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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 on Tuesday May 18 2021 in Wansford Village Hall immediately following the annual parish meeting.

1. **Present:** Councillors Mark Padgett, Lynn Stockwell, Jackie Dobson, Gill Grassam, Neil Robson, Ian Lamble (in the chair), Caroline Harrison, Catherine Bristow and ERYC ward councillor Coun Jane Evison.
2. **Apologies:** Coun Ann Kitching
3. **Declarations of interest:** Coun Dobson, village hall committee treasurer in respect of item 8xii
4. **To elect a chairman and a vice-chairman:** chairman, Coun Bristow, proposed by Coun Grassam, seconded by Coun Padgett, vice-chairman, Coun Padgett, proposed by Coun Stockwell, seconded by Coun Dobson.
5. **Resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting on March 16 2021 as a true and correct record**: Proposed Coun Padgett, seconded Coun Grassam.

1. **To dispose of any business remaining from the previous meeting and, if necessary, decide on a course of action:**
2. Skerne Church/Church Farm path (letter to Church Farm circulated). A letter had been written to Church Farm outlining the St Leonard’s PCC case for occasional use of the Church Farm yard and in support of the reinstatement of the footpath through Church Farm yard, but no response had been received. The parish council felt that it had done what it could to help Skerne Church with this issue.
3. Road safety posters: Coun Harrison and Bristow would research possible sites for signage within their respective villages and report back. Coun Harrison had discussed the issue with ERYC, which was reluctant to have two many highway signs. However, councillors felt that, in the interests or road safety and villagers’ concerns regarding tractors going at speed, the council would pursue the matter and make a case to take to the highway authority.
4. Skerne playing field: no update.
5. Casual vacancy: Coun Ian Lamble was leaving after several years as chairman, for which he was thanked. The legal advertising process would commence as soon as possible.
6. Clerk vacancy: a villager had shown an interest and they were to be encouraged to send a letter of application and a CV.
7. **Planning:**
8. **To respond to the following planning applications:** 21/01087/PLF and 21/01088/PLF – both for erection of replacement cattle sheds on land north of Spring Farm, Back Lane, Skerne; applicant J H Dixon & Son (e-plans previously circulated, paper location plan included with agendas). No comment.
9. **Finance:**
10. The council from declared itself exempt from sending the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) to the external auditor and would return the exemption certificate to the external auditor. Proposed Coun Stockwell, seconded Coun Grassam.
11. **Reviewed:** the effectiveness of the internal control system – councillors felt that this was working appropriately.
12. **Resolved:** to complete and approve the annual governance statement: proposed Coun Padgett, seconded Coun Stockwell.
13. **Resolved**: to approve the annual accounting statement – proposed Coun Grassam, seconded Coun Stockwell.
14. **Accepted:** the statement of variances for the year and the year-end bank reconciliation
15. Noted: that Mr Malcolm Jordan very kindly carried out the internal audit and has indicated that he is willing to do it next year; to consider sending a letter of thanks
16. **Ratified:** March payment of £103.20 (inc VAT) to ERYC re salt bin winter maintenance visits 2020-21. Proposed Coun Grassam, seconded Coun Dobson.
17. **Noted**: that a VAT reclaim of £99.39 for the year April 1 2020 to March 31 2021 has been submitted
18. **Noted:** that the parish precept of £4,750 has been received
19. **Noted:** bank balances at April 30: business current account, £7,094.23 and business savings account, £1,281.69, a total of £8,375.92.

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1. Membership of ERNLLCA was reviewed. **Resolved:** to pay annual subscription of £294.63, proposed Coun Grassam, seconded Coun Padgett
2. **Resolved:** to pay Wansford Village Hall hire charge of £10 for the 2020-21 year and £11.22 for electricity to the defibrillator for the year. Proposed Coun Stockwell, seconded Coun Grassam,
3. **Resolved:** to pay clerk’s expenses of £89.51, proposed Coun Grassam, seconded Coun Padgett.
4. **Resolved:** to pay grant of £275 to Wansford Village Hall, and grants of £275 to St Leonard’s Church PCC and £300 to St Mary’s Church PCC, both in respect of burial ground maintenance. Proposed Coun Grassam, seconded Coun Padgett.
5. **Administration and training:**
6. Financial regulations and standing orders were reviewed and found to be working effectively
7. Couns Stockwell, Bristow and Grassam were nominated to serve on the personnel committee, proposed Coun Harrison, seconded Coun Dobson
8. Coun Dobson, Bristow and Stockwell were nominated to check the books on a meeting-by-meeting basis. Proposed Coun Grassam, seconded Coun Padgett.
9. Coun Harrison was elected as representative to the Nafferton Feoffees Trust. Proposed Coun Robson, seconded Coun Stockwell.
10. **Correspondence:**
11. ERYC: repair works to start on Skerne Bridge on May 28 with closure of road except for cyclists and pedestrians. **Noted.**
12. ERYC: surface dressing of unclassified road at Rickle Pits scheduled between April 6 and September. **Noted.**
13. Harmony Energy: CEO Peter Kavanagh has indicated that the parish council should decide whether to accept a one-off payment of £80,000 or ongoing payments of £10,000. (Email circulated). **Resolved**: to request yearly payments of £10,000. Proposed Coun Lamble, seconded Coun Padgett. Members felt that the money could finance ongoing projects and there was the possibility of saving for larger projects,
14. **Noted:** Coun Dobson has indicated that she will not accept a nomination for vice-chairman and will be leaving the council before the end of the year. She was thanked for her several years’ service as a councillor and as vice-chairman.
15. **Matters requested by councillors:**
16. Leading silage through Skerne: Coun Bristow has been in communication with the biogas company, which wishes to work with the village while conducting its lawful business. Coun Bristow had liaised between the village and the biogas company. The majority of affected villagers had given her to understand that they preferred harvest work to be intensive thus taking less time rather than pacing the operation. The company had agreed to give warning to villagers of the work starting and was considering putting numbers in tractor cabs in order for residents to complain directly about individual drivers who may be going too fast. The general feeling of the council was that the parish was in the heart of an agricultural area that created local jobs and there was no will to stop farmers doing their work. They understood that mechanisation was on a large scale but the infrastructure had not been upgraded to cope and this could be difficult for some residents. It was understood that the ERYC was to erect permanent barriers at the West End/Main Street corner to promote pedestrian safety on that corner. The clerk would write to the appropriate ERYC officers commending this scheme.
17. Tree trunk on Wansford Lock: noted.
18. **Highways:** The clerk was asked to write to EYMS requesting a replacement noticeboard at the Wansford bus shelter in which to display 136 timetables. The clerk would contact Streetscene re obscured signposts near Skerne bridge and between Skerne and Driffield. There was a pothole outside the village hall that had not been dealt with. The diagonal footpath across Wansford Parks to The Square had not been reinstated since ploughing/drilling – ERYC informed.
19. **Reports from representatives**: none.
20. **Items for next agenda:** new bank mandate, casual vacancy
21. **Date of next meeting:**