

WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

www.wansford-pc.gov.uk

Cllr J Stannage. Chairman

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



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 11th DECEMBER 2023 AT 7.30 P.M.

Item No	
23(12)1	<p>Chairman's Welcome: Cllr John Stannage (Chairman) welcomed all Wansford Parish Councillors present and two members of the public. The Chairman explained our Clerk was very unwell and has tendered her resignation as of December 8th 2023. A letter of thanks for all her work for the Parish Council over the last two years and continued good wishes be sent. Cllr Taylor-Pitt agreed to take notes of the meeting and Cllr Handley take notes for the Report in Living Villages.</p> <p>Chairman informed that the Agenda for this meeting was not present on the Parish Council website, due to lack of administrative permissions for the website. The Agenda was however advertised on the public noticeboard. Normal distribution of Agenda will be resumed as soon as possible and the Chairman thanks the public for their understanding at this time.</p>
23(12)2	<p>Attendance: Cllr John Stannage (Chairman), Cllr Richard Clarke (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Jane Taylor-Pitt, Cllr Graham Garner, Cllr Martyn Handley, Cllr Graham Stevens and two members of the public.</p> <p>Apologies for Absence: Cllr Gavin Elsey</p>
23(12)3	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Councillors were reminded of their obligation under the Codes of Conduct to declare personal and pecuniary interest. No declarations of interest were made.</p>
23(12)4	<p>Public Time</p> <p>(a) No.9 Swanhill: A member of the public asked if there had been any progress regarding the discarded cuttings from the Leylandii trees which are still present between 9 Swanhill and the rear of the garages in Nene Close. Cllr Clarke would try to make contact with the owners of 9 Swanhill. The Chairman would contact Cllr Elsey for an update.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Cllr Stannage and Cllr Elsey</p> <p>(b) Engaging with residents: The Chairman confirmed 'Ask the Chairman' meetings would commence in the New Year in the Community Hall. It is hoped that this will encourage interest for anyone who may want to join as a Parish Councillor, in addition to hearing views of residents to better serve and represent them.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Cllr: Stannage</p> <p>(c) Parking in Nene Close: A member of the public asked if any progress had been made for inserting a dropped curb for additional parking in Nene Close. The Chairman has met with Keeley Russell of Galliford Try and this project for the provision of extra parking spaces will be part of WPC Application for Designated Funds. PCC Highways would also be contacted through Cllr Elsey for a update on proposals put forward at the WPC Meeting, November last. It was also suggested an approach be made to Cross Keys Homes as owner of several properties in Nene Close to provide additional parking space.</p> <p>(d) Nene Close Play Area: A member of the public asked if there were any further plans for planting around the Play Area and it had been noted many birds pecking at the newly sown wild flower seeds. The Chairman explained this was very much a long term project and would be assessed in the Spring.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Cllr Stannage</p>
23(12)5	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 13th November and 20th November 2023. The Chairman proposed and it was agreed the Minutes were a true record of the Meetings and be adopted.</p>
23(12)6	<p>Matters arising - updates of progress on the following items:</p>

	<p>23(03)11. A47 Dualling. No further information available at this time regarding the A47 Dualling. Cllr Clarke will chase Galliford Try for plans previously requested together with details of timescales for construction work.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action; Cllr Clarke</p> <p>23(06)12. WPC Strategy Document. The Chairman proposed and all agreed to hold a working party Strategy Meeting on 4th January 2024 in the Community Hall at 7pm.</p> <p>23(08)16. Peterborough Mayor's donation towards Wansford & Wittering Parishioners' transport to receive healthcare at Wansford & King's Cliffe surgeries. At the time of the meeting the Chairman reported this service is progressing well and a taxi firm is working with the Wansford Surgery to facilitate. The Good Neighbours-Rural Peterborough charity are researching the same taxi company to provide consistency.</p> <p>21(11)12. Community Hall. The Chairman reported correspondence from Hunt and Coombs requesting further information on the purchase of the Community Hall to proceed with Statement of Truth letters. Search of WPC Minutes had provided further detail insofar as of 29th October 1975 there was negotiation between Peterborough City Council and the Post Office requesting WPC to make an offer to purchase the Telephone Exchange. Minutes of WPC Meeting 21st November 1975 state an offer of £600, made by WPC Vice Chairman Cllr D Baker, was accepted by the Post Office, a satisfactory right of way established from Peterborough Rd to the Telephone Exchange and a copy of the Deeds of Transfer obtained. Reported in the Minutes of 14th May 1976, a cheque was received from the Peterborough City Treasurer in the sum of £1358.40 being the proceeds due to WPC from the sale of the Barnack RDC Offices. Modifications were carried out to the Telephone Exchange by WPC, according to minutes of 30th September 1977 and a loan of £4000 for this work was obtained from the Public Works Loan Board. The first meeting to be held by WPC in the now refurbished Community Hall was 3rd March 1978. Cllr Clarke suggested approaching PCC for any information regarding the Deeds of Transfer.</p> <p>The information requested by Hunt and Coombs will be sent.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Cllr Stannage</p> <p>23(09)15. National Highways Designated/ Social Fund. The Chairman, following a meeting with Keeley Russell of Galliford Try on 23rd November 2023, confirmed funds are available via an application process to the NH Designated and Social Funds.</p> <p>The Chairman has now obtained the Social Fund Application Form for the Defibrillator but was advised to temporarily pause the applications to the Designated Funds for the Nene Close Parking and A47 Noise Reduction to determine how much of this work will be contained within the Wansford to Sutton A47 Upgrade. The Chairman is to maintain contact over this with Keeley Russell.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Cllr Stannage</p>
23(12)7	<p>Planning</p> <p>The Chairman reported no planning applications had been received this month.</p> <p>It was noted the boundary wooden fence at 1, Peterborough Rd, Wansford PE8 6LA had now been lowered to comply with the planning application 22/01792/HHFUL</p>
23(12)8	<p>Accounts to Date 2023/2024</p> <p>To approve the Receipts and Payments accounts for November - December 2023. The Chairman proposed and Councillors agreed that the accounts be accepted.</p>
23(12)9	<p>Budget 2022/2023</p> <p>The Chairman proposed and Councillors agreed that no changes were needed to the budget.</p>
23(12)10	<p>Finance</p> <p>The Chairman proposed and Councillors agreed to approve the following payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Parish Clerk's Final Salary (20 hrs x £15.21 for Nov. – 8th Dec. 2023 = £304.20)and NALC Pay Award for 2023/24 (194.27hrsx £1.00= £194.27) (b) Guest Clerk Payment (5hrs x £14.21 for Nov 2023 = £71.05) The hourly rate confirmed. (c) Cllr's Expenses: Cllr Clarke, WPC Projector repair =£60.34 Cllr Taylor-Pitt, Nene Close Planting and Youth Council Halloween =£ 93.53 Cllr Stannage, Nene Close Planting and Hall WiFi = £ 122.26

23(12)11	<p>Councillors Reports</p> <p>(a) The Chairman reported on attendance at a CAPALC online Planning Training Course, 4th December 2023. The course presentation was given by David Kaiserman, who is now a Planning Consultant, previously being a Planning Inspector and Head of Planning at Manchester City Council.</p> <p>The full presentation of the course will be forwarded to Councillors upon receipt but some interesting points were highlighted; Up to 15mts Phone Masts do not need planning permission as is the case that pre 1990 unused buildings that can be demolished and blocks of flats built as long as they are less than 7mts high.</p> <p>Similarly, Class E (Commercial, Business Services) can be changed to residential without planning permission and escape having to provide Affordable Housing.</p> <p>National Space Standards have been introduced with provision of adequate natural light.</p> <p>A new law, the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 has come into force, but detail within still has some work to be done.</p> <p>A Renewables/ Windfarms Policy Review is due in 2024 and there is also encouragement to produce Neighbourhood Plans, as when they are adopted and passed by Referendum, they have equal weight alongside Local Plans.</p> <p>A long course of over two and a half hours, but interesting.</p> <p>(b) Cllr Clarke informed he would be attending the CAPALC AGM 15th December 2023.</p>
23(12)12	<p>Finance Meeting 20th November 2023</p> <p>The Chairman reported on the Finance Meeting of 20th November 2023, a lengthy and detailed discussion focused on setting the WPC Budget for Financial Year 2024/25.</p> <p>The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that a £12,965 Precept would be required for 2024/25 and the Precept Form will be completed and forwarded to PCC Finance Dept before 5th Jan 2024.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Cllr Stannage</p>
23(12)13	<p>Peterborough Local Plan</p> <p>The Chairman reported Local Plan documents have been received from PCC.</p> <p>Although no land has been put forward within Wansford Parish, there is considerable proposed allocation within neighbouring parishes, which gives rise for concern.</p> <p>It was agreed WPC liaise with Thornhaugh Parish Council over areas put forward within the Old Quarry Site, Thornhaugh, listed as Leisure or Renewable Energy Generation. It was agreed we should seek clarification from Alan Jones, PCC Waste and Minerals Officer, regarding this site. Also, an area of land east of Sutton Heath Road, in Sutton Parish, is put forward for development.</p> <p>The Chairman proposed and councillors agreed that Cllr Clarke drafts a reply to PCC before 5th January 2024 and he will liaise with Sutton Parish Council and Cllr Stannage with Thornhaugh Parish Council beforehand.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Cllrs Clarke and Stannage</p>
23(12)14	<p>Wansford Bridge Multi Agency Meeting 6th December 2023.</p> <p>The Chairman reported on a meeting held via Teams on 6th December 2023, where plans were discussed to restrict the road width at either end of the Old Bridge to prevent access by large vehicles.</p> <p>It was generally agreed by those present that the placing of substantial bollard/planters to restrict the access width of the Bridge to 2mts(6'6") combined with adequate warning signage and a reconfiguration of the curbs at the Bridge End crossroads would be a possible solution.</p> <p>The Chairman proposed and it was agreed Cllr Clarke would work on more detail of this proposal and forward to Peter Tebb of PCC Highways and to Sibson cum Stibbington Parish Council (in the absence of attendance from Cambridge County Council Highways). A further Multi Agency Meeting is planned via Teams for 13th March 2024.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Cllrs Clarke and Stannage</p>
23(12)15	<p>Committee Reports</p> <p>No additional committee reports</p>
23(12)16	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>a) The Chairman reported he has contacted the owners of the 4G mast near the Anglia Water Pumping Station and they will again report the poor phone reception in Wansford to the Service Providers. The Chairman will continue this dialogue.</p> <p>b) The Chairman confirmed conversation with PCC Highways regarding the intrusion of soil and grass restricting the width of street footpaths and that a surveyor has visited and remedial work will be put in place.</p> <p>c) The Chairman reported contact with the PCC Street Works and the two street lights at Bridge End corner and the Green were now working.</p>

	<p>d) The Chairman reported he had contacted PCC Planning and the wooden fence at 1 Peterborough Rd had been lowered to 1metre.</p> <p>e) The Chairman received an email from Keeley Russell of Galliford Try to request feedback on closing Nene Way footpath in the vicinity of the Picnic Site due to heavy traffic movements during the A47 Upgrade. Councillors opposed this closure and it was agreed the Chairman writes back to convey this footpath is well used by residents of Wansford and Sutton, it also being the only safe cycleway reasonably available. The Chairman of Sutton Parish Council to be copied in.</p>
23(12)17	<p>Clerk and Responsible Financial Office</p> <p>The Chairman reported our Clerk had now resigned due to ill health and the Council must look to appoint a new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.</p> <p>It was agreed the Chairman would draft an advertisement to be placed in Living Villages, print off a poster for the Noticeboard, Also the advert to be on the website and Cllr Taylor-Pitt to share on Facebook.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Cllrs Stannage and Taylor-Pitt</p>
23(12)18	<p>Matters for Future Consideration</p> <p>There were no matters brought forward.</p>
23(12)19	<p>Wansford Parish Council contributions to Living Villages</p> <p>December: Cllr Martyn Handley January: Cllr Graham Stevens February: Cllr Richard Clarke March: Cllr Graham Garner April: Cllr John Stannage</p>
23(12)20	<p>Dates of next meetings</p> <p>Parish Council Meeting: Monday 8th January 2024 at 7.30pm in the Community Hall, Peterborough Road, Wansford.</p>

Signed: J Stannage
Chairman, Wansford Parish Council