but it was felt by the Council that it should continue to pursue a permanent reduction in the speed limit through the village from 30 mph to 20 mph as was being promoted by Oxfordshire Council. Clerk to email Highways representative asking for further information about costings as the Council would be prepared to budget to pay for a reduction in the speed limit.

With regard to HGV's, the Chairman stated that he had noticed signs in a village in Norfolk restricting grain lorries to 15 mph. Clerk to liaise with Parish Council in Norfolk to find out more about this and report back at November meeting.

5.7 Consideration of items to be included in budget for 2023/24 in advance of setting Precept at November meeting

It was suggested that a sum of £500 should be included in the budget for the King's coronation celebrations.

5.8 Consideration and approval of replacement LED lanterns for street light number 36 on Church Hill opposite St Denys Church at a cost of £270.

It was resolved to approve the replacement of this lantern which was reported by E-on to be obsolete. Cost £270 (excluding VAT)

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5.9 Consideration and approval of National Grid's request for permission to cut back Horse Chestnut tree on Village Green from power lines

It was resolved to approve the request received from National Grid to be allowed to trim the Horse Chestnut tree on the green. Clerk to liaise.

6 PLANNING

6.1 Planning Applications

WND/2022/0843 – Land adj 17 Teeton Road, Ravensthorpe
Work to trees subject of tree preservation order DA293

The Council had no observations

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 Salary October	n/a	387.31	Online
Mrs C Holifield – Clerk's Office Expenses	n/a	20.00	Online
Information Commissioner – Data Protection	Z3398394	35.00	Direct Debit
SSE Swalec – Street Light Electricity (Sept 22)	Various	195.55	Direct Debit
Stephen Hartwell – Village Mowing	202303	511.20	Online
E-on Street Light maintenance	114141	90.27	Online
E-on Street Light repairs (number 40)	114583	35.64	Online
Ruth Rolls – Pocket Park expenses	n/a	33.95	Online

The following items were paid in September (no meeting held due to Queen's period of mourning). These payments were approved remotely by two authorised bank signatories

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Payee	Invoice Number	Amount (£) including VAT where applicable	Payment type
Mrs C Holifield – Clerk's Salary Aug/Sept	n/a	774.62	Online
Mrs C Holifield – Clerk's Office Expenses	n/a	40.00	Online
HMRC PAYE (July to September 22)	n/a	290.40	Online
WAVE – Allotment Water	10976449	24.26	Direct Debit
SSE Swalec – Street Light Electricity (July 22)	Various	189.99	Direct Debit
SSE Swalec – Street Light Electricity (Aug 22)	Various	189.99	Direct Debit
Stephen Hartwell – Village Mowing x 2	202272/202289	1078.80	Online

7.2 Income Received (to 30 September 2022)

Second instalment of Precept of £8,000

7.3 Balance at Bank

The Chairman signed the bank reconciliation statement for the period ending 30 September 2022. Balance at bank was £32,948.92 of which £5,275.45 related to the balance of the Easement monies and £5,379.31 to a CIL payment.

7.4 Presentation of Receipts and Payments account for period ended 30 September 2022

The Clerk had previously circulated the receipts and payment account for the six month period ended 30 September 2022 which was noted by the Council.

7.5 Option to opt out of SAAA central external auditor appointment

As recommended by NCALC, it was resolved to remain within the central external auditor appointment scheme.

8 CORRESPONDENCE

- NCALC Update – September/October edition – circulated by email to Councillors

9 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

- 9.1 **Pocket Park** – Report from Ruth Rolls circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting
- 9.2 **Allotments** – It was reported that all was in order.
- 9.3 **Highways** – Cllr Matts stated he had nothing new to report.
- 9.4 **Tree Report** - The Chairman stated he had nothing new to report.
- 9.5 **Street Lights** – Street light number 40 repaired and street light number 36 awaiting new LED lantern.

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- 9.6 **Footpath report** – Nothing new to report
- 9.7 **Speed Awareness Device** – The Chairman stated that the device was currently located on the Teeton Road but would be moved. It was agreed to reduce the speed at which it flashed to 20 mph.
- 9.8 **Village Hall/Playing Field Liaison** – Cllr Worthington reported that the Village Hall was very busy with bookings and that a paid administrator had now been employed to deal with bookings, administration and finance. With regard to the Playing Field, the bonfire/firework display was taking place on 4 November.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA TO BE HELD ON:
Wednesday, 23 November 2022 at 7.30 pm**

- Co-option of new Councillors
- Election of Vice Chairman and roles for new Councillors
- Consideration of budget and setting of Precept
- 20 mph speed limit update
- Restriction signs for Grain lorries
- Parish Council Meeting dates for 2023
- Allgreen Farm – planning update

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm

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