

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 November 17 2020 via Zoom at 7.30pm.

1. **Present:** Couns Ian Lamble, Gill Grassam, Jackie Dobson, Caroline Harrison, Catherine Bristow, Lynn Stockwell, Neil Robson and Ann Kitching (via WhatsApp)
2. **Apologies:** Coun Mark Padgett and ERYC representatives Coun Evison, Owen and Lisseter
3. **Declarations of interest:** None
4. **Confirmed the minutes of the meeting on September 8 as a true and correct record**: Proposed Coun Bristow, seconded Coun Stockwell
5. **To dispose of any business remaining from the previous meeting and, if necessary, decide on a course of action:**
6. Skerne Village Green: The land transfer had not yet taken place – the council solicitor had heard from the Warrendale solicitor on October 20 that the transfer documents were ready to be sent. Coun Bristow said that both the lockdowns and the lack of progress on the land transfer had made working party meetings and subsequent decisions difficult. However, quotes for fencing were being sought by David Tite.
7. Harmony Energy planning gain agreement: Harmony Energy had gained planning permission and contacted the parish council to say that the legal agreement was being drawn up
8. Skerne bridge: An e-mail from highways had indicated that work on the bridge, which was now open to some traffic, would take place in the spring. Meanwhile there was a width restriction and weight limit on it. **Agreed**: that a letter be sent to highways asking for maximum width signs to be erected in the wake of the repair and question whether there was any intention to continue to impose a wright restriction. It was felt that this would be of no benefit to Skerne village as it would take local farm traffic through the centre of Skerne rather than via the B1249
9. Overgrown hedge near Mill Croft: The clerk had chased this on several occasions
10. **Planning:**
11. **Ratified: no comment responses to the following planning applications:**  20/03326/PLF – extension of single storey to rear of Wheelwright Cottage, West End, Skerne. Applicant Mr Carmichael. 20/02737/PLF – erection of a dwelling following outline approval on land west of 12 The Square, Wansford. Applicant Mr B Parker. 20/02920/PLF – conversion of existing farm buildings to create two dwellings and associated external and internal alterations and construction/increasing height of boundary walls at Pleasant Wood Farm, Wansford. Applicant the Horace Taylor Trust.
12. **Finance:**
13. **Received**: bank reconciliation
14. **Resolved:** to keep the precept at £4,750 for 2021-22 following consideration of the budget, the likelihood of expenses being incurred connected with the Skerne Village Green and possibility of legal expenses being incurred concerning the Harmony Energy legal agreement. Proposed Coun Bristow, seconded Coun Grassam.
15. **Resolved:** to ratify payment of £338.04 to Came & Co for 2021 premium and to note that the long-term agreement ends in December 2021. Proposed Coun Stockwell, seconded Coun Grassam.
16. **Public session**: At this point the meeting was suspended. Mr Clive Lester told councillors of three-day maize harvesting by GWE which took place from October 24 to 26 during wet conditions, causing large volumes of traffic to go through the centre of Skerne. He had organised a petition relating to the methods, routing and safety aspects of the activity involved, quoting 900-plus traffic movements over the three days. 20 other Skerne households had supported his petition. He highlighted additional comments in the responses citing 10 complaints of speeding, seven of damage to verges, five of damage to the Copper Hall/Cleaves Farm bridleway, and several of the volume of traffic. He had submitted his petition to ERYC Highways. His comments were echoed by Mr Dale, who said he had never seen so much mud on the Skerne roads. It was felt that, as the parish council had no highway powers nor any powers to intervene in the affairs of a legitimate business, Mr Lester had made the correct decision to submit his petition to the ERYC. Coun Bristow had been in touch with GWE who disputed the 900 traffic movements and said there had been 220 loads taken to Kirkburn during the three days and 220 return journeys. Coun Lamble said the parish council had sympathy with both the residents and GWE as the weather had been against them.

**8i** In an ensuing discussion, Coun Harrison said that the parish was in an agricultural area but suggested pursuing the campaign re agricultural vehicles began at the September meeting and raised the possibility of writing to individual farmers imploring them to not only encourage their tractor drivers to slow down in residential areas but also to point out that many tractor drivers were using mobile telephones while at the wheel.

1. **Correspondence:**
2. **Resolved**: to grant £150 to Beverley Ramblers regarding the cost of mowing the permissive path between Whinhill and Wansford lock. Proposed: Coun Stockwell, seconded Coun Harrison.
3. **Noted:** parish council nominations to ERYC Standards Committee.
4. Resignation of clerk. **Agreed:** ERNLLCA to be informed and position to be advertised initially in the next newsletter
5. E-mails from three Skerne residents protesting re harvesting of maize for Kirkburn gas plant. **At this point the chairman suspended the meeting again for a brief period**. Mr Lester said he had health and safety concerns even had the maize traffic been able to be routed via the B1249. He hoped to be given a mandate by Skerne villagers to speak on their behalf.
6. ERYC – rough sleeper estimate for Wednesday November 11: no rough sleepers had been noted in either village.
7. East Riding Food Poverty Alliance and Driffield Food Bank: Driffield Food Bank asked for parish council help in storing-perishable emergency rations for people forced to self-isolate. ERFPA requested help to store food parcels for those financially affected by the pandemic. This food would be stored. However, if in the spring the parcels had not been used the council hoped they would either be retrieved by the relevant bodies or that the contents could be distributed to people in deprived areas.
8. **Noted:** ERYC had indicated that its intention was to work on the canal bridge at the same time as the river bridge work was being undertaken.
9. **Matters requested by councillors/members of the public:**
10. Signs designed by children requesting drivers to slow down/drive safely through the village. Coun Harrison had pursued her suggestion of asking children to design road safety posters and discovered that this was entirely possible. This would form part of the parish council push to urge tractor drivers to show more consideration while passing through residential areas. It was suggested that funding could be applied for or money raised to cover the cost of the signs which would have to meet highways standards and would be made by ERYC. The clerk to publicise this in the next newsletter.
11. Parish council dinner: the clerk would seek a date in March, in the hopes that the event could actually take place depending on the coronavirus restrictions in force at the time.
12. **Highways:** **Carr Lane bridge -**concerns were raised by Coun Stockwell **-** the clerk had already contacted ERYC Highways following representations and pictures from Coun Grassam. A plastic barrier had been placed on the northern parapet, which had moved by at least a brick-width, indicating that this matter was on the highways radar. **Back Lane drainage:** Coun Kitching said residents had ongoing concerns regarding the Back Lane drainage, The clerk would contact ERYC to see if any progress had been made on this issue. **Skerne kiosk:** the light was out. This was owned by Community Heartbeat; the clerk would give Coun Bristow the contact details.
13. **Other correspondence:** None
14. **To receive reports from representatives:** Coun Harrison had nothing to report although Nafferton Feoffees had met
15. **Items for next agenda:** maize-harvesting at Skerne
16. **Date of next meeting:** January 19 2021 at 7.30pm in Wansford Village Hall, subject to prevailing coronavirus restrictions

In closing, the chairman thanked Mr Lester and Mr Dale for their attendance and re-iterated his remarks that the council did listen to their concerns.