

RAVENSTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON Wednesday, 21 June 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 T Hogben, Cllr J Jones, Cllr R Marsh, Cllr M Bushell, Cllr M Worthington, Unitary Cllr P Bignell, Mrs C Holifield (Clerk) and one member of the public

1.2 Apologies:

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Connor.

1.3 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Matts declared a personal interest in HGV's travelling through the village.

2 MINUTES

2.1 The Minutes of the Parish Council Annual meeting held on 23 May 2023 were approved by the meeting and the Chairman signed the minutes accordingly.

3 PUBLIC TIME

The Chairman welcomed the member of the public to the meeting who stated that she was attending to observe the meeting as she was interested in being co-opted to the Council to fill the casual vacancy for a Councillor for the Coton ward once she had fulfilled the requirement of living in the Parish for at least 12 months. It was explained that the vacancy was being advertised with a cut off date of 31 August 2023 and that her application would be welcomed.

Unitary Cllr Bignell stated that applications for funds from community organisations would be closing next week. Grants of up to £15,000 being available. However, another round would be open in the late summer for those that miss the deadline.

He stated that there were three planning committees for WNC and that he was lead Councillor for the Strategic Committee.

He further stated that bin stickers would be distributed to all households to try and improve recycling in the District as the current rates were below what was expected.

Finally, he stated that WNC had a new coat of arms.

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4 MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Update on repair to Pocket Park noticeboard and provision of strimmer

Cllr Worthington stated that Yiannis had now obtained a new sheet of Perspex to repair the noticeboard and that she would also be getting a further key cut. Cllr Bushell stated that Ruth Rolls had recently collected a battery operated strimmer from her and would see if it were strong enough. If not, she would return to Cllr Bushell and Council may need to consider purchase of strimmer for the Pocket Park.

5. BUSINESS

5.1 Consideration of purchase of new water trough for Allotment Gardens

Cllr Matts stated that whilst the repair he had carried out was holding up he doubted that it would last and it was resolved to purchase a new galvanised trough. Cllr Matts to source to likely to obtain best price through his farm supply contacts and then provide invoice to Clerk.

5.2 Consideration and approval of replacement LED lantern for street light number 41 in Little Lane, Ravensthorpe

It was resolved to replace the lantern at a cost of £270 (excluding VAT) with a warm white LED lantern.

5.3 Consideration of upgrade to obsolete street lights using the CIL monies received of £5,379.31

It was unanimously resolved to replace the following street lights at a total cost of £5,692 (excluding VAT) as part of the Council's campaign to upgrade the lights to LED's to save on electricity and being an appropriate use of the CIL monies received in 2022:

Numbers: 2; 3; 4; 12; 13; 17; 18; 19; 23; 29; 30; 31; and 39

All lanterns to be replaced with warm white LED's to reduce costs and light pollution.

5.4 Consideration of further action to be taken regarding HGV's travelling through Ravensthorpe and Coton

Cllr Marsh stated that a parishioner had been monitoring HGV traffic in the High Street, Ravensthorpe using a camera and specialist software. Any vehicles that were considered to be using the route unnecessarily triggered an email to the company operating the vehicle to advise that the route was inappropriate. Initial impressions are that this action has resulted in a reduction in the numbers of HGVs using this route inappropriately. It appeared, at present, that insufficient infringements were taking place to justify weight limits on the road.

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5.5 Approval of payment of £462.38 in respect of annual insurance premium (last year of the three year LTA)

It was resolved to make the payment to BHIB in respect of the renewal of the Council's insurance policy which will now expire on 16 June 2024.

5.6 Arrangements for Clerk's Annual Staff Appraisal

Cllr Matts agreed that he and Cllr Connor would meet with the Clerk at 7.00 pm on 19 July 2023 prior to the next Council meeting.

5.7 Consideration of need to hold Annual Parish Meeting in 2024 following advice given by NCALC in latest Update edition

The Clerk stated that Danny Moody was strongly advising Councils that they should be rethinking the method of holding Parish Meetings and that if the only purpose was for various village organisations to give reports with no parishioners attending apart from report givers themselves that they should be abandoned as there was no mandatory requirement to hold one.

It was agreed that views would be canvassed and that the matter would be reconsidered at the September meeting.

6 PLANNING

6.1 Planning Applications

WND/2023/5393 full – Booster Station, Teeton Road, Ravensthorpe
Installation of generator kiosk, delivery bund and hardstanding.

The Council considered the application and had no observations to make

6.2 Planning Decisions

WND/2023/0164 – The Cottage, 2 Coton Road, Ravensthorpe
Installation of Wooden storage shed

Planning permission approved

7 FINANCE

7.1 Payments

The following invoices/items were approved by the Council for payment by the method stated.

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Payee	Invoice Number	Amount (£) (including VAT at appropriate rate where *)	Payment type
Mrs C Holifield – Clerk's Salary June	n/a	413.71	Online
Mrs C Holifield – Office Expenses June	n/a	20.00	Online
Stephen Hartwell – Mowing	42	562.32*	Online
BHIB – Annual Insurance Premium	LCO02257	462.38	Online
WAVE – Allotment Water (March-May 23)	12097147	18.50	Direct Debit
SSE Swalec – Street Light Electricity (May 23)	Various	180.60*	Direct debit

9.7 Income Received (to 31 May 2023)

None

9.7 Balance at Bank

The Chairman signed the bank reconciliation statement for the period ended 31 May 2023. Balance at bank was £30,548.32 of which £4,775.45 related to the balance of the Easement monies and £5,379.31 to a CIL payment.

8 CORRESPONDENCE

- Email from NCALC re Briefing Session on Local Area Partnerships to take place on 26 June 2023 (noted but no-one available to attend)
- NCALC Update – May/June 23 edition – circulated to Councillors (see item 5.7 of agenda)

9 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

- 9.1 **Pocket Park** – No report available.
- 9.2 **Allotments** – Cllr Hogben stated that all was in good order. Cllr Matts stated that the PCC would be looking to improve the surface of the disabled gateway and would also be removing the ivy from the trees bordering the allotments.
- 9.3 **Highways** – Cllr Matts stated that he had nothing to report apart from the fact that some drains had been cleaned on the Gullsborough Road. Cllr Bushell to report others that had not been cleaned on Street Doctor.
- 9.4 **Tree Report** - Cllr Marsh stated all good expect for significant ash die back disease affecting some of the trees on the West Haddon Road.
- 9.5 **Street Lights** – See agenda items 5.2 and 5.3 above.
- 9.6 **Footpath report** – Cllr Bushell stated that all was in order.
- 9.7 **Speed Awareness Device** – Cllr Marsh stated that he would be moving the device from the Coton Road to the Teeton Road.

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DMH

- 9.8 **Village Hall/Playing Field Liaison** – Cllr Worthington reported that the Village Hall Committee were trying to recruit younger people to the committee by attracting younger members of the community to help out at events. New chairs to be purchased. Looking at extending the solar energy facilities to include batteries to try and reduce energy costs. Also looking to make some improvements to the kitchen shortly and also the toilets.
- With regard to the Playing Field, Cllr Worthington reported that they had had a clean-up session with 10 volunteers working to do general maintenance on the pavilion. Programme of maintenance started as need to replace windows/doors/loft insulation. Also need to replace the fencing around the play area and to replace safety matting around the slide. The Annual Lottery ticket sales are underway sales of which support the costs of mowing. Preparations for the beer festival on 14-15 July are underway which is hoped will be as successful as last year.

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

Wednesday, 19 July 2023 at 7.30 pm

- Clerk's Staff Appraisal
- Consideration of application for grant for further speed awareness device if quotations could be obtained in time.
- Consideration of installing devices to reduce street light electricity costs by dimming or switching off lights at certain periods.

Meeting closed at 8.20 pm

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