Skerne and Wansford Parish Council Artwork of Skerne bridge, Wansford


**378**

Minutes of a meeting of the Skerne and Wansford Parish Council which took place via Zoom and WhatsApp on Tuesday July 14 at 7.30pm.

1. **Present:** Couns Ian Lamble, Lynn Stockwell, Jackie Dobson, Caroline Harrison, Neil Robson, Gill Grassam, Ann Kitching, Catherine Bristow and ERY Coun Paul Lisseter.
2. **Apologies:** None
3. **Resolved**: to confirm the minutes of the meeting on March 17 2020 as a true and correct record: Proposed Cpoun Harrison, seconded Coun Grassam.
4. Election of a chairman and vice chairman: Coun Lamble was proposed as chairman by Coun Grassam, seconded by Coun Harrison and duly elected. Coun Dobson was proposed as vie-chairman by Coun Stockwell and Coun Grassam and duly elected. Acceptance of office forms to be signed as soon as possible.
5. **Finance:**
6. **Resolved:** the parish council declare itself exempt from sending the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) to the external auditor and to return the certificate to the external auditor. Proposed Coun Stockwell, seconded Coun Kitching.
7. **Reviewed:** the effectiveness of the internal control system; found to be working
8. **Resolved:** to complete and approve the annual governance statement, proposed Coun Stockwell, seconded Coun Grassam.
9. **Resolved:** to approve the annual accounting statement proposed Coun Harrison, seconded Coun Stockwell
10. **Resolved:** to accept the statement of variances for the year and the year-end bank reconciliation, proposed Coun Harrison, seconded Coun Grassam
11. **Agreed:** that a letter of thanks be sent to Malcolm Jordan for carrying out the internal audit.
12. **Resolved:** to ratify payments of £100.80 to ERYC for salt bin maintenance; parish grants of £275 each to Wansford Village Hall and both Skerne and Wansford churches for burial ground maintenance; £20 for Easily subscription renewal (website domain name); of £79.48 made up of £70 for Wansford Village Hall hire and £9.48 electricity to defibrillators; of ERNLLCA subscription of £285.37; £229.99 inc £38 VAT cost of new printer with eco inkwell; £47 land registry fees re transfer of Skerne land; £84 to Walkers Electrical Engineers regarding relocation of light sensor to Skerne defibrillator and £35 fee to the Information Commissioner by direct debit later in the month. Proposed Coun Grassam, seconded Coun Harrison. Coun Stockwell pointed out that the yellow ERYC grit bin in Wansford was badly maintained. The clerk would check on the green parish council bin in Wansford and Coun Kitching would check the Skerne bins.
13. **Administration and training:**
14. **Resolved: t**o approve the non-attendance of members of the authority at meetings until May 2021, proposed Coun Grassam, seconded Coun Harrison. The chairman pointed out that this was purely precautionary due to the current circumstances and urged members to try to attend physical meetings in some way or remote meetings.
15. **Highways:** Coun Lamble reported that a gully near The Gatehouse was always blocked due to tractors mounting the verge when giving way to traffic coming in the opposite direction. He believed that it needed a concrete sill around it. Coun Stockwell pointed out that the gully near The Haven was also often blocked. The clerk would notify ERYC.
16. **Planning:** members ratified the no comment response to20/00989/VAR – removal of agricultural occupancy condition at Manor Lodge, Wansford. Applicant, Mr I Pick. **20/01982/STPLF – installation and operation of a solar farm and associated infrastructure at Back Lane, Skerne. Applicant Harmony Energy.** This item was not on the original agenda. However, under minute number 377 9iii of the March meeting responsibility for decision making was devolved to the clerk and chairman for the duration of the coronavirus emergency. An informal discussion ensued regarding councillors’ feelings about the application, which had been circulated to members, and advice was taken from Coun Lisseter re planning gain and the parish council response. It was agreed that the clerk and chairman, using their devolved powers, formulate a response mentioning planning gain and the upcoming Skerne community space.
17. **Date of next meeting:** September 15 2020 at 7.30pm. Members hoped that this could be held in the village hall, given all appropriate health and safety mitigations and social distancing, to enable a fuller agenda to be discussed.