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Skerne and Wansford Parish Council

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Minutes of a meeting of the Skerne and Wansford Parish Council which took place at 7.30pm on Tuesday March 16 2021 via Zoom and WhatsApp.

1. **Present:** Councillors Ian Lamble (in the chair), Lynn Stockwell, Gill Grassam, Ann Kitching, Caroline Harrison, Mark Padgett, Catherine Bristow and ERYC ward councillors Jane Evison and Jonathan Owen.
2. **Apologies:** Councillors Jackie Dobson and Neil Robson.
3. **Public session**: No members of the public present
4. **Declarations of interest:** None
5. **Resolved:** to confirmthe minutes of the extraordinary meeting on February 23 as a true and correct record: Proposed Coun Grassam, seconded Coun Stockwell.
6. **To dispose of any business remaining from the previous meeting and, if necessary, decide on a course of action:**
7. **Skerne bridge**. Councillors had expressed concern about the proposed weight limit on the Skerne Bridge, feeling that farmers would be disadvantaged and it would take more traffic through the centre of Skerne, Coun Evison had had the consultation extended to include the Driffield, North Frodingham, Foston on the Wolds and Nafferton parish councils as well as the NFU. Concerns had been similarly expressed by Driffield, North Frodingham and Foston councillors and several farmers had been in touch with Coun Evison citing the inconvenience it would cause them. Coun Lamble thanked the three ward councillors for drawing wider attention to this matter.
8. **Parish council dinner:** the proposed event on April 2 could not now take place because of the current Covid 19 restrictions. The clerk would try for a date after May 17 when, according to the Government roadmap, hospitality venues could resume indoor dining.
9. **Noted:** drain markings colour code and dyke between Carr Lane and Chapel Lane
10. **Road safety poster scheme**: Coun Harrison said she had contacted Nafferton School regarding this matter and the Nafferton Feoffees were willing to fund any Wansford signs. She had contacted ERYC re the sigs to no avail – Coun Evison said she would pursue this matter.
11. **Planning:**
12. **Noted:** the following planning decisions -DC/21/00467/HEDGE – removal of poor-quality hedge on land east of Field House Farm, applicant Nicholas Minns. The ERYC has resolved to issue a hedgerow retention notice. 20/03991/PLB alterations to create footways to either side of Wansford Bridge, Skerne Road. Applicant: ERYC. Approved.
13. **Finance:**
14. **Noted:** bank balances at February 28 2021: current account, £3,934.83; savings account, £1,281.69, total £5,216.62
15. **Resolved:** to pay clerk’s net salary of £1,200 and pay clerk’s tax liability of £300 to HMRC, for year 2020-21. Proposed Coun Padgett, seconded Coun Stockwell
16. **Resolved:** to ratify payment of £27.50 (inc VAT) to Catherine Bristow re flowers for Gemma Foster, of Williamsons solicitors for her pro bono work on the Warrendale Farms offer of land. Proposed Coun Grassam, seconded Coun Padgett.
17. **Noted:** receipt of cheque for £40 from Williamsons, which has been held in the account and that the file had been closed. Should a decision be taken to proceed the account will be re-opened and the work done pro bono; associated costs would amount to £40 plus disbursements, which would need to be paid to Williamsons.

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1. **Correspondence:**
2. The parish council welcomed the ERYC Street Naming and Numbering’s decision to allow the development in Manor Farm yard to be Julia Pick Close in acknowledgement of Julia’s close ties to Manor Farm. Members felt that this move would mean that Julia would not be forgotten in the village.
3. **Matters requested by councillors:**
4. **Church Farm right-of-way for pedestrians, hearses, etc.** The parish council had been approached regarding pursuing an application for a change to the definitive map to include this as a right of way.A lengthy debate ensued. The Church Farm access had been used for generations by not only Ramblers and walkers but also by hearses and wedding cars; the walk to the church was much shorter and thus more suitable for the carrying of coffins and for the elderly and disabled. However, some dog walkers appeared to be abusing the access and the land adjacent to the bridlepath by allowing their dogs to run free and leaving dog faeces on other people’s property. It appeared that a petition raised within the village regarding the maize harvest had exacerbated the problem. Members felt that it was a sad situation all round and a great shame that it had arisen. They had sympathy with both sides of the argument but, living in the heart of an agricultural area, could see the point of view of farmers attempting to go about their lawful business. **Agreed:** to leave the request in abeyance and first to try to open a dialogue with the landowner and seek to build some bridges.
5. **Highways:** Coun Stockwell said there were potholes outside the village hall in Wansford; the clerk would report these. Coun Bristow would report the potholes in Back Lane, Skerne.
6. **To receive reports from representatives:** Coun Harrison said the Nafferton Feoffees was collaborating with the Jefferson Hodgson Trust to create a nature trail in Nafferton Parks. The Feoffees scholarship scheme was open – this would be publicised in the forthcoming newsletter.
7. **Items for next agenda:** None.
8. **Date of next meeting:** May 18 2021, annual meeting in Wansford Village Hall, circumstances permitting, immediately preceded by annual parish meeting, which would start at 7.15pm. The regulations that allow remote meetings of parish councils and parish meetings expire on May 7, so, subject to it being open, the meeting should take place in Wansford Village Hall.