

RAVENSTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON Wednesday, 20 November 2024 at 7.30 pm At Ravensthorpe Village Hall, High Street, Ravensthorpe, NN6 8EH

1 OPENING PROCEDURES

1.1 **Present:** Cllr D Hayes (Chair), Cllr M Bushell, Cllr M Worthington, Cllr J Jones, Cllr J Matts, Cllr E Connor, Mrs C Holifield (Clerk), Unitary Cllr P Bignell and one member of the public.

1.2 **Apologies:**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr R Marsh and Cllr T Hogben

1.3 **Declarations of Interest**

None

2 MINUTES

2.1 The Minutes of the Parish Council ordinary meeting held on 16 October 2024 were approved by the meeting and the Chairman signed the minutes accordingly.

3 PUBLIC TIME

The member of the public, Mr Alan Worthington (Playing Field Committee member), said he had come to provide further information in respect of the 7 lime trees which were subject to TPO's on the Playing Field and were continually causing problems for the neighbouring properties. A suggestion had been made to look at pollarding the trees but this may not improve the situation as it could cause more vigorous growth in future and would likely be very expensive to maintain. It was suggested that the matter should be discussed with Mr Venton, Landscape Planning Officer of WNC to see what the best solution would be and even look at the possibility of removing the TPO's that were in place.

Unitary Cllr Bignell stated that the Market Square in Northampton was now fully reopened. The setting of the budget for WNC was well in hand. An amount of £5.4 million had been set aside to improve bus services but this would not impact Ravensthorpe.



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4 MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Update on meeting with Anglian Water representative regarding issues at Ravensthorpe reservoir

The Clerk stated that John Taylor from Anglian Water had not provided any further dates for a meeting with Councillors and had instead suggested that the Council wait for the return of Angela Tarry in the New Year.

4.2 Update on attendance at Emergency Planning Session

Cllr Worthington stated that she had attended a Zoom meeting to discuss Emergency Planning and that she would start looking at updating the Ravensthorpe/Coton Plan for 2025

5. BUSINESS

5.1 Update on obtaining quotations for 'No Parking' signs

As no quotations had been obtained prior to the meeting it was agreed to take this matter forward to the January meeting.

5.2 Approval of increase in Clerk's hourly rate from £16.67 to £17.29 in accordance with her employment contract and the Local Government Pay Agreement for 2024-25 to be backdated to 1 April 2024

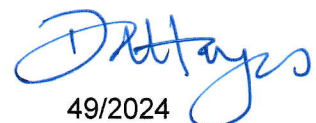
It was resolved that the Clerk's hourly pay rate be increased in line with the Local Government Pay Agreement and be backdated to 1 April 2024.

5.3 To consider plans, budget and arrangements for the Local Elections in 2025

It was resolved to set aside the sum of £500 for the local elections to take place in May 2025. Should the election be contested and further monies be required the contingency fund could be used. Elections to be advertised in the Village Newsletter in the New Year.

5.4 To consider and approve the budget for 2025-26

Cllr Jones presented the suggested budget for the financial year 2025-26 which had previously been circulated to Councillors. After discussion, it was resolved to approve the budget as presented (copy attached to these minutes and also to be uploaded to the website)



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5.5 To consider and approve the Precept amount for 2025-26 and completion of paperwork

Cllr Jones recommended that a Precept amount of £17,000 for the financial year 2025-26 should be sufficient to cover the budgeted expenditure. It was resolved to request the amount of £17,000 and the Chair and Clerk completed the necessary Request form to be forwarded to WNC.

5.6 To consider and approve Parish Council meeting dates for 2025

It was resolved to hold Parish Council meetings on the following dates: 15 January, 19 February, 19 March, 16 April, 21 May, 18 June, 16 July, 17 September, 22 October, 19 November. All meetings to take place on a Wednesday with a start time of 7.30 pm.

5.7 To consider and approve date of Annual Parish Event for 2025

Following the success of the event held in 2024, it was resolved to hold an Annual Parish Event on the morning of Saturday, 5 April 2025 in the Village Hall.

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 – Nov 2024 including back pay to 1 April 2024	n/a	571.19	Online
Mrs C Holifield – Clerk’s Expenses – Nov 2024	n/a	20.00	Online
Ravensthorpe Village Hall – room hire	167	81.00	Online
YU Energy – Street Light Electricity Oct 24	2109413	9.19*	Direct Debit
YU Energy – Street Light Electricity Oct 24	2109412	8.42*	Direct Debit
YU Energy – Street Light Electricity Oct 24	2109411	16.79*	Direct Debit
YU Energy – Street Light Electricity Oct 24	2109414	137.52*	Direct Debit

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7.2 Income Received to 31 October 2024

Nil

7.3 Balance at Bank

The Chairman signed the bank reconciliation statement for the period ended 31 October 2024. Balance at bank was £21,631.91 of which £2,803.37 related to the balance of the Easement funds.

8 CORRESPONDENCE

- Freedom of Information request received and dealt with by Clerk

9 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

- 9.1 **Crabtree Pocket Park** – No report available.
- 9.2 **Allotments** – In the absence of Cllr Hogben there was no report.
- 9.3 **Highways** – Cllr Matts stated he had nothing new to report
- 9.4 **Trees** – Cllr Marsh stated he had nothing new to report.
- 9.5 **Street Lights** – The Clerk stated she had received no new reports of faulty lights
- 9.6 **Footpaths** – Cllr Bushell stated that she had walked the Coton footpath and it was passable.
- 9.7 **Speed Awareness Device** – Cllr Marsh stated that he had nothing to report.
- 9.8 **Village Hall Liaison** – Cllr Worthington stated that the Xmas Craft Fair went extremely well and another was being organised for the Spring. There were plans to put heaters in the toilets. The CCTV cameras needed replacing and this was being done soon.
Playing Field Liaison – Cllr Worthington stated that the pathway from the car park to the Pavilion had been completed with solar lighting. This was made possible by the legacy made to the Playing Field by John Patrick. Bonfire night on 8 November was successful and the night raised £2,700 for the Playing Field.
- 9.9 **Police Liaison Representative** – Cllr Bushell stated that she had attended the Beat Bus and now had the contact details for the PCSO responsible for Ravensthorpe. The Police offered to give presentations highlighting scamming issues if local residents would like this. It was agreed that the Coffee morning held in the Village Hall might be a suitable venue for such a talk. To liaise with Chairman of Village Hall Committee.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA TO BE HELD ON Wednesday, 15 January 2025 at 7.30 pm

- Update on meeting with Anglian Water representative
- Update on parking signs
- Review of Financial Regulations

Meeting closed at 8.15 pm

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