

Skerne and Wansford Parish Council



Minutes of an extra-ordinary meeting of the Skerne and Wansford Parish Council, which was held in the Wansford Village Hall on Tuesday March 26 2013 at 7.30pm .

1 **Present:** Councillors Bryan Hills, Neil Robson, Mark Padgett, Sue Waites, Marian Terry, Caroline Harrison and Ian Lamble. Also in attendance were eight Skerne villagers.

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3 **Apologies:** Coun Jackie Dobson, ERY councillors Jane Evison and Jonathan Owen.

4 **Public session:** At this point the meeting was suspended for members of the public to make representations to the council. The Skerne residents made various observations about the planning application (see item 7 below). Their worries included: the turbine at 61m would still have an adverse visual impact on Skerne villagers, particularly those living closest to it – about 580m away. It would be detrimental to the residential amenity and may cause houses to lose value. Drainage problems were raised and concerns re noise and impact on wildlife. The chairman indicated that these concerns would be put to the ERYC planners as well as the parish council's official response.

i **Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests** None

5 **Resolved:** to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on March 19 2013 as a true and correct record. Proposed Coun Hills, seconded Coun Padgett.

6 **Resolved:** to confirm the minutes of the annual parish meeting on March 19 2013 as a true and correct record. Proposed Coun Hills, seconded Coun Terry.

7 Planning

i **Resolved: to object to the following application:** 12/04866/PLF | Erection of wind turbine (height to hub 35m, height to blade tip 61m) and associated infrastructure (substation, crane pad and temporary access track) (amended turbine type and reduced height to blade tip). Land north west of Spring Farm, Back Street, Skerne. Applicant: Harmony Energy. Proposed Coun Hills, seconded Coun Waites. Decision to object was made by vote taken by a show of hands. Objections were: adverse visual impact; detrimental to residential amenity; exacerbation of existing drainage problems. Members also requested that additional comments include that the turbine was still too high and, they had no problems with applications for single turbines of a similar size to the existing one. They asked that it be brought to the attention of the ERYC planners that the proposal offered no benefit to the village and suggested that, should it be granted, a condition stipulating the establishment of a community fund be a part of the permission.