

# WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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The Community Hall, Peterborough Road, Wansford, PE8 6JN



## MINUTES OF WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 10 JULY 2023

Item No	
23(07)1	<b>Chairman's Welcome:</b> The Chairman (Cllr John Stannage) welcomed Ms Keeley Russell of Galliford Try (A47 building contractors) as well as Councillors, 4 residents of the parish and the Clerk.
23(07)2	<b>In attendance:</b> Cllr John Stannage (Chairman); Cllr Graham Garner, Cllr Martyn Handley, Cllr Jane Taylor-Pitt, Cllr Graham Stevens, Cllr Gavin Elsey (Ward Councillor), Mrs Marie Lewis (Clerk), 4 members of the public and Ms Keeley Russell of Galliford Try. <b>Apologies for Absence:</b> Cllr Richard Clarke (Vice-Chairman)
23(07)3	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> Cllr John Stannage (Chairman) reminded Councillors of their obligation under the Codes of Conduct to declare personal and pecuniary interest. None were declared.
23(07)4	<b>Public Time</b> <b>Ms Keeley Russell of Galliford Try:</b> The Chairman introduced Ms Russell to all present. The purpose of her visit was to inform Councillors of the National Highways Designated Fund to which Wansford Parish Council may apply for funds to benefit Wansford community. Ms Russell undertook to provide the Clerk with documentation relating to the Fund and of how to apply. There were two funds: the Designated Fund and a Social Value Fund. The Social Value Fund had 4 categories: economic prosperity; improving the environment; community wellbeing; and equality, diversity and inclusion. Ms Russell agreed to find out whether the Wansford Parish Council application could be of benefit to a different county in addition to Cambridgeshire (i.e. Northants, or Huntingdonshire) which would influence any decisions to be made by the parish council. She would also find out if the Social Fund could be applied to Good Neighbours – Rural Peterborough.  Black Swan Spinney: two residents of Black Swan Spinney attended the meeting and referred to the ever-increasing levels of road traffic noise from the A47. Residents proposed that the National Highways Designated Fund be used for the erection of a noise reduction fence behind properties in Black Swan Spinney adjacent to the A47. The residents there had previously been informed by National Highways that they could not assist with this matter. In addition to the fence, Councillors proposed that the Fund perhaps be used for the creation of additional parking spaces in Nene Close as Peterborough City Council (PCC) had no funds for these. Cllr Elsey suggested the use of specialist tarmac to be used on the A47 alongside dwellings affected by traffic noise within the parish.  Ms Russell informed all present that she would be based at Sacrewell Farm during the construction of the new A47 and would be Wansford's point of contact to address any concerns from residents. There was no specific date for the closure of the Fund but her recommendation was for Wansford Parish Council to apply to the Social Value Fund and her colleague (Emily) would assist with the Parish Council's application. The Chairman informed Ms Russell about a multi-agency meeting to be held in the Community Hall on 27 September 2023 at 3 p.m. in order to discuss how to prevent HGVs from using Wansford Bridge. Ms Russell offered to attend any future public meetings to discuss the preferences for use of the Fund. The Chairman said that further research needed to take place to gauge the preferences of residents. Ms Russell would liaise with the Clerk to arrange a suitable date for her colleague, Emily, to meet with Councillors and the Clerk to discuss their application. The Chairman thanked Ms Russell on behalf of Councillors for her attendance and for the information given. She then left the meeting. <b>Action: Clerk</b>  Nene Close Parking Issue: The Chairman reiterated that there were no PCC funds available for creating parking spaces in Nene Close. The Chairman informed that it was lawful for a vehicle to park partly on a pavement as long as it did not cause an obstruction. The Chairman also said that non-resident parking in Nene Close needed to be addressed and perhaps those residents could be asked to park elsewhere. Cllr Taylor-Pitt supported the idea of applying to the National Highways Social

	<p>Fund for the creation of parking spaces in Nene Close. Residents reiterated their preference for 'herringbone' parking by the Nene Close Green.</p> <p>Children's Play and Grassed Areas in Nene Close: The Chairman informed that PCC's grass cutters had been asked to cut the grass in this area and, for clarity, had been provided with a diagram of those specific areas to be cut. Cllr Elsey said that PCC's newly appointed Head of Environment &amp; Climate Change Department would be visiting Nene Close within the next fortnight to look at the wildflower area. Reference was made to the back wall that still needed to be cleared of vegetation, however, the Chairman highlighted that some sections of the wall were owned by residents and it was not wholly PCC's responsibility. Residents needed to be proactive in this respect. Cllr Garner referred to the leylandii hedge at Wansford bridge which needed to be cut. A resident referred to trucks entering the parish from King's Cliffe and suggested a 7.5 tonnes weight limit. The Chairman said that this was being addressed with PCC for the Old Leicester Road. Another resident brought attention to difficulties experienced in exiting Black Swan Spinney as there were roadside bushes that required attention which blocked the line of sight for drivers. The Chairman proposed, and Councillors agreed, that PCC would be asked to cut back the bushes. Cllr Elsey had met with representatives of PCC's Highways Department last week and discussed Wansford bridge. Cllr Elsey overcame PCC's objections to funding ways to protect the bridge and asked for sensible solutions to be found. Councillors referred to the need for better signage to forewarn of the 3 tonnes weight limit for traffic crossing Wansford Bridge. It was hoped that the multi-agency meeting scheduled for 27 September 2023 would resolve issues and protect the bridge. <b>Action: Clerk</b></p>
23(07)5	<p><b>Minutes of the meetings held on 15 May 2023 and 12 June 2023.</b> The Chairman proposed, and Councillors agreed, that these minutes be adopted.</p>
23(07)6	<p><b>Matters arising - updates of progress on the following items:</b></p>
	<p>23(03)11 <b>A47 Dualling:</b> The Chairman reported that the next course of action linked to the development of the A47 was to seek funds from National Highways Designated Funds to enhance the environment of Wansford Parish for the benefit of residents. This matter had been discussed in agenda item 23(07)4 (Public). <b>Action: Clerk</b></p> <p>23(03)15 <b>Public Parking in Nene Close:</b> this matter had been discussed in agenda item 23(07)4 (Public).</p> <p>23(03)16 <b>Teak bench:</b> The Chairman stated that the parish council were experiencing difficulty in receiving a proforma invoice from Mr Teak but a further reminder would be sent to that company. <b>Action: Clerk</b></p> <p>23(06)11(c) <b>4g Network:</b> The Chairman reported that Wansford Parish Council were currently liaising with the construction company of the 4g mast at Wansford's Water Pumping Station in attempt to resolve poor mobile phone reception within the parish. They had also been informed of the difficulties experienced by our neighbouring parishes. <b>Action: Clerk</b></p> <p>23(06)12 <b>Wansford Bridge:</b> A multi-agency meeting had been arranged with attendance from the Police, National Highways, Historic England, Peterborough City Council, Wansford &amp; Sibson cum Stibbington Parish Councils and Cambridgeshire County Council to be held in Wansford's Community Hall on Wednesday, 27 September 2023 at 3 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to seek the expertise of agencies to find a solution of how best to protect the bridge for now and future generations. <b>Action: Clerk</b></p>
23(07)7	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p><b>Reference:</b> NE/23/00279/VAR (extension of deadline for comments has been received by WPC)</p> <p><b>Proposal:</b> to allow amendments to an earlier planning application 19/00543/FUL to provide a site shop, leisure facilities and amenities to caravan park residents</p> <p><b>Site:</b> Yarwell Mill, Yarwell</p> <p><a href="#">NE/23/00279/VAR   Variation of condition 2 to allow for amendments to the approved drawings pursuant to 19/00543/FUL Change of use to provide leisure facilities, site shop and amenities for caravan park residents, including demolition of agricultural buildings.   Yarwell Mill Mill Road Yarwell Peterborough PE8 6PS (east-northamptonshire.gov.uk)</a></p> <p>Councillors discussed this planning application at length. It was understood by Councillors that some objections had been made to the proposal. However, the Chairman proposed, and Councillors agreed, that Wansford Parish Council would support whatever decision was made by Yarwell Parish Council for this planning application. <b>Action: Clerk</b></p>
23(07)8	<p><b>Accounts to Date 2023/2024</b></p> <p>The Chairman proposed, and Councillors agreed to approve the Receipts and Payments accounts for June 2023 - July 2023.</p>
23(07)9	<p><b>Budget 2022/2023</b></p>

	The Chairman proposed, and Councillors agreed that no changes to the budget were necessary.
<b>23(07)10 Finance</b>	<p>(a) The Chairman proposed, and Councillors agreed, to approve the following payments: Parish Clerk's Salary (26 hrs x £14.21 for June - July 2023 = £369.46 + accrued annual leave Aug 2022 to July 2023 @ 34.27 hrs x £14.21 = £486.97 = total of £856.43). Barker's Signs (3 double-sided signs @ £79 each + VAT) = £284.40. The signs would be paid on receipt of a requested proforma invoice. <b>Action: Cllr Garner</b></p> <p>(b) The Chairman proposed, and Councillors agreed to obtain a banking debit card for ease of purchases made on behalf of Wansford Parish Council. <b>Action: Clerk</b></p>
<b>23(07)11 Councillors Reports</b>	<p>Cllr Stannage briefed Councillors on his recent attendance at a meeting of the Parish Council Liaison Group held on 5 July 2023. A representative of PCC's Highways Department had spoken about blanket speed restrictions and that PCC gave priority to roads where a high level of accidents had occurred. There was a recommendation to make better use of Ward Councillors. Cllr Stannage had learned that a developer could buy an environmental credit which could be used anywhere in the country. (NB: environmental accreditation is a process where an independent organisation assesses your business against a recognised standard for environmental management or Carbon Trust accreditation schemes). It costs a developer about £22k per house for an environmental credit. County Wildlife sites were also mentioned and Cllr Stannage had learned that it was possible to lobby PCC to allow a parish to self-manage grass cutting with their own contractor and its parish precept would be increased to accommodate this. PCC Highways Department had appointed a new head of department.</p>
<b>23(07)12 Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE):</b>	<p>Councillors discussed the CPRE and its benefits in the protection, promotion and enhancement of villages, towns and cities to make them better places to live for all to enjoy for now and future generations. The Chairman proposed, and Councillors agreed, to become a member of CPRE and to pay its annual membership fee of £36. <a href="https://www.cprecambs.org.uk">The Countryside Charity for Cambridgeshire &amp; Peterborough - CPRE Cambridgeshire &amp; Peterborough (cprecambs.org.uk)</a> <b>Action: Clerk</b></p>
<b>23(07)13 Netwise</b>	<p>Councillors discussed the storage limitations of their current email accounts. The Chairman proposed, and Councillors agreed, to switch the parish council's Premium account with Netwise to Premium Plus which would double its storage capabilities. The Premium Plus plan would cost £110 per annum extra. The cost of upgrading onto Premium Plus would be pro-rated at approximately £74.44 based on the number of days left before the next billing cycle. <a href="https://parishcouncilwebsites.org.uk/email-for-councils/">https://parishcouncilwebsites.org.uk/email-for-councils/</a> <b>Action: Clerk</b></p> <p>Cllr Taylor-Pitt requested that an item be added to its November Finance Meeting agenda to review Netwise as a website provider. <b>Action: Clerk</b></p>
<b>23(07)14 Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) Review of their Local Plan and a potential Sibson Garden Village</b>	<p>Councillors discussed Huntingdonshire District Council's 5-year Local Plan Review, which may include proposals to develop a Garden Village on Sibson Airfield. <a href="https://www.sibsoncollective.com">Sibson Garden Community &amp; EcoDynamo – LDN Collective (ldn-collective.com)</a>. Cllr Elsey strongly advised that Wansford Parish Council communicate their objection to HDC relating to the potential development of a Sibson Garden Village in their Local Plan Review as, in the event of its inclusion for development, it would be difficult for Wansford Parish Council to object to its planning application in the future. The Chairman proposed, and Councillors agreed that Wansford Parish Council respond to the HDC Review of its Local Plan on the basis of the need to protect land for food production and for the preservation of our countryside and village environments.</p>
<b>23(07)15 Strategy</b>	<p>Councillors discussed the valued feedback received through its parish survey made in the past year and recognised that it could form the basis for the creation of a parish council strategy in its work and as a 5-year plan. The Chairman proposed, and Councillors agreed, to hold a Working Party Meeting in the Community Hall on Tuesday, 3 October 2023 at 6.30 p.m. to formulate a strategy. Consideration would be given to traffic in the parish, crime, giving younger people a voice, increasing the current bus service and also take into consideration the Neighbourhood Plan and Village Design Statement. It was noted that PCC had appointed a new Neighbourhood Planning Officer.</p>
<b>23(07)16 National Highways Designated Fund</b>	<p>Councillors discussed this subject under agenda item 23(07)4 (Public) and would action an application to the Fund when decisions had been made on specific needs to benefit the parish and its community.</p>

	<u>Designated funds - National Highways</u>	<b>Action: Clerk</b>
<b>24(07)17</b>	<b>Access to the River Nene</b> Councillors discussed the need for better access to the River Nene for the local community. It was noted that Sacrewell Estate may submit a bid to the Environment Agency to open a section of the river to facilitate moorings and to develop a refreshed picnic area at the existing picnic site. Sacrewell also proposed to have leisure facilities for boat usage on the river. Councillors said that, if the Sacrewell bid failed, then Wansford Parish Council could perhaps develop the area with the support of other agencies. The Chairman proposed, and Councillors agreed, to support Sacrewell in its bid to improve access to the river with moorings and refreshment of the picnic area. It was noted that National Highways were currently cutting the grass at the picnic site.	
<b>24(07)18</b>	<b>Wansford Parish Council Schedule of Meetings</b> Councillors discussed whether to have a meeting in August of this year. The Chairman proposed and Councillors agreed that the August meeting would be held on 14 August 2023.	
<b>24(07)19</b>	<b>Youth Council</b> Councillors discussed the proposed creation of a Youth Council for the Parish. The Chairman proposed, and Councillors agreed to its creation for the benefit of children within the parish but interested children from the neighbouring parish would also be welcome to participate. The first meeting of the Youth Council would take place on 19 July 2023 in the Community Hall at 6 p.m. and would last one hour. Cllr Taylor-Pitt would lead the session. It was planned to have activities during the summer months and at Christmas. The Youth Council would meet once each month and it was hoped that a representative of the Youth Council could attend a parish council meeting at some time in the future. The Chairman proposed, and Councillors agreed, to a budget of £200 to support its activities. Cllr Stannage would liaise with Sibson cum Stibbington Parish Council to invite representation on the Youth Council from the entire village and to share funding.	
<b>24(07)20</b>	<b>Matters for future consideration</b> There were no additional Agenda items proposed for the next meeting not already covered above.	
<b>24(07)21</b>	<b>Wansford Parish Council contributions to Living Villages</b> July: Cllr Graham Stevens August: Cllr Richard Clarke Sept.: Cllr Graham Garner	
<b>24(07)22</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b> Monday, 14 August 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in the Community Hall, Peterborough Road, Wansford.	

Signed: *Richard Clarke* (Vice Chairman)

For Cllr John Stannage, Chairman, Wansford Parish Council