

WENHASTON with MELLS HAMLET PARISH COUNCIL.

CLERK Richard Day
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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall on 24th May 2023. The meeting was chaired by Peter Wildish and a total of 28 persons attended.

1. Chair welcomed all to the meeting.
2. The minutes to the previous meeting were unanimously approved.
3. The Parish Council Chair gave a full report of the activities undertaken since the previous APM and a copy is available from the Clerk upon request.

4. PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT.

The financial position of the Parish Council remains relatively strong. This is largely due to community infrastructure receipts during the past two years. For the second successive year the Parish precept charge to residents has not been increased. Funds currently held by the Parish Council total £51692. This figure includes a general reserve of £8000 and specific reserves of £43692. Full detail is published on the Parish Council website, including CIL receipts and funds for allocation within the next 5 years.

During the past 12 months significant improvements have been made to the village infrastructure. These include Car Park resurfacing at sports area, New fencing and gate at allotments, Jubilee memorial, Bench replacement x2 and of course the restored telephone box which will become an information/display kiosk. This expenditure totalled £12,285.

The following donations were made. Wenhaston Village Hall £2400, Suffolk Accident and Rescue Service £100, Royal British Legion £100, Wenhaston Primary School £180 for litter picking equipment, Wenhaston Village Show £200, Wenhaston Bowls Club £1000, Wenhaston Allotment Association £191, and Blyth Woods/Wilding Wenhaston £500.

This is an overview of the accounts produced to 31/3/23 for the previous 12 months. Full accounting information (draft) appears on the Parish Council website together with the statutory information, which includes the Internal Audit signed off by SALC on 23/5/23.

5. CHARITIES REPORTS. PEPYN and LESSEY. Cllr. G LEECH Outlined the work undertaken during the previous 12 months. A Facebook page has been set up to publicise the work undertaken and the help which is available to qualifying causes. A full copy of the report is available from the Clerk.

Relief in Need Charity. Heather Phillips MBE provided an update and in summary the charity are seeking to merge with the Pepyn and Lessey Trust. Income is modest at £480 per annum and funds currently held are £5118.

6. BLACKHEATH COMMONS REPORT.

- (i) Alan Miller reported on the work undertaken during the year by Wilding Wenhaston and Blyth Woods. This is not confined to Blackheath Common and there are numerous activities in progress and planned. A copy of the report is available from the Clerk.
- (ii) Representatives from Suffolk Wildlife Trust provided an overview and report on the activities during the previous year including the collaboration with the Wenhaston Commons Group and the work being undertaken on the marshes. Copy report available from Clerk.
- (iii) Myles Archibald provided a full report on the work planned and already completed by Wenhaston Commons Group at Blackheath. The working relationship between SWT Wenhaston PC and Wenhaston Commons Group was explained and reference made to the 10 year plan for the Common. A copy of the report is available from Clerk.

7. OPEN FORUM.

The following points were agreed to be taken forward after being raised by Parishioners,

- (i) Consideration, subject to formal request, for additional play equipment comprising swings at play area.
- (ii) Invitation to County and District Councillors to respond to numerous requests for improvements to road markings at St. Michaels Way. (This would be accomplished by Parishioner representation/attendance at future Parish Council Meeting.)
- (iii) A request for Parish Council to investigate VAT reclaim on behalf of the Village Hall was rejected on the basis that professional advice had previously been sought and that the suggestion would not meet with approval from HMRC under current rules.

MEETING CLOSED AT 8.15 pm.