Skerne and Wansford Parish Council

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**Minutes of a parish meeting which took place in St Leonard’s Church, Skerne on Monday September 9 at 7.30pm.**

1. **Present:** Councillors Jackie Dobson (in the chair), Lynn Stockwell, Ann Kitching, Catherine Bristow, John Warden, ERY ward councillors Jane Evison and Jonathan Owen, representatives of Warrendale Farms and 14 Skerne residents.
2. **Apologies:** Coun Ian Lamble (parish council chairman), Coun Neil Robson and David and Cara Tite.
3. **Introduction –** Coun Dobson explained the background to Warrendale Farm’s generous offer starting two years previously with Coun Bristow’s approach to JSR Farms, the ensuing March offer by new owners Warrendale and the overage clause on the gift which means that should the land ever be sold for development the profit would revert to the donor.
4. **Discussion on aspects of the consultation document**
5. **Interim goal for the land use:** several survey forms from residents unable to attend and those of the meeting indicated that the popular initial choice was a grassed area. A discussion ensued about the access, which was currently from Wansford Road and it was decided to alter the planning application for the access to be from Church Lane. It was explained that it would be an informal access as a vehicular access would have to be up to ERYC specifications and very costly. Concerns were expressed about anti-social behaviour in the evenings and it was felt that an non-vehicular access may deter this. It was felt that the parish council could make a strong argument for having the speed limit put back along Wansford Road and should ask for signage warning motorists of the facility.
6. **Long term aim for the land use:** following a discussion it was decided that the ultimate goal would be a play area, seating and sufficient open space set aside to use for community events.
7. **Offers of help/expertise/equipment:** Among the offers were Andrew Dixon, farm equipment and expertise; Warrendale Farms labour for erection of the perimeter fence, a site and material for a fundraising bonfire; David Tite, grant application expertise; Angus Naylor (unable to be present), use of equipment (driver to be paid) and fuel for bonfire; Dave Hall (unable to be present), drawing up of plans; Clive Lester, grant applications.
8. **Formation of parish council working party to consider the survey results and act on the findings:** Discussions with the local councils association (ERNLLCA) had pointed to three possibilities – a formal parish council committee with summonses, etc, a parish council working party of councillors and villagers with the parish council having ultimate responsibility; a properly constituted village committee leasing the land from the parish council and taking responsibility for insurance, etc. It was decided that a working party would be the appropriate way to go. It was agreed that Skerne parish councillors Catherine Bristow, Ann Kitching and John Warden and Gemma Dixon, Joanne Scholes and David Tite be on the working party.

1. **Further comments from the meeting:** The area would be marked out the following day and Andrew Dixon would start work on the land as soon as possible.
2. **Closing remarks:** Coun Dobson thanked all those who attended, Warrendale Farms, the new working party and Catherine Bristow for spearheading the initiative.