

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING FOR WANSFORD PARISH

MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 11 MAY 2023 AT 7.30 P.M. IN ST MARY'S CHURCH, WANSFORD

1. **Welcome from the Chairman of Wansford Parish Council:** Cllr John Stannage, Chairman of Wansford Parish Council, welcomed all present and explained the purpose and format of the meeting.
2. **Cllr John Stannage, Chairman of Wansford Parish, reported on the activities of Wansford Parish Council** over the past year, as follows:

Since last May 2022, Wansford Parish Council have met monthly except for August although we also had two Extraordinary Meetings when urgent matters needed resolving.

The past year has seen one of our councillors resign through ill health, but I was pleased to welcome Cllr Jane Taylor-Pitt. However, we are still one councillor short of a full council.

Council meetings have seen extensive and wide-ranging Agendas and there has been some lively debate on many topics that are affecting our village. Two that have involved much input has been the A47 Upgrade and the Seeds Field Planning Application. The latter was concluded in the early part of this year after we were involved in two marathon Appeal Hearings, the conclusion being the Appeal by the developers was dismissed by the Planning Inspector.

As to the A47, a mixed outcome. The Secretary of State for Transport took scant notice of the Planning Inspector's recommendations and basically permitted National Highways carte blanche approval for the southern route of the proposed dual carriageway and it will be very close to the River Nene at one point, totally destroying the County Wildlife Site. Further East in Sutton Parish, at least the ancient woodland will be saved and the dangerous junction with Sutton Heath Road improved. Not so the western roundabout at Wansford, so another battle to be fought here!

The council has again been very mindful of prudent spending, but inflation has ravaged through many of our expenditure commitments and a slight increase in our precept from Peterborough City Council (PCC) was required. One area we have to focus on is the safety of residents on our village roads, which are seeing higher volumes of traffic. The speed of these vehicles, both cars and HGV's, is not acceptable, as much is coming from the A47 and A1 as 'rat running'. WPC have met with National Highways contractors to put in place road signage to deter this traffic and to prevent vehicles in excess of 3t from using our old historic bridge. The two Vehicle Activated Speed signs you see have a positive effect on slowing vehicles down, but as soon as they are moved to another location within the village, that all changes. Maybe another one is required, they are not cheap and PCC are not willing to take on that expenditure.

Similarly with our efforts to have a 7.5 t weight restriction on Old Leicester Road, WPC will be required to fund this but it seems the only way of stemming the constant HGV presence in our village from the ever-expanding Kings Cliffe Industrial Site.

We maintain our working relationship with PCC, Neighbouring Parish Councils, CAPALC, the Police and Crime Commissioner, and more recently the Community Policing Team, Cambs ACRE, and, again very recently, with Natural England to work with us on a Nature Recovery Plan within the Parish.

You will have seen, and no doubt participated in, Parish surveys to gain views on the way WPC can better benefit the village, and you will see some of the recommendations put in place.

WPC are also trying to re-establish a regular and reliable bus service for the village and we are working closely with Wittering and Castor to make this happen.

In the main, grass verge mowing is done to a good standard by Aragon as is bin collections. Village residents also make a massive contribution in keeping the village tidy as does the Wansford Litter Picking Group, ably marshalled by Jane Hunt.

We have seen some improvement to the A47 road surface just west of the roundabout, some improvement to the A47/OLR junction and some improvement to the village pavements by PCC Highways. There is more to be done.

The street lights are working, but yes, we could do with a few more and no doubt it will be down to us to fund that.

WPC were asked to help with the cost of replacing the outdoor floodlighting for St Mary's Church with environmentally improved LED lamps, and we were pleased to support this. I'm sure we all see the splendour of our wonderful Church lit up after dusk and on the occasion of the Queen's death when the lights were purple shrouded to acknowledge her passing.

We've had some joy and some sadness over the past year, starting with the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, the sudden passing of our dear Queen and the Coronation of King Charles III

And what a day the Coronation Picnic Sunday was! our first major joint effort with Sibson cum Stibbington Parish... thank-you to all involved in making it a wonderful occasion that will be remembered by many and for the children to be playing carefree in a safe environment.

I will conclude by thanking fellow councillors for the tremendous support I have received over the year, and to our clerk Marie Lewis for her unstinting efforts.

Thank-you and here's hoping for a successful year ahead for everyone.

John Stannage. Chairman, Wansford Parish Council.

3. Minutes of last year's Annual Parish Meeting, 16 May 2022 (may be accessed through the following link: [Minutes-Annual-Parish-Meeting-16-May-2022.pdf \(wansford-pc.gov.uk\)](https://www.wansford-pc.gov.uk/minutes-annual-parish-meeting-16-may-2022.pdf))

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes: There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. Opportunity for any organisations/City Councillors to speak to all present. There were no organisations/City Councillors present. A representative of the Nene River Trust had been invited to attend the meeting but had not been available. The Chairman of Wansford Parish Council said that representatives of St Mary's Church, The Christie Hall, the Community Hall, and Peterborough City Council would be invited to attend next year's Parish Meeting.

6. Questions from parishioners.

- (a) A parishioner in attendance raised a concern relating to the safety of the public footpath on the eastern side of the Old North Road at its lower end. There was a view that the narrow width of the footpath excluded use of mobility scooters and pushchairs and there was little space between pedestrians and HGVs that used this busy road. It was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk would address this matter with the Highways Department of Peterborough City Council to seek a widening of the footpath. The parishioners enquired as to whether the 20mph speed limit within the village was legally enforceable as there was a view that this was not adhered to. A parishioner in attendance confirmed that the 20mph speed limit was indeed legally enforceable.
- (b) The same parishioner stated that she was prepared to help parishioners who had a need to use the defibrillator housed in the parish's telephone kiosk. She was also prepared to arrange for qualified paramedics to give demonstrations of how to use a defibrillator and the suggestion was made to do these at Wansford Show where there was a captive audience at the event. The suggestion was welcomed and the Chairman and Clerk of the parish council agreed to liaise with the organiser of Wansford Show to request use of a pitch at the Show in August of this year for the paramedics to demonstrate how to use a defibrillator.
- (c) Another parishioner referred to vehicles parked partly on the footpaths in Robinswood, Yarwell Road and Robins Field within the parish and this restricted use of the footpaths. Cllr Stannage, Chairman of Wansford Parish Council referred to the newly introduced patrolling of the parish by Community Police Officers and he would ask them to speak to those offending parishioners who parked their vehicles partly upon footpaths.
- (d) Cllr Stannage, Chairman of Wansford Parish Council, referred to the growing use of the Good Neighbours Scheme (details of which may be found on the Wansford Parish Council website) and that some councillors of Wansford Parish Council had volunteered to offer their practical support to the scheme.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.