

## RAVENSTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON

Wednesday, 15 March 2023 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 D Hayes, Cllr E Connor, Cllr J Matts, Cllr T Hogben, Mrs C Holifield (Clerk), Unitary Cllr P Bignell and two members of the public

1.2 **Apologies:**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr J Jones and Cllr M Bushell

1.3 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr R Marsh declared a personal interest in the matter of the newly planted tree on the junction of Scott Close/High Street.

#### 2 MINUTES

2.1 The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 15 February 2023 were approved by the meeting and the Chairman signed the minutes accordingly.

#### 3 PUBLIC TIME

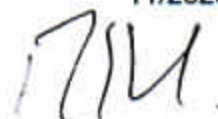
The two members of the public were welcomed by the Chairman and invited to speak. Both had attended to express their concerns about the newly planted ornamental pear tree on the green area by the Memorial Bench at the junction of Scott Close and the High Street. Having taken advice from a tree surgeon and investigating the species on the internet, they believed that the tree would grow to a substantial height (8 metres) affecting the light into their garden and bungalow and that the roots would possibly cause problems for the retaining wall. It was resolved that that the agenda item for Trees would be brought forward and the Council would discuss this matter first. (See item 9.4 below)

#### 4 MATTERS ARISING

4.1 **Update on bank mandate**

The Clerk reported that she had sent the completed mandate to the branch in Northampton and it had been returned for a minor alteration. As at the date of the meeting, it appeared that Mr Herbert had yet to be removed as a signatory. It was hoped that this was just a timing issue but Clerk to follow up.

11/2023



## **5. BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Update on plans for use of Jubilee monies**

Cllr Hayes stated that three trees had been planted at a cost of £111. It was planned to use approx. £400 of the remaining Jubilee monies to print the History Project and any monies received for the sale of the booklets would go back into the fund. It was hoped that further trees could be planted in the autumn and that enquiries with the Woodland Trust suggested that some fruit trees could be planted on the margins of Top Ardles Wood. A new bench for the Wood was also being considered. Agreed that use of the Jubilee monies should be an agenda item for the Annual Parish Meeting in April for public discussion.

### **5.2 Update on plans to celebrate the King's coronation**

Cllr Hayes stated that the Village Hall were arranging for refreshments to be available free of charge at the screening of the Coronation and that a craft workshop for children was also being planned. A donation of £370 was requested from the Parish Council towards the costs and it was resolved that the Council would pay this amount. Clerk to liaise with Village Hall regarding further details.

### **5.3 Consideration of quotation to remove extensive ivy growth on three street lights in Ravensthorpe at a cost of £320.**

The Clerk stated that she had obtained a quotation of £320 from Simon Barnett for carrying out the work. It was resolved that this was a reasonable price for the amount of work involved and that he should be requested to go ahead as soon as possible so that E-on could assess the street lights that were currently being covered by the ivy.

### **5.4 Approval of payment of £110 in respect of gardening the Bank on the Village Green and consideration of request by Mr & Mrs Ellison for Council to look for alternative person(s) to carry out the work**

It was resolved to make the annual payment of £110 to Mr & Mrs Ellison. It was also resolved to put a notice in the forthcoming Village Newsletter to see if the Council could find anyone else interested in carrying out the gardening work going forwards. It was noted that Mr & Mrs Ellison would continue to carry out the work in 2023/24 if no-one could be found in the short-term.

### **5.5 Approval of payment of £80 to Mrs Moss in respect of cleaning the bus shelter**

It was resolved to make the annual payment of £80 to Mrs Moss in respect of the cleaning of the bus shelter. Cllr Worthington to ascertain whether she wished to continue to carry out this task in 2023/24.

12/2023



## 5.6 Approval of Annual risk assessment for Allotments

Cllr Hogben presented the risk assessment for the year and also his bi-monthly checklist. It was resolved that he would draft a note to be sent to all allotment holders regarding the damaged glass on a number of greenhouses which were considered to be a health and safety risk

## 5.7 Consideration of repair to Noticeboard in Ravensthorpe

The Chairman stated that the problem was with leaks coming through the righthand side doors which caused all notices put on this side to become damp and unreadable. Cllr Worthington to liaise with Clerk and provide telephone number of parishioner who had previously carried out such work.

## 5.8 Arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting – 19 April 2023

It was resolved the Clerk would invite all the usual presenters to the meeting but to include an agenda item about the use of the Jubilee funds to plant trees under the Queen's Canopy scheme.

## 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 where applicable	Payment type
Mrs C Holifield – Clerk's Salary March	n/a	413.71	Online
Mrs C Holifield – Office Expenses March	n/a	21.50	Online
HMRC – PAYE (Jan to March 23)	n/a	310.20	Online
Mr & Mrs Ellison – Gardening the Bank	n/a	110.00	Online
Mrs A Moss – Cleaning Bus Shelter	n/a	80.00	Online
SSE Swalec – Street Light Electricity (Feb 23)	Various	169.96	Direct debit
WAVE – Allotment water (Dec to Feb 23)	11706721	14.24	Direct debit

13/2023



## 7.2 Income Received (to 28 February 2023)

Allotment rentals of £375.

## 7.3 Balance at Bank

The Chairman signed the bank reconciliation statement for the period ended 28 February 2023. Balance at bank was £28,165.53 of which £5,275.45 related to the balance of the Easement monies and £5,379.31 to a CIL payment.

## 7.4 Internal Finance Checks

Cllr Connor stated that she had recently carried out internal finance checks for the period to February 2023 and all was satisfactory.

## 8 CORRESPONDENCE

- Email from WNC regarding 'No Mow May' (circulated to Councillors). Cllr Matts to liaise with PCC re possibility of leaving area of old gravestones unmown. Agenda item for April.

## 9 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

- 9.1 **Pocket Park** – No report available The Chairman stated that a lot of work had been going on and that Maurice Fitch had provided his services free of charge to shred a large quantity of cuttings. Clerk to write to Mr Fitch to thank him.
- 9.2 **Allotments** – Cllr Hogben stated that all was in good order on the allotments. Clerk had received all rental payments. One longstanding tenant had given up and his plot had been offered to the person who had been sharing a plot but who wished to have his own.
- 9.3 **Highways** – Cllr Matts stated that he had nothing to report. The Clerk stated that Sandy Lane in Coton had now been swept.
- 9.4 **Tree Report** - **This item was discussed after Public Time.** The Council discussed the parishioners' concerns regarding the ornamental pear tree. It was resolved that further information should be sought about the variety and the potential growth but assuming that it was appropriate for the location (advice having been taken from Mr Wiseman and Mr Fitch) that the Council would undertake responsibility to prune it to ensure that it did not grow to such an extent that it would cause problems in respect of light and root damage to the parishioners property.
- 9.5 **Street Lights** – A street light on Dairy Field had been reported to E-on as not working.
- 9.6 **Footpath report** – Cllr Bushell had reported to the Clerk that all was in order.
- 9.7 **Speed Awareness Device** – The Chairman stated that the device was still on the High Street but that he had switched off the display although the device was still recording data which he would analyse at the end of March.

14/2023



- 9.8 **Village Hall/Playing Field Liaison** – Cllr Worthington reported that the Village Hall had had a successful Quiz Night. With regard to the Playing Field a proposed meeting had been postponed but that there were concerns about the lack of uptake in respect of the Lottery and this was to be discussed as it was a major source of funding raising for the Playing Field.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA TO BE HELD ON:  
Wednesday, 19 April 2023 at 7.00 pm (note earlier time)**

- Possible update on street light upgrades
- Consideration of 'No Mow May'
- Consideration of any applications for gardening the bank
- Repair of Noticeboard

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm

15/2023