

WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

www.wansford-pc.gov.uk

Parish Clerk: Mrs M Lewis

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



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2023

Item No	
23(09)1	Chairman's Welcome: The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30 p.m. and welcomed all Councillors present as well as the Clerk and two members of the public.
23(09)2	In attendance: Cllr John Stannage (Chairman), Cllr Richard Clarke (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Martyn Handley, Cllr Graham Stevens, Cllr Graham Garner, Mrs Marie Lewis (Clerk) and two members of the public. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Jane Taylor-Pitt; Cllr Gavin Elsey
23(09)3	Declarations of Interest The Chairman reminded Councillors of their obligation under the Codes of Conduct to declare personal and pecuniary interest. There were none declared.
23(09)4	Public Time: A parishioner referred to a request made at the last parish council meeting by a former councillor for an agenda item on 'Reports from Committees' which was not on the current agenda. The Clerk explained that communication had since taken place with the former councillor who had indicated that he had nothing to report to the parish council. Also, no other committees had requested the opportunity to report their work to the parish council. After some discussion the parishioner requested that 'Reports from Committees' be added to future agendas. The Chairman suggested a sub-heading under the agenda item for Councillor Reports entitled 'Any other reports' to accommodate a wide variety of reports. The Chairman asked councillors to check their profiles on the parish council website and ensure that they informed parishioners of their areas of interest and the names of Committees upon which they served and to inform the Clerk of any updates. Action: Clerk & Councillors Cllr Stannage spoke on behalf of an absent Bridge End parishioner and informed of an unwelcome group of tourists who, the previous weekend, had lit a barbecue on her land, broken her pontoon to the point of destruction after diving off it into the river and when the visitors were challenged she was offered abuse. The parishioner had reported this incident to the Police. However, Cllr Stannage undertook to also report this matter to the Community Police with whom he met on a regular basis. Action: Cllr Stannage Cllr Stannage also reported that a pile of rubbish had appeared under the downstream end of the south abutment of Wansford Bridge where an old tyre, a lump of concrete, and a boat battery had been dumped. The parish council would bring this matter to the attention of the Clerk of Sibson cum Stibbington Parish Council to report the items to Hunts District Council for their removal. Action: Clerk Cllr Stannage was aware of the poor state of the guard timbers at each side of the pier beneath Wansford bridge and would report this concern to the Environment Agency (NB an approach has since been made to Peterborough City Council (who own the bridge) to request that the guard timbers be replaced). Cllr Stannage also informed the meeting that a temporary office was soon to be established at Wansford's picnic site for Galliford Try (the contractor for the dualling of the A47) and it was hoped that this site could be opened for access to the river at some time in the future. Action: Clerk
23(09)5	Minutes of the meeting held on 14 August 2023: The Minutes were agreed and adopted.
23(09)6	Matters arising - updates of progress on the following items: 23(03)11 A47 Dualling: The Chairman reported that a meeting with Galliford Try would take place on 14 September 2023 to discuss the parish council's application to a Designated/Social Fund available as mitigation for the disruption caused by the forthcoming roadworks (please also see agenda item 23(09)15). Work on the A47 was expected to start in early December. Councillors would have opportunity to communicate any concerns to Galliford Try at a meeting to be held at Sacrewell on 21 September 2023.

23(06)12 Wansford Bridge: A Multi-Agency meeting would take place with National Highways, the Police, Peterborough City Council, Historic England, Sibson cum Stibbington parish council, Cambridgeshire County Council and Wansford Parish Council on 27 September 2023 to look at ways to preserve Wansford Bridge. An agenda and appendix with ideas had been created. The Chairman reported that the Chair of Sibson cum Stibbington Parish Council had suggested physical stops at each end of the bridge to prevent the access of HGVs. The meeting would take place as a Working Party. The Chairman reported that the current work on the bridge is expected to be completed by 14 October 2023.

23(08)16 Peterborough Mayor's donation towards Wansford and Wittering Parishioners' transport to receive healthcare at Wansford & King's Cliffe Practice: The Chairman explained that the former Mayor of Peterborough had arranged for the Mayor's Charity donation of £500 to be paid to each village of Castor, Ailsworth, Wansford and Wittering to assist patients without transport to attend healthcare appointments. The Chairman had spoken with Wansford Surgery and it had been agreed that money for transport would be distributed to patients through their Reception until it was depleted. The money would also pay for transport to hospital appointments. Wansford Surgery would maintain an account of each expenditure. The Chairman proposed, and Councillors agreed, that the Clerk would liaise with Wansford Surgery Practice Manager to transfer £1000 (the Wansford and Wittering donations) to Wansford & King's Cliffe Practice and would request a summary of how the money was being spent.

Action: Clerk

21(11)12 Community Hall: The Chairman reported that the William Scott Abbott Trust (WSAT) had agreed to transfer ownership of the Hall's curtilage to Wansford Community Hall. However, there was still an issue over ownership of the path up to the Hall to be used by pedestrians only and they had informed that this arrangement would be reviewed in 12 months' time. Access to the Hall had been possible since 1976. The Chairman proposed and Councillors agreed to seek information from Hunt & Coombes (Solicitors) as there was a view that the terms offered by the WSAT were incorrect. The parish council needed to determine ownership of the footpath to the Hall and the solicitor would be provided with a copy of the letter from the Trust. The solicitor would also be informed that access to the Hall had been possible for well over a period of 30 years.

Action: Clerk

23(07)4 Grass cutting in Nene Close: The Chairman summarised the sequence of events relating to the development of a wildlife meadow in Nene Close which had been agreed with residents. PECT had advised to leave the allocated area to develop naturally. A meeting had taken place with Peterborough Limited to agree on those grassy areas which should be cut and those areas left to grow. Three Nene Close residents had then brought to the attention of the parish council that there were nettles growing on the access route to the play area. A diagram was sent to Peterborough Limited to clarify the areas to be cut and areas to be left to develop. However, unfortunately, the grass cutter from Peterborough Limited had cut the whole grassy area in Nene Close other than the play area. The Chairman showed to councillors a diagram of grass to be cut. The Chairman said that The Youth Council wanted to be part of this project to help develop a wildflower meadow. Rowan Rumball, Wildlife Officer of Peterborough City Council, would meet with the Youth Council in Nene Close on 29 September at 4.30 p.m. Councillors suggested that the wildflower area be cordoned off for easier identification.

23(09)7 Planning

Reference: 23/01120/HHFUL

Proposal: Proposed first floor and rear extension, porch and dormer windows to frontage and replacement roof to existing bungalow

Site address: 20 Old North Road, Wansford, Peterborough, PE8 6LB

[23/01120/HHFUL | Proposed first floor and rear extension, porch and dormer windows to frontage and replacement roof to existing bungalow | 20 Old North Road Wansford Peterborough PE8 6LB](#)

A resident of Wansford spoke on this planning application and said it had the potential to enhance the Old North Road but felt that the proposed building would encroach over his own property's physical boundary and he would object to that. He was not opposed to the planned length of the extension (6m) at the rear but expressed disappointment that no face-to-face consultation had taken place. He felt the extension would impact on the amount of light they currently had in their kitchen. He wished to acknowledge that the style of the house was attractive but the plans showed no dimensions. There was a view expressed that the wall nearest to their property should be a minimum of 600mm from the boundary and was concerned that the new property's foundations would be dug directly next to his property. The resident would object to this application. The Chairman proposed and Councillors agreed, that Wansford Parish Council would inform PCC's Planning Department of its concerns which reflected those of the resident and would request that the Planning Department look at this application very carefully. Wansford Parish Council would also require that the application be determined by the Planning Committee if the Planning Service was mindful to approve it. WPC would also inform the Planning Service that such building plans should include the dimensions to the boundary lines.

	<p style="text-align: right;">Action: Clerk</p> <p>Proposal: To plant 6 hectares of mixed woodland on land owned by Castle Farm, Stibbington</p> <p>Site: Land within 90m of Thackers Close, Wansford.</p> <p>The Chairman explained that the proposed development of mixed woodland in part of, and adjacent to, Wansford parish was in public consultation and very much welcomed by Wansford Parish Council. A map of the growth area for the woodland would be uploaded onto Wansford Parish Council website. The Chairman proposed, and Councillors agreed, that a response be made to the woodland consultant that had informed the parish council of the proposal and to state that it was welcomed by the parish.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Clerk</p>
23(09)8	<p>Accounts to Date 2023/2024</p> <p>The Chairman proposed, and Councillors agreed, to the Receipts and Payments accounts for August 2023 - September 2023. It was noted that, due to technical difficulties, councillors had duplicated an electronic payment to Netwise but that the overpayment had been reimbursed to the council.</p>
23(09)9	<p>Budget 2022/2023</p> <p>The Chairman proposed, and Councillors agreed, that the budget remained on target.</p>
23(09)10	<p>Finance</p> <p>(a) The Chairman proposed and Councillors agreed to approve the following payments: Parish Clerk's Salary (25 hrs x £14.21 for August – Sept. 2023 = £355.25); Councillors' training provided by CAPALC £300; NALC course 'Empowering Young Voices in your Community' £52.04 (including VAT); Attendance at CAPALC Annual Conference £75; Youth Council expenditure payable to Clerk £83.37; Payment of £1,000 to Wansford & King's Cliffe Practice for healthcare transport.</p> <p>(b) The Chairman proposed and Councillors agreed to approve a budget of £100 towards the ongoing efforts made by Wansford community to have a more frequent bus service from Wansford to Peterborough. The budget would contribute to raising the profile of the Bus Campaign.</p> <p>(c) Cllr Stevens had not been able to progress the information needed for Wansford Parish Council's bank account. Some councillors had experienced technical difficulties with the internet banking account and the Clerk would arrange for those councillors to meet and to scrutinize the banking system to identify any technical issues. The Chairman proposed and Councillors agreed to add Cllr Handley to the banking mandate.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Clerk</p>
23(09)11	<p>Councillors Reports</p> <p>Youth Council:</p> <p>The Chairman informed Councillors of the recent activities of Wansford's Youth Council (planting of flowers in the village, hanging bird feeders and bird houses from a tree by the church), and referred to a report written by Cllr Taylor-Pitt which had been circulated to Councillors. The Youth Council's next meeting would take place on 26 September in the Community Hall.</p> <p>Bus Service for Wansford and surrounding villages</p> <p>The Chairman briefed Councillors on developments regarding efforts to improve the current bus service for Wansford and surrounding villages. Councillors had read a report from Cllr Taylor-Pitt. The Chairman said that many meetings with the Cambridge & Peterborough Combined Authority had taken place to satisfy the respondents to the recent bus survey for a bus service between Peterborough and Wittering via Castor, Ailsworth and Wansford. Cllr Anna Smith, Cambridge & Peterborough's Combined Authority Deputy Mayor was determined to bring a bus service to fruition. A meeting would take place at Peterborough Town Hall at 10.30 a.m. on 14 September which Cllr Stannage would attend with the Chairman of Wittering Parish Council. Cllr Stannage and the Chairman of Wittering Parish Council are to arrange to meet with the Leader of Peterborough City Council, Cllr Wayne Fitzgerald.</p>
23(09)12	<p>Peterborough City Council's Budget Simulator</p> <p>Councillors considered the opportunity to be given a demonstration of a Budget Simulator by a representative of Peterborough City Council. The simulator sought to give Councillors greater awareness of budgeting needs for parish councils. The Chairman proposed and Councillors agreed that the demonstration would take place on 9 October 2023 at their next parish council meeting with representation from Wittering, Thornhaugh and Sutton Parish Councils.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Clerk</p>
23(09)13	<p>Expansion of facilities within the Nene Close Play Area</p> <p>Councillors discussed briefly the potential to expand the current facilities in the Nene Close Play Area for the age group 8 years+ as the current facilities catered for younger children only. The Chairman said the parish council would wish to know what the Youth Council wanted for their play area before any decisions could be made and that financial expectations would need to be realistic.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Cllr Taylor-Pitt</p>

23(09)14	Vehicle Activated Speed Sign Councillors considered the purchase of an additional Vehicle Activated Speed Sign for the parish. A quotation for an Elan City speed sign (solar version) had been received the cost for which would be £2,807.99 (inclusive of VAT). The Chairman proposed, and Councillors agreed, to the purchase of an additional Elan City Speed Sign (solar version) and Cllr Clarke agreed to place the order. It was recognised that additional posts may be needed for the speed signs and the Chairman would liaise with PCC on this. Action: Cllr Stannage & Cllr Clarke
23(09)15	National Highways Designated Fund Councillors discussed and agreed to have a Working Party Meeting with representatives of Galliford Try on 14 September 2023 at 7.30 p.m. to discuss Wansford Parish Council's application to the National Highways Designated Fund. The Chairman proposed, and Councillors agreed, that those projects of interest and of benefit to the parish could be (a) a road noise reduction scheme, (b) the creation of additional parking spaces in Nene Close, and (c) a defibrillator for the Robins Field area of the parish. Designated funds - National Highways.
23(09)16	Peterborough City Council's Local Plan www.peterborough.gov.uk/local-plan-review Councillors had had opportunity to review PCC's Local Plan and agreed on feedback (through its questionnaire) to be submitted to Peterborough City Council on behalf of Wansford Parish Council by 15 September 2023. Action: Cllr Clarke
23(09)17	Matters for future consideration There were no Agenda items proposed for the next meeting not already covered above.
23(09)18	Wansford Parish Council contributions to Living Villages September: Cllr Graham Garner October: Cllr John Stannage November: Cllr Jane Taylor-Pitt December: Cllr Martyn Handley January: Cllr Graham Stevens February: Cllr Richard Clarke
23(09)19	Date of next parish council meeting Monday, 9 October 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in the Community Hall, Peterborough Road, Wansford.

Signed: *John Stannage,*
Cllr John Stannage, Chairman, Wansford Parish Council