

Skerne and Wansford Parish Council

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Minutes of a meeting of the Skerne and Wansford Parish Council which took place on Tuesday March 15 in Wansford Village Hall at 7.30pm, immediately following the Skerne and Wansford annual parish meeting.

1. **Present:** East Riding councillors Jane Evison and Jonathan Owen, Councillors Jackie Dobson (in the chair), Lynn Stockwell, Sue Waites, Catherine Bristow, Ann Kitching, Gill Grassam, Caroline Harrison and Neil Robson.
2. **Apologies:** Ian Lamble
3. **Public session**: There were no members of the public present.
4. **Declarations of interest:** None
5. **To confirm the minutes of the meeting on January 19 as a true and correct record**: Proposed Coun Stockwell, seconded Coun Grassam.

1. **To receive updates/information from ward councillors**: **Item 7 viii** – there had been a site meeting with drainage engineer Nev Hodgson who indicated that a scheme had been drawn up to alleviate the ongoing surface water flooding problems that affected all roads in Skerne which, the funding being available, would be implemented in the coming financial year. Some work had already been done. However, he said that should the dykes surrounding the village not be maintained there would be no fall for the water with or without the ERYC works. Coun Waites had already taken some action on this and some dykes had been cleaned out making a marked difference. She and Coun Bristow would approach the remaining farmers and there would be an article in the forthcoming newsletter. Couns Evison and Owen said they would follow this up and try to find out the situation regarding the new scheme and let the parish council know.
2. **To dispose of any business remaining from the previous meeting and, if necessary, decide on a course of action:**
3. Queen’s 90th birthday celebrations: no action to be taken.
4. Local Grant Fund -£305 grant funding expires on March 31. Resolved: to request change of use of the money to buy a petrol driven water pump for Wansford so that there would be one in each village. Proposed Coun Waites, seconded Coun Stockwell.
5. Unexpected invoice for grit: noted.
6. Spring clean of the village(s): Clean Up For The Queen campaign: A clean up was scheduled for Saturday April 30, meeting at 10pm at the bus shelter. An article to go in the newsletter.
7. Dog fouling template: Jim Stockwell had made one of these and would spray paint the images at regular interval on the village footpaths, after which he would take the equipment to Skerne.
8. IT equipment: **Resolved**: to ratify payment of £662.71 to clerk for purchase of laptop and printer. Proposed Coun Bristow, seconded Coun Harrison.
9. Update re Skerne bench: Coun Waites said a site had been earmarked and the work would be done.
10. Update re flooding in Skerne. See above.
11. Lissett Community Wind Farm Fund security equipment: the fund had closed.
12. Library Theatre production – reply from Wansford Village Hall committee suggesting a joint committee to organise. Agreed: that Coun Grassam and Coun Kitching be on the committee and that Coun Dobson, as village hall committee representative would make the initial approach to the Library Theatre re the suitability of the hall, dates, etc and liaise with the other members.
13. Tree in Chapel Lane, Wansford: Tree officer Nigel Robson had visited the site and said that the tree was no problem – he would revisit in the summer. There were still concerns about the tree, which was leaning badly, from residents of Chapel Lane.
14. Fallen trees in canal at Wansford: these had been removed following Environment Agency intervention and a story in the press.

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1. To receive update from Personnel Committee regarding parish council’s registration as an employer for pension purposes: Coun Stockwell said that this was ongoing.
2. **Planning:**
3. **To respond to the following planning applications**: 16/00508/PLF – renovation of existing dwelling including new and replacement windows and erection of detached double garage at Park House, Driffield Road, Wansford. Applicant: Mr S Knaggs. **No comment**.
4. **To note the following planning decisions:** 15/02939/PLF -change of use of existing detached domestic garage for use as small scale sewing business, erection to of a front extension to provide a new double garage and laying of impervious paving to front. Hip House, Main Street, Skerne. Applicant, Mr and Mrs J Walker. **Approved. Noted.**
5. **Finance:**
6. **Resolved:** to pay clerk’s salary of £1175, less deduction of £235 tax ie £940. Proposed Coun Waites, seconded Coun Harrison.
7. **Resolved:** to ratify payment of £235 to Inland Revenue - clerk’s tax liability. Proposed Coun Waites, seconded Coun Bristow.
8. **Received:** bank reconciliation. Clerk had complained to Barclays Bank after spending considerable time persuading them that she had the authority to move money between accounts. A £25 goodwill payment had been offered by a bank representative – as yet this was not showing on a statement.
9. **Noted:** that a VAT claim for a refund of £165.66 has been submitted
10. **Administration and training:**
11. **Noted:** that that parish council is now enrolled as an employer on the Government PAYE system
12. **Notes:** that John Newland will conduct the internal audit
13. **Resolved:** to adopt revised Standing Orders to reflect requirements of Localism Act and Transparency Code re photography at and recording of meetings. Proposed Coun Waites, seconded Coun Bristow.
14. **Correspondence:**
15. Lissett Community Wind Farm Fund – now open for applications. This was discussed in conjunction with item 11iv. It was felt that the Driffield Navigation Trust may wish to apply for fund for a finger post at Wansford Lock indicating the start of the permissive path, as suggested by the Ramblers Association. Members asked that the clerk write to DNT suggesting that the top of the footpath near Wansford be levelled with a mini digger as it was somewhat precarious with the canal on one side and a drop to the road on the other. The path itself – linking a circular walk from Driffield - was a good asset.
16. **Noted:** Insp Robert Cocker, Communities Command, Humberside Police – introduction to community beat manager and community support officers.
17. **Noted:** Smaller Authorities’ Audit Appointments Ltd – external audit for smaller authorities.
18. Permissive path – Wansford Lock to Whinhill. This involved an e-mail to the DNT from the East Yorkshire Ramblers and copied to the parish council regarding the state of last 50 yards of the path near Wansford, which was overgrown and not obvious, blackthorn stumps impeding progress on the path and the lack of a signpost at Wansford Lock. Dealt with in item 11i.
19. **Noted:** Currys/PC World re care plan for IT equipment
20. **Matters requested by councillors:** None
21. **Highways:** Clerk to write to Rob Brown re the potholes in Back Lane, Skerne, which had been aggravated by standing water, and the state of the patched area of Hutton Road, which had eroded badly after being under water for such a long period of time. The clerk to ask about the progress of the drainage scheme and to let Mr Brown know requests were being made of the farmers to clean out the dykes via individual councillors and the newsletter. A drain in Chapel Lane, the one nearest to the B1249 was blocked causing surface water to stand. A member of the public had complained about the hedge outside 17 Nafferton Road, Wansford, as it was obstructing the footpath.
22. **Other correspondence:** Wicksteed Leisure Products, Glasdon Street Furniture, East Riding News, Tower Mint Ltd re commemorative medal for Queen’s 90th birthday. **Noted.**
23. **To receive reports from representatives:** Driffield Navigation Trust, Nafferton Feoffees and Wansford Village Hall committee. No reports.
24. **Items for next agenda: Internet banking**
25. **Date of next meeting:** Annual parish council meeting on Tuesday May 17 at 7.30pm.