

# WENHASTON WITH MELLS HAMLET PARISH COUNCIL

---

Clerk Richard Day

[clerk@wenhastonmells-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@wenhastonmells-pc.gov.uk)

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 17/12/25 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Present; Cllr. A Musk (Chair), Cllr. J. Townsend, Cllr. C Way, Cllr. K Canham, Cllr. F. Desborough Cllr. M Wilkinson, Cllr. S. Mann, Cllr. G Leech, Cllr. S Cooke, Cllr. T Cushion, County Cllr. Smith, Clerk Richard Day and 8 Parishioners

1. Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies received and accepted from District Cllr. Keys- Holloway and Cllr. Stammers
2. Cllrs. Cooke, Wilkinson and Desborough declared an interest in agenda item 9(i) and would take no part in discussion of the subject matter
3. There were no requests for dispensation to vote.
4. The minutes of the meeting held on 19/11/25 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Wilkinson seconded by Cllr. Musk and unanimously approved.
5. CLERK REPORT. SCC Highways Dept. contacted regarding ongoing flooding problems on Blyford Lane. Site meeting to be set up after Xmas with Cllr. Stammers, awaiting call back following change in personnel. Risk Assessment work has commenced, an update will be provided at next meeting.
6. None.
7. A copy of County Cllr. Smith's report is available from the Clerk
8. No report from District Cllrs.
9. (i) An updated summary on progress for funding has been supplied by the Village Hall Management Committee in respect of the kitchen/café refurbishment. The amount required from the Parish Council has not been confirmed and there is a possibility that no grant will be required. Clerk will request clarification is given as soon as possible and pointed out that assistance could not be forthcoming until the conditions set out in the email to the Chair of VHMC had been met. A further note outlining this request together with an additional copy of the conditions of any grant award will be sent to the Chair, VHMC for circulation to committee members. (ii) Clerk is awaiting guidance from SALC regarding the possible Bio Diversity Plan/policy. It is hoped that clarification and guidance will be available prior to the January meeting. ( C/fwd item to next agenda.) (iii) Draft policy re Article 10 2025 Practitioner's Guide. (C/fwd item to next agenda.)
10. PLANNING. No correspondence.

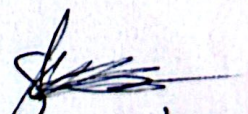


21/1/26

11. A Draft Budget had been prepared and forwarded to Councillors prior to the meeting date. This took full account of known cost increases for the next financial year and where these were not available an estimate has been built into the figures. No allowance has been built in for possible donation for work at the village hall as the cost/shortfall has not been quantified. It was agreed that should a request be received and approved, funding could be made available from general reserve to a maximum of the figure appearing in previous minutes. (£3k). Following proposal by Cllr. Canham, seconded by Cllr. Way it was unanimously agreed to set an expenditure budget for 2026/27 at £30460.
12. Parish Precept 2026/27. The amount charged to homeowners in respect of the Parish Precept has not been increased during the previous 4 years. It was felt that the Parish Council would need to request an increased figure this year to cover the ongoing impact of rising costs, limited additional income and no current availability of CIL monies. No major capital expenditure is planned and sufficient reserves are in place to cover unforeseen items plus anticipated medium to longer term expenditure. It was unanimously agreed to request a precept of £29900 resulting in an increase of £6.54 per annum for a Band D property. The shortfall against budget set will be met from income streams available.
13. Suggestions for an appropriate memorial to recognise the service to the village by the late Heather Phillips MBE will be reviewed and a decision made at the next meeting. C/fwd item.
14. No reports.
15. CORRESPONDENCE. Circulated pre meeting. (i) Wilder Wenhaston e/mail re Bio Diversity Planning. (ii) Various updates from VHMC re specification and costs for upgrade to kitchen and café at Village Hall.
16. RFO REPORT. Payments for authorisation total £ 5973.52. These include payment to Wenhaston Commons Group for conservation work undertaken and for which reimbursement is made by Rural Payments Agency under the Higher Level Stewardship Agreement in place. Balances at Bank prior to these payments is £ 47675.37 and this has been reconciled to spreadsheet and is available for monthly member audit. The report was proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Musk seconded by Cllr. Leech and unanimously approved.
17. Meeting closed 8.40. Date of next meeting 21/1/26.

(Agenda items for next meeting (i) Benches/seats at Play area.

(ii) Draft donations policy for review.

  
21/1/26

WENHASTON with MELLS PARISH COUNCIL

SUMMARY OF PAYMENTS FOR AUTHORISATION 17/12/25.

WENHASTON COMMONS GROUP. £4461.14

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION £127.50

SARS £200.00

EM DAY £663.92

RICHARD DAY £359.35

TOTAL £5973.52

