

## RAVENSTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD REMOTELY BY VIDEO CONFERENCE Wednesday, 20 January 2021 at 8.00 pm

#### 1 OPENING PROCEDURES

1.1 **Present:** Cllr D Herbert (Chairman), Cllr R Marsh, Cllr M Worthington, Cllr J Jones, Cllr J Matts, Cllr P Hawkins, Cllr E Connor and Mrs C James (Clerk).

1.2 **Apologies:** None

1.3 **Declarations of Interest:**

Personal: None

Personal and Prejudicial: None

#### 2 MINUTES

2.1 The Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on 18 November 2020 were approved and signed by the Chairman (to be scanned to Clerk).

#### 3 PUBLIC TIME

There were no members of the public present

#### 4. MATTERS ARISING

##### 4.1 Update on problems re parking on pavements

Cllr Marsh stated that as the Village Hall had been closed due to Covid-19 restrictions since the date of the last meeting there had been no problems in this area. Cllr Worthington stated that there had been a couple of instances of delivery vehicles blocking pavements but only for short periods of time.

##### 4.2 Update on possible traffic solutions at junction of High Street/Guilsborough Road

The Clerk stated that the marker posts had now been re-aligned but that a visit from the Highways engineering department to look at possible solutions was still awaited.

##### 4.3 Update on hazardous parking due to visitors to Ravensthorpe Reservoir (Hollowell car park)

The Clerk reported that she had been in touch with Anglian Water in respect of the problems with parking at the reservoir and had been informed by the Warden that, following the Council's previous contact, signs had been erected on two occasions to alert visitors that if the Hollowell car park was locked visitors could use the Teeton Road car park but he reported that the signs had been vandalised/removed. He stated he would try again to encourage visitors to use the Teeton Road car park when the Hollowell car park was locked. He stated that, unless he or another Anglian Water employee was on site, the Hollowell car park would remain locked in winter.

## 5 BUSINESS

### 5.1 Consideration of Parish Council's response to further Covid-19 lockdown

The Council agreed that there was nothing further to do at the present time.

### 5.2 Approval of ongoing application for a new bank account with Yorkshire Bank

The Clerk stated that the Co-operative Bank were unable to offer the Council a bank account. With the approval of the Chairman and Vice Chairman she had, therefore, made application to the Yorkshire Bank who were another of the banks taking part in the NatWest switch incentive scheme. She stated that she had submitted the necessary documentation online on 1 January 2021 but had been informed that there was a 6 week backlog in dealing with new applications. She stated she would make enquiries at the end of January if nothing had been heard back from Yorkshire bank.

### 5.3 Consideration and approval of offer to undertake Urban Highways Grass Cutting Contract for 2021 season (grant of £515.75)

The Clerk stated that she had received the offer from Highways for the Council to carry out the Highways verge cutting for the 2021 season for a grant of £515.75. It was unanimously resolved to accept the contract.

### 5.4 To appoint a Police Liaison Representative to act as a single point of contact with Northamptonshire Police

The Clerk stated that she had contacted Glyn Lewis and he had agreed that his name could be put forward for this role (which he was carrying out on behalf of the Council in any event). The Council resolved that the Clerk should add his name to the required database and expressed thanks to Glyn for volunteering. lkji

## 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.



Payee	Invoice Number	Amount £	Payment method
Mrs C James – Clerk’s December salary	n/a	315.83	Online
Mrs C James - Administration Expenses	n/a	18.00	Online
HMRC – PAYE (Oct-Dec 2020)	n/a	249.40	Online
Mrs C James – Clerk’s January salary	n/a	315.83	Online
Mrs C James – Administration expenses	n/a	36.15	Online
Northants CALC – Training Course fee	0647	44.00	Online
SSE Swalec – Street Light Electricity (Nov)	various	233.46	Direct Debit
SSE Swalec – Street Light Electricity (Dec)	Various	269.45	Direct Debit
WAVE – Allotment Water (Sep-Nov 2020)	8221408	48.11	Direct Debit
E-on – Street Light Maintenance (Oct-Dec 20)	102604	123.92	Online

## 7.2 Income Received

Pit rents of £105, Highways Grass cutting grant of £515.75 and bank interest of 0.17p.

## 7.3 Balances at Bank

The Chairman signed the bank reconciliation statement for the period ended 31 December 2020 (to be scanned to Clerk). Balance at bank was £25,744.96 of which £6,574.61 is the balance of the easement monies.

## 8 CORRESPONDENCE (for information only)

- Email received from parishioner regarding a stile in Cuffy’s Field (see footpath report below)
- Emails from parishioners reporting petty vandalism in the Millenium Wood. The Clerk stated that she had contacted The Woodland Trust to advise them of the damage caused mainly as a result of the Trust’s Information Board having been taken down used as firewood for a bonfire on News Years Eve (debris cleared by Chairman/Cllr Hawkins). The Trust did not wish to pursue the matter further as it seemed to be an isolated event and promised to replace the board in due course, the Police Liaison Representative for the Council reported the crime to the Police although it was known no further action would be taken. Clerk had replied to parishioners.
- NALC Update Nov/Dec 2020 – (circulated by email)

## 9 COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

- 9.1 **Pocket Park** – Ruth Rolls most recent report in respect of wildlife in the Park had previously been circulated to Councillors by email.



- 9.2 **Allotments** – Cllr Connor stated that all was satisfactory in the allotments.
- 9.3 **Highways** – Cllr Matts stated that he was concerned about the increasingly poor state of the single track road leading from the Hollowell picnic car park at the reservoir up to Hollowell where the verges were being severely eroded. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Highways to alert them of the perilous state of this road which had been exacerbated by the number of visitors to the reservoir parking on the verges and the increased traffic following the temporary closure of the Teeton Road.  
The Clerk stated that a parishioner had forwarded to her a copy of a Fixmystreet that had been submitted regarding the significant deterioration of the road surface at the sharp bend on the High Street which had only recently been the subject of a repair. The response given was that no action was required so Clerk had followed this up with her contacts at Highways and would report back.
- 9.4 **Trees** – Cllr Marsh stated that he had nothing to report but that he would be carrying out an inspection following the strong winds/rains being forecast.
- 9.5 **Street Lights** – The Clerk stated that she had received no new reports of problems with street lights.
- 9.6 **Public Footpath Report** – Cllr Hawkins stated that he had responded to the parishioner who complained about the stile in Cuffy's Field. The situation had not changed since the last time it was looked at and the stile was useable if not the easiest to negotiate. Cllr Worthington stated that she had walked the path and found the drop to be quite daunting on one side especially if you were not that tall. It was agreed that the Chairman would have a word with the landowner to see if another step could be added to make it slightly easier to cross. It was reiterated that there were no powers to prevent landowners from keeping livestock including horses in fields though which public footpaths crossed.
- 9.7 **Speed Awareness Device** – The device had been moved back to the Teeton Road but as the road was temporarily closed there was no point in downloading data.
- 9.8 **Village Hall/Playing Field** – Cllr Worthington stated the Village Hall was closed. The Playground remained open but was being carefully monitored.
- 10 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA (17 February 2021 at 8.00 pm)**
- Update on traffic issues
  - Internet service in village
  - Bank switch update
  - Possible elections on 6 May
  - Stile in Cuffy's Field



Meeting closed at 8.40 pm

17<sup>th</sup> February 2021