

RAVENSTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON

Wednesday, 17 January 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 22 November 2023 were approved by the meeting and the Chairman signed the minutes accordingly.

3 PUBLIC TIME

Unitary Cllr Bignell that the consultation for the draft budget of WNC was still active for comments. The plan was to raise Council Tax by 4.99% of which 2% related to adult social care.. There was to be a new policy for taxi drivers in Northampton town centre with Marshalls being employed at night to assist passengers. The new JCB pothole machine had been delivered and was now in use. Cllr Bignell to try and find out when the roads around Ravensthorpe parish were being scheduled for repair.

4 MATTERS ARISING

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

The Clerk stated that she had received the quotation for the pole from Kier and with the assistance of Cllr Marsh and Unitary Cllr Bignell had now submitted the required documentation to apply for a full grant from the Road Safety Fund in the amount of £3,915.

4.2 Update on location of Jubilee Memorial Bench

The Chairman stated that after much consideration, it had been agreed that the best location for the new bench which had been delivered was on the green at the bottom of the West Haddon Road and to replace the existing bench which was in poor condition.



5. BUSINESS

5.1 Consideration and approval of grass mowing contract for 2024-2025 seasons

The Clerk had provided details of the three quotations received in advance of the meeting. After discussion, it was unanimously resolved to offer the contract to the existing mowing contractor, Stephen Hartwell. Whilst he had tendered the most expensive quotation his price per cut had remained unchanged from the previous contract and the Council felt the service he provided was of such a high standard that it was worth paying the additional amount.

5.2 Consideration and approval of Budget for 2024/25

The budget was presented by Cllr Jones and he explained that after receiving additional information the Clerk had suggested that only a small increase in the Precept would be required. It was unanimously resolved to approve the budget as presented (separate schedule to these minutes).

5.3 Consideration and approval of Precept amount for 2024/25

It was unanimously resolved to request a Precept amount of £16,500 for the 2024-25 financial year. This being a £500 increase on the amount requested the previous three years.

5.4 WNC Corporate Governance Review

The Clerk stated that the Council's request to reduce the number of Councillors from 9 to 8 had been received by the Review body and was going to be looked at later in the year. In the meantime, the Council will attempt to fill the current vacancy for Coton Ward by advertising in the Coton noticeboard.

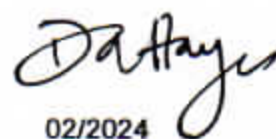
5.5 Consideration of further action to be taken in respect of Ravensthorpe Reservoir car park and other issues with Anglian Water

The Clerk stated that she had sent two emails to Angela Tarry of Anglian Water, who was responsible for Ravensthorpe Reservoir, inviting her or another representative to attend the Parish Council meeting to answer questions but had not had the courtesy of any reply. Clerk to try and phone and find out whether anyone would be available to attend the February meeting.

6 PLANNING

6.1 Planning Applications

None



02/2024

6.2 Planning Decisions

2023/6885/FULL – Land adjacent to Silver Birches, West Haddon Road, Ravensthorpe

Proposed new dwelling on land adjacent to Silver Birches

Planning permission approved by WNC

2023/6824/FULL – Holly Cottage, 24 High Street, Ravensthorpe

Two storey extension to west end of property (replacing existing single storey outbuilding. Two storey extension to North (rear) of property (replacing existing single storey utility room)

Planning permission approved by WNC

2023/5975/FULL Guilsborough Lodge, Teeton Road, Guilsborough

Single storey rear extension, internal alterations and new first floor window to south west elevation

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.

Payee	Invoice Number	Amount (£) (including VAT at appropriate rate where *)	Payment type
Mrs C Holifield – Clerk's Salary December 23*	n/a	440.11	Online
Mrs C Holifield – Office Expenses December 23*	n/a	20.00	Online
Mrs C Holifield – Clerk's salary January 24	n/a	440.11	Online
Mrs C Holifield – Office Expenses January 24	n/a	21.50	Online
E-on – Street light Upgrades (CIL monies)	121732	6,830.00*	Online
Ravensthorpe Village Hall – Hall hire	109	121.50	Online
E-on – Street light maintenance (Oct to Dec 23)	121585	210.00*	Online
WAVE – Allotment Water	12865444	25.30	Direct Debit
HMRC – PAYE (Oct to Dec 23)	n/a	369.60	Direct Debit
SSE Energy – Street Light Electricity (Nov 23)	Various	182.73*	Direct Debit
SSE Energy – Street Light Electricity (Dec 23)	Various	Tbc	Direct Debit

*Clerk's December salary and expenses paid in December.

03/2024



7.2 Income Received to 31 December 2023

£40 in respect of the Teeton Road pit.

7.3 Balance at Bank

The Chairman signed the bank reconciliation statement for the period ending 31 December 2023. Balance at bank was £29,699.51 of which £4,775.45 related to the balance of the Easement monies and £5,379.31 to a CIL payment.

7.4 Business Savings Account

The Clerk stated that whilst she had sent all the necessary documentation to open a savings account linked to the current account by recorded delivery post as yet she had had no response from Virgin Money. Clerk to chase and update at February meeting.

8 CORRESPONDENCE

None

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 she would be sending out the annual rental letters at the beginning of February and stated she still had a short waiting list should anyone wish to relinquish their tenancy.

9.3 **Highways** – Cllr Matts stated that apart from the ubiquitous potholes he had nothing to report.

9.4 **Trees** – Cllr Marsh stated that he had nothing new to report.

9.5 **Street Lights** – The Clerk stated that she had reported street light number 8 on the Guilsborough Road and was still awaiting a quotation. She had also reported a couple of lights where some boxes were open and again was awaiting a report from E-on.

9.6 **Footpaths** – Cllr Bushell stated that she had nothing new to report.

9.7 **Speed Awareness Device** – Cllr Marsh stated that the device had been moved to the Guilsborough Road.

9.8 **Village Hall Liaison** – The Chairman reported that there is plenty going on in the Village Hall including the ACE course 'History of Medicine' which runs for 10 weeks. The Hall has received significant interest in forming a Table Tennis club and financial support had been confirmed by Table Tennis England. It is hoped this will attract young people as well as being therapeutic to older ones. The objective this year is to include development of solar facilities to reduce electricity costs.

Playing Field Liaison – No report available.

04/2024



**ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA TO BE HELD ON:
Wednesday, 21 February 2024 at 7.30 pm**

- Update on application to Road Safety Fund for grant
- Update on Business Savings Account
- Ravensthorpe Reservoir car park
- Annual Parish Event
- Update on Street Light number 8

Meeting closed at 8.15 pm

05/2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Hayes', is written over the printed date '05/2024'.