



WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

www.wansfordvillage.co.uk

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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE WANSFORD COMMUNITY HALL ON MONDAY 6TH APRIL 2009 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present: Cllr F Aspin
Cllr P Rudd
Cllr D Stuart-Mogg
Cllr G Ward Vice-Chairman
Cllr D Johnson

In Attendance: Mrs W Gray, Parish Clerk
Mr G Garner (member of the public)

1. **Apologies for Absence**
Cllr T Pearson - Chairman
Cllr R Clarke
Cllr D Lamb
Cllr Holditch
2. **Declaration of Interest**
None reported
3. **Planning**
No new plans received.
4. **Minutes of the Meeting of 2nd March 2009**
Subject to changes received from Cllr Clarke minutes approved and agreed, to be signed off at next meeting.
5. **Matters arising from Minutes of 2nd March 2009**
 - o Road Signage – Cllr Pearson has not yet received report back from Mark Cooper.
 - o Kerb Stones – work scheduled to start on/about 6th April 2009.
 - o Light at Stibbington end of bridge – Peter Gatherall reported light had been fixed but failed after 36 hours.
 - o Bridge and Village Green lighting – Cllr Rudd still progressing.
 - o Cllr Pearson has requested copies of Community Hall annual accounts to be presented at next meeting.
 - o Road markings A47/A1 Junction – Cllr Pearson following up, nothing further to report at this time.
 - o Burial Ground Committee Meeting – rose garden now planted.

Actioned by

Cllr Rudd

Cllr Pearson

Cllr Pearson

Signed: Date:

C.T.J. Pearson, Chairman

- St Andrew’s Church Wall. Cllr SM confirmed that the long outstanding repairs to the church wall now completed. As it had not been possible to estimate a precise costing a maximum budget of £8k had been agreed. Cllr Stuart-Mogg warmly commended local builder Toni Palenski for submitting a final invoice £2k below budget.

- Cllr Stuart-Mogg attended a meeting at the Great Northern Hotel on 2nd April in respect of the Sustainable Communities Act. The panel included Cllr John Peach, Leader PCC, Stewart Jackson, MP for Peterborough, and Richard Howett, MEP for East of England. The Act proposes governance by co-operation, not consultation. Much was said regarding ‘bottom up’ government that is power (and funding) in the hands of local communities rather than, as at present, local government going through motions of consultation process. Cllr Peach appeared notably hesitant to endorse the Act and received repeated verbal censures from members of interest and pressure groups present. The philosophy behind the Act “communities and their councils are the experts on their own problems – and on the solutions to them” is seductive, if debatable. Peterborough has until the end of July to sign up. Cllr Stuart-Mogg observed it was somehow difficult to envisage Cllr Murphy (who was present as was Cllr Holdich) agreeing that the people of Wansford and its environs were the best qualified to determine the suitability and sustainability of the Picnic Site as a future Travellers Site.

- Cllr SM had discussed an initiative with Canon Christie to reduce tree overgrowth in St Mary’s Churchyard. A subsequent meeting with the Peterborough CC churchyard maintenance team based at Marholm Crematorium established that some 18 months ago a structural engineer had examined the perimeter wall and viewed that tree root damage and because it had not originally been built as a retaining wall, the entire wall to be rebuilt. Quotes were obtained around the £70k mark. Peterborough City Council did/does not have funding available. Given the wall is already cracked and bulging and abuts a footpath, there are clear Health & Safety implications. An on-site meeting is to be scheduled before end April to discuss implications and possible ways forward.

6. Finance

Payments approved for the following:

Royal British Legion – Share rent Christie Hall - £1,010.00

R Clarke – reimbursement for Projector & Screen - £508.49

7. Matters for Consideration

Annual walk around village to take place on Saturday 18th April commencing at 10.00 a.m. subject to weather.

8. Correspondence

No new correspondence received.

Signed: Date:

C.T.J. Pearson, Chairman

9. Reports from Councillors

Cllr Johnson – Fireworks/bonfires - suggest courtesy advance warning notices in Living Villages re intention to let off fireworks. Also residents lighting anti-social bonfires on sunny afternoons, especially at weekends.

The meeting closed at 8:06 pm