

# WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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



## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2023 AT 7.30 P.M.

Item No	
23(10)1	<b>Chairman's Welcome:</b> Cllr John Stannage (Chairman) welcomed all Wansford Parish Councillors present as well as Councillors from Wittering, Sutton and Thornhaugh Parish Councils, 2 members of the public and the Clerk.
23(10)2	<b>Attendance:</b> Cllr John Stannage (Chairman), Cllr Richard Clarke (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Jane Taylor-Pitt, Cllr Graham Stevens, Cllr Graham Garner, Cllr Chris Smith (Thornhaugh Parish Council), Cllr John Bradshaw (Wittering Parish Council), Cllr Anne Bodily (Sutton Parish Council), Jill Evans (Peterborough City Council), Marie Lewis (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer), and two members of the public. <b>Apologies for Absence:</b> Cllr Gavin Elsey, Ward Councillor; Cllr Martyn Handley
23(10)3	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> Councillors were reminded of their obligation under the Codes of Conduct to declare personal and pecuniary interest. Cllr Graham Stevens declared a personal non-pecuniary interest in Planning Application 23/01097/HHFUL.
23(10)4	<b>Public Time</b> (a) A parishioner referred to the leylandii trees in Swanhill that had recently been reduced in height and the parishioner believed that their reduced height impacted upon the privacy of properties in Nene Close. The Chairman explained that the trees had been reduced in height as the result of health and safety concerns of Wansford Mews residents and the parish council had liaised with the property owner to request that they be reduced in height and they were now 5m tall. The Chairman proposed and Councillors agreed that the parish council would write to the owner of the trees to enquire into potential plans for the planting of new trees or similar screening which could help with the privacy of Nene Close residents. <b>Action: Clerk</b> (b) A parishioner referred to a plot of land in Nene Close which belonged to 21 Nene Close and which was currently for sale. The parishioner expressed concern on behalf of a number of Nene Close residents about the potential development of the plot and a surveyor had recently been seen measuring the plot of land which raised suspicion. The Chairman understood that the plot of land was a garden orchard and that access to the land was by foot only. The Chairman confirmed that no planning application had recently been received for its development although an application had been received in 2007 and it had been refused. An appeal against this decision was lodged and refused in 2008. Both decisions were on the basis that it was not possible to break through the wall on Peterborough Road for access to the land. The Chairman reminded all present that anyone could purchase the land and it could continue to be a garden orchard.
23(10)5	<b>Minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2023.</b> The Minutes were agreed and adopted.
23(10)6	<b>Matters arising - updates of progress on the following items:</b> <b>23(08)16 The former PCC Mayor's Donation of £1,000 for healthcare transport of Wittering and Wansford residents.</b> The Chairman reported that a donation of £1,000 had been received from the retired Mayor into Wansford Parish Council's bank account and subsequently transferred to Wansford Surgery. To date, there had been very little uptake from the fund. However, the retired Mayor was happy for the donation to be used more broadly for residents in the surrounding area. This included immediately adjacent areas of Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. The Chairman proposed and Councillors agreed that the fund could be advertised on social media or be distributed through Good Neighbours – Rural Peterborough. However, before taking this course of action, the Chairman would consult with Wansford Surgery to ask them to think more broadly on how the money could be allocated. <b>21(11)12 Community Hall.</b> The Chairman reported on a recent meeting with Hunt & Coombs (Solicitors) who had advised not to negotiate further with the William Scott Abbott Trust (WSAT). They had instead advised the parish council to contact Chattertons (Solicitors) to enquire if they had any

	<p>records of transactions or deeds for the Community Hall, (Note: Chattertons have not been able to find any documentation relating to ownership). Hunt and Coombes would progress the curtilage agreement and a 'Statement of Truth' document to be certified parishioners who had lived in the area for over 20 years to verify the use of the footpath to the Hall from Peterborough Road. The Chairman referred to the gates that had been provided by the parish council at the end of the footpath as well as the lit handrail on the footpath. The parish council had not sought permission for these works from WSAT as they had believed that the Parish Council owned the footpath. The solicitor would send to the parish council the 'Statement of Truth' for completion and signing.</p> <p><b>Action: Cllrs Stannage &amp; Clarke</b></p> <p><b>23(09)15 National Highways Designated/Social Fund</b> The Chairman proposed, and Councillors agreed that the three projects for the parish council application to these funds were: noise reduction of Black Swan Spinney and Robinswood, parking on Nene Close and a Defibrillator for Robinswood/Robins Field. Applications would be presented to National Highways.</p> <p><b>Action: Clerk</b></p>
23(10)7	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p><b>Reference:</b> 23/01097/HHFUL</p> <p><b>Proposal:</b> Two storey front extension single storey side and part single, part two storey and single storey rear extension (part retrospective)</p> <p><b>Site address:</b> 8 Robinswood Wansford Peterborough PE8 6JQ</p> <p><a href="#">23/01097/HHFUL   Two storey front extension single storey side and part single, part two storey and single storey rear extension (part retrospective)   8 Robinswood Wansford Peterborough PE8 6JQ</a></p> <p>The Chairman noted that this was a further retrospective application relating to the property and expressed concern about the overall procedure being followed. It was noted that no written objections had been received by Peterborough City Council for the application. However, it was also noted that the current proposed retrospective planning application was very different to the original application and that the application had deviated significantly from the original scheme through a series of retrospective applications. Councillors expressed their general concern over the development history for this application and did not believe that a fair procedure had been followed. The Chairman proposed, and Councillors agreed, that Peterborough City Council Planning Department be informed of Wansford Parish Council's objection to this retrospective planning application on the basis of its poor development history and belief that a fair procedure had not been followed. <b>Action: Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Reference:</b> 23/01251/WCPP</p> <p><b>Proposal:</b> Variation of condition C1 (plans) and C2 (external materials) of Planning Permission 19/01466/FUL</p> <p><b>Site address:</b> 23 Old North Road Wansford Peterborough PE8 6LB</p> <p><a href="#">23/01251/WCPP   Variation of condition C1 (plans) and C2 (external materials) of Planning Permission 19/01466/FUL   23 Old North Road Wansford Peterborough PE8 6LB</a></p> <p>Councillors noted that the proposed new windows for this property would change from wooden frames to uPvc frames. The Chairman proposed and Councillors agreed that Wansford Parish Council had no objection to the proposed change in the windows. <b>Action: Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Reference:</b> 23/01297/CTR</p> <p><b>Proposal:</b> Remove 4 small holly trees, shrubs and bushes</p> <p><b>Site address:</b> 2 Old North Road Wansford Peterborough PE8 6LB</p> <p><b>Reason:</b> Tree Works in a Conservation Area</p> <p><a href="#">23/01297/CTR   Remove 4no. small Holly trees, shrubs and bushes   2 Old North Road Wansford Peterborough PE8 6LB</a></p> <p>Councillors considered the proposed removal of four small holly trees and some shrubs and bushes from 2 Old North Road. It was noted that the trees were at present pushing over the wall along Old North Road. The Chairman proposed, and Councillors agreed that Wansford Parish Council had no objection to the proposed removal of the trees and bushes. However, Councillors felt that some mitigation for the loss of the greenery was needed at this site and would request that some replanting took place. <b>Action: Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Reference:</b> 23/01350/TRE</p> <p><b>Proposal:</b> Fell larch tree (79/00009/TRO)</p> <p><b>Site address:</b> 14 Black Swan Spinney, Wansford, PE8 6LE</p> <p><a href="#">23/01350/TRE   Fell Larch (79/00009/TPO)   Aries 14 Black Swan Spinney Wansford Peterborough Peterborough PE8 6LE</a></p>

	<p>A Councillor had visited the site relating to this application and noted that there was also a larch tree that was completely dead. The Chairman proposed and Councillors agreed, that Wansford Parish Council had no objection to the felling of the larch within the TPO.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action: Clerk</b></p>
<b>23(10)8</b>	<p><b>Accounts to Date 2023/2024</b></p> <p>To approve the Receipts and Payments accounts for September 2023 - October 2023. With one minor adjustment to the July payments, the Chairman proposed and Councillors agreed that the accounts be accepted.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action: Clerk</b></p>
<b>23(10)9</b>	<p><b>Budget 2022/2023</b></p> <p>The Chairman proposed and Councillors agreed that no changes were needed to the budget.</p>
<b>23(10)10</b>	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The Chairman proposed and Councillors agreed to approve the following payments: Parish Clerk's Salary (21 hrs x £14.21 for Sept. – Oct. 2023 = £298.41 retrospective);</li> <li>(b) Elan City Speed Sign (£2,807.99 incl. VAT);</li> <li>(c) Retrospective authorisation for RBLI Women in War Silhouette Statue (£200.00 incl. VAT)</li> </ul>
<b>23(10)11</b>	<p><b>Councillors Reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Cllr Stannage reported on his attendance at a 'Meet &amp; Greet' meeting with Darryl Preston, Peterborough &amp; Cambridgeshire Crime Commissioner on 21 September 2023. He also reported on his meeting with the Community Police Team on 9 September 2023. Cllr Stannage gave feedback to the Commissioner that the Community Team worked well in Wansford and asked him not to pull the finance for this. Cllr Stannage was issued with some DNA and marking equipment at the Commissioner's meeting. Cllr Stannage had made reference to 'Cold Callers' in the parish but the police had not received any calls relating to such activities. Cllr Stannage requested that this month's Living Villages summary ask parishioners for feedback about cold callers. If anyone needed 'No Cold Callers' signs Cllr Stannage had several purchased earlier by the Parish Council.</li> <li>(b) Cllr Stannage reported on his and Cllr Clarke's attendance at an A47 road traffic planning meeting with Galliford Try (Contractors for the A47 dualling project) on 21 September 2023. The Chairman reported that Galliford Try gave information on plans for when the road project would begin and what would be closed and diverted. It was good to have met the man responsible for the Traffic management design, Christopher Purlow, who could be contacted if there was a problem. Work on the A47 dualling would potentially start in late February 2024. There is currently some further investigation work taking place.</li> <li>(c) Cllr Stannage reported on his attendance at a meeting held at Peterborough Town Hall on 14 September 2023 regarding the need for a better bus service between Peterborough and Wittering, Castor, Ailsworth and Wansford villages. Cllr Stannage reported that it had been a good meeting. Various city councillors attended as well as representatives from Cambs. Combined Authority. Unfortunately, the decisions made at that meeting were later vetoed by PCC. However, since then reassurance had been received from PCC to say that funding could still be possible. There was a need for four buses going into Peterborough (Queensgate) and six buses coming out each day.</li> <li>(d) Cllr Taylor-Pitt reported on the 26 September 2023 Youth Council Meeting when five children attended. The children were organising a Halloween Party in the Community Hall which would be restricted to 30 persons. They had asked to have a Halloween Trail. Posters would be made available for parishioners who were happy to welcome the children to call at their door. Cllr Taylor-Pitt would notify parishioners of this opportunity on the Facebook Wansford Community site. The children were also keen to decorate Christmas windows leading up to Christmas with an advent theme. The children had also asked for something to happen in the church on 25 December. Carol singing would take place on 21 December 2023 with the children sitting on a trailer pulled by a tractor loaned by a local farmer. There would be recorded music to support the singing..</li> <li>(e) Cllr Clarke/Cllr Taylor-Pitt reported on a meeting with Rowan Rumball, Wildlife Officer of Peterborough City Council, in Nene Close held on 29 September 2023. regarding advice on the development of a wildflower area in Nene Close. Cllr Taylor-Pitt said that the children had started to collect their own acorns and seeds for the area and daffodil bulbs would be planted. Wildflower and grass seed would be purchased and Cllr Stannage volunteered to buy the seed and the daffodils and claim their cost on expenses. The planting of the bulbs needed to take place in the next couple of weeks.</li> </ul>

	<p>(f) Cllr Clarke reported on his attendance at the Thornhaugh Liaison Meeting where he learned that Augean would be hosting an exhibition at the Christie Hall on 25 October 2023 from 3 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. relating to a proposed revision of the restoration schemes for Cooks Hole and Thornhaugh to provide an integrated coherent landform for both sites. The proposed restoration scheme would extend the existing wildlife habitats from Thornhaugh to Cooks Hole so that a wider mix of habitats was available across both sites. Alan Jones from PCC had been asked to try to integrate the Cooks Hole site with the restoration of the adjacent quarry sites..</p>
<b>23(10)12</b>	<p><b>Peterborough City Council's Budget Simulator and Annual Finance Meeting</b></p> <p>The Chairman introduced Jill Evans of Peterborough City Council (PCC) who took Wansford, Sutton, Thornhaugh and Wittering Councillors through a presentation which gave thought to the challenges and expected shortfalls in PCC's financial budget over the next three years. The Budget Simulator was a questionnaire (available on the Wansford Parish Council website) that asked members of the public for their views on how to solve certain shortfalls in the PCC budget. Ms Evans referenced the difficulties experienced by Northamptonshire, Birmingham, Slough and Woking councils where they had insufficient funds to cover all costs (Section 114 notices had been issued).</p> <p>Ms Evans said that PCC had an increasing demand for children's services because the number of children being referred and their complexity of care was costing more than before. Social care costs and inflation were exacerbating the situation. PCC retained 100% of council tax collected and 50% of business rates. The LAC children (Looked After Children) finishing age had increased from 18 to 25 years which had increased costs. The PCC Budget had to be completed by February each year. PCC were currently reaching out to parish councils and its university to give opportunity to people to have their say. The Budget Simulator was on line (<a href="#">Peterborough City Council Budget Simulator 2023</a>) and had different sections to be completed. Where users click on the "i" symbol they would be told what the consequences would be if a particular section of the budget was changed. All feedback from the PCC Budget Simulator system would be taken into consideration. Councillors expressed the view that it could be detrimental to society if the feedback influenced a reduction in certain social care as there would be repercussions. Another Councillor had concerns also that the system was asking for feedback from uninformed persons. Yet another view was that feedback would be influenced by trends. Ms Evans explained that the system asked for the user's postcode in attempt to prevent multiple responses from the same person. Ms Evans said that a 10% increase in council tax would solve the budget shortfall problem but that this was probably not possible under the present central government rules. The Budget Simulator would close on 31 October 2023. PCC were looking for responses from individuals not parish councils but parish councils must have awareness of it. The Chairman thanked Jill Evans for her presentation.</p> <p>The Chairman proposed and Councillors agreed that the Annual Finance Meeting would be held on Monday, 20 November 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in the Community Hall.</p>
<b>23(10)13</b>	<p><b>Parish Council Projector</b></p> <p>Councillors discussed the potential purchase of a new projector for use at parish council meetings and events. Cllr Clarke had kindly repaired the parish council's old projector but there was discussion about the purchase of a projector with an improved specification.. Cllr Clarke would submit his expenses for the £50.39 spent on repairing the old projector. Following a discussion about how useful a projector had been during the meeting, it was agreed that Cllr Clarke would obtain prices for a range of projectors for consideration of Councillors at the next meeting.</p>
<b>23(10)14</b>	<p><b>Wansford Parish Council Strategy</b></p> <p>The Chairman referred to those documents that had been submitted for consideration for a Strategy and Working Plan. It was agreed that the Strategy and the Working Plan both needed further work and consideration should be given to whether they should be combined or two separate documents. Councillors were asked to suggest amendments and circulate them ahead of the next meeting.</p>
<b>23(10)15</b>	<p><b>Committee Reports</b></p> <p><b>Cambridge and Peterborough's Association of Local Councils Annual Conference:</b> Cllr Clarke reported on his attendance at this conference held on 15 September 2023 at Wyboston Lakes. Brigadier Tim Seal, the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire was talked about the role of the Lord Lieutenants office and the updated plans for Operation Forth Bridge, operation London Bridge and operation Menai Bridge. Dr Stephen Moir, Chief Executive of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), gave information about future transport plans and reported that there was no progress on whether CCC would become a unitary authority. Aubergine (website supplier) attended and gave a talk about the accessibility of websites and labelling of links. Shailesh Vara, MP for North West Cambridgeshire, spoke about the Wittering Flyover, the A47 and money wasted, and what he saw as his role within the area. A CCC representative spoke about new townships around Cambridge. A psychologist talked</p>



	<p>about behaviours in organizations. The legal advisor to NALC raised the topic of parish council meetings being held on-line but the House of Commons were currently against this whilst the House of Lords supported the idea.</p> <p>Outside the formal conference discussions there were quite a few discussions including the advantages and disadvantages of parish councils using Unity Trust Bank compared with Barclays.</p>
<b>23(10)16</b>	<p><b>Wansford Bridge Multi-Agency Meeting held on 27 September 2023</b></p> <p>Councillors discussed the proposed actions from the above-mentioned meeting. The Chairman reported that it had been a good meeting and that the parish council currently awaited a plan of action to be submitted by participants relating to how to preserve Wansford bridge. A Teams meeting would be held on 6 December 2023 at 3 p.m. to continue discussions. <b>Action: Clerk</b></p> <p>The Chairman proposed and Councillors agreed that next actions were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) To create temporary width restrictions for the bridge and to seek consent for this from Peterborough City Council. However, prior to this the Chairman would liaise with the Chairman of Sibson cum Stibbington Parish Council to suggest a Working Party meeting to sketch proposals for the bridge prior to sending these to PCC. The Clerk would complete an LHI Form with a sketch of the proposed adjustments after these were agreed with Sibson cum Stibbington.</li> <li>(b) To have improved signage as part of the current A1 works;</li> <li>(c) The potential for the bridge weight restriction to become 7.5 tonnes.</li> </ul>
<b>23(10)17</b>	<p><b>Potential Defibrillator Grant from the Department of Health &amp; Social Care and London Hearts</b></p> <p>The Chairman proposed, and Councillors agreed to give retrospective authorisation (on a "first come, first served" opportunity given to the parish council by the DHSC and London Hearts) to apply for a grant for the provision of a defibrillator on either a full payment or part payment basis (part payment being a circa £750 grant awarded when matched by the same amount from the parish council). If this application was successful the defibrillator may be positioned in Thackers Close, Wansford.</p>
<b>23(10)18</b>	<p><b>Matters for future consideration</b></p> <p>There were no Agenda items proposed for the next meeting not already covered above.</p>
<b>23(10)19</b>	<p><b>Wansford Parish Council contributions to Living Villages</b></p> <p>October: Cllr John Stannage  November: Cllr Jane Taylor-Pitt  December: Cllr Martyn Handley  January: Cllr Graham Stevens  February: Cllr Richard Clarke</p>
<b>23(10)20</b>	<p><b>Dates of next meetings</b></p> <p>Parish Council Meeting: Monday, 13 November 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in the Community Hall, Peterborough Road, Wansford.  Annual Finance Meeting: Monday, 20 November 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in the Community Hall, Peterborough Road, Wansford.</p>

Signed: *Marie Lewis*

Marie Lewis, Wansford Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer