

RAVENSTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON

Wednesday, 22 November 2023 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 M Worthington, Cllr E Connor, Cllr R Marsh Cllr J Jones (7.40 pm), Mrs C Holifield (Clerk) and one member of the public (7.45 pm)

1.2 Apologies:

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Hogben and Unitary Cllr Bignell

1.3 Declarations of Interest

None

2 MINUTES

2.1 The Minutes of the Parish Council ordinary meeting held on 18 October 2023 were approved by the meeting and the Chairman signed the minutes accordingly.

3 PUBLIC TIME

The member of the public was invited to speak by the Chairman. She stated that she had been in email correspondence with Anglian Water about the installation of a parking meter in the picnic car park on the Hollowell Road. She had complained to Anglian Water stating that this would result in visitors parking on the lane and blocking gateways rather than having to park. It was agreed that the Clerk would invite a representative from Anglian Water to attend the January meeting to explain the reasoning behind the decision to obtain payment for parking and to discuss other matters of concern to the Parish Council.

4 MATTERS ARISING

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

The Clerk stated that she was still awaiting a quotation for the metal pole to be erected by Kier and had been informed by the Highways Regulations Officer that delays were very common. Grant from Road Safety Fund cannot be submitted without a full quotation.



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5. BUSINESS

5.1 Consideration of location of Jubilee Memorial Bench

The Chairman stated that having looked around the village and spoken to residents, the most sensible place for the Jubilee Memorial Bench would be on the green area at the junction of West Haddon Road and East Haddon Road. Chairman to order a bench and plaque from Cyan so it would match the other wooden benches which had recently been purchased by the Parish Council. Funds held by Village Hall so no further involvement required from Parish Council.

5.2 WNC Corporate Governance Review – consideration to be given to number of Councillors on Parish Council and ratio between Ravensthorpe and Coton

Following discussion and taking into account the number of electors in Coton (55) compared to the number of electors in Ravensthorpe ward (496) it was resolved that only one Councillor was required to cover Coton and that 7 Councillors for Ravensthorpe was sufficient (thus reducing the overall number of Councillors from 9 to 8, therefore, there would be no need to fill the current vacancy for a Councillor for Coton ward. Clerk to report the Council's decision to the CGR body and see whether any further action required.

5.3 Approval of increase in Clerk's hourly rate from £15.67 to £16.67 in accordance with her employment contract and the Local Government Pay Agreement for 2023/24 to be backdated to 1 April 2023.

It was resolved that the Clerk's hourly rate should increase by £1 per hour in accordance with the Local Government Pay Agreement and the increase be backdated to 1 April 2023.

5.4 Consideration of Budget for 2024/25

Cllr Jones explained the reasoning behind the figures of the draft budget spreadsheet that had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. It was resolved that as not all information was available in respect of spend on street light upgrades, cost of electricity going forward and grass mowing tenders that the matter would be taken forward to the January meeting for final approval.

5.5 Consideration of Precept for 2024/25

Cllr Jones explained that until the budget was finalised, the Precept figure could not be agreed. However, he stated that it was likely that the Precept may have to be increased from the present level of £16,000 per annum up to £18,000 per annum.



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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 at appropriate rate where *)	Payment type
Mrs C Holifield – Clerk's Salary November 23 including back pay to 1 April 2023	n/a	624.91	Online
Mrs C Holifield – Office Expenses November 23	n/a	20.00	Online
Stephen Hartwell – Mowing and clearing footpath	123	720.36*	Online
SSE Swalec – Street Light Electricity (October 23)	Various	176.66*	Direct Debit

7.2 Income Received to 31 October 2023

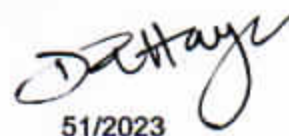
Nil

7.3 Balance at Bank

The Chairman signed the bank reconciliation statement for the period ending 31 October 2023. Balance at bank was £31,869.58 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 application form for an online business savings account linked to the current account and bank mandate were duly signed by all existing authorised signatories. Once additional requested identification information for Cllr Marsh received Clerk to send to Virgin Money.


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8 CORRESPONDENCE

None

9 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

- 9.1 **Pocket Park** – No report available
- 9.2 **Allotments** – Cllr Hogben had provided a verbal report to the Chairman to state that all was in good order.
- 9.3 **Highways** – Cllr Jones requested that a FixmyStreet report be made on the Coton Road by the just before the Causeway where the camber was giving way.
- 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 awaiting a quotation.
- 9.6 **Footpaths** – Cllr Bushell stated that she had nothing new to report. The footpath between Church Gardens and Teeton Road had been cleared by Stephen Hartwell the mowing contractor. The Chairman stated that she had received complaints about the leaf litter on the pavement of Guilsborough Road which was making it very slippery. She stated she would report this to FixmyStreet.
- 9.7 **Speed Awareness Device** – Cllr Marsh stated that the device had not been moved since the last meeting.
- 9.8 **Village Hall Liaison** – Cllr Worthington stated that events were going well in the Village Hall
- Playing Field Liaison** – Cllr Worthington stated that the Bonfire Night event had been a great success and approximately £1,500 had been raised. With the help of Glyn Lewis problems with parking were not an issue this year.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA TO BE HELD ON:

Wednesday, 17 January 2024 at 7.30 pm

- Update Jubilee Memorial Bench
- Update on Business Savings Account
- Consideration of tenders for Grass Mowing Contract for 2024/25
- Setting of Budget for 2024/25
- Setting of Precept for 2024/25
- Ravensthorpe Reservoir car park

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm



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