

WANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

www.wansfordvillage.com

Clerk: Mrs Jill Sardeson

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held in the Community Hall on 17th May 2021 at 7.30pm

In attendance: Cllr T Pearson Chairman
Mrs Jill Sardeson – Clerk

Also in attendance

Mr R Clarke
Mr G Garner
Mr M Handley
Mr D Johnson
Mr J Stannage
Mrs V Thorley
Mr Stace

Cllr Pearson welcomed everyone to the meeting

		Action:
1	Apologies for Absence Mrs Wendy Gray	
2	Declarations of Interest None	
3	Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 13th May 2019 It was unanimously agreed that these be signed as a correct record	
4	Matters arising from the previous minutes None noted	
5	Chairman's Report Cllr Pearson read out his report (see below)	
6	Standing Order's The Standing Orders had recently been reviewed and approved.	

Signed.....Chairman

Date

7	<p>Finance: To sign off the Financial Risk Assessment The document had not been circulated before the meeting and so this item will be carried over to the June meeting</p> <p>Annual Accounts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. To approve the Annual Governance Statement b. To consider the Accounting Statements c. To approve the Accounting Statements d. To sign the Accounting Statements for 2020 – 2021 <p>The annual accounts must be signed off at a Parish Council meeting so shall be carried over to the June meeting</p>	<p>Clerk: Add to June Agenda</p> <p>Clerk: Add to June Agenda</p>
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The meeting closed at 7.40pm

Chairman’s Report - May 2021

In May 2019, John Stannage had to stand down as Chairman since no Wansford Parish Council chairperson can remain in office for more than 3 years. I was then elected Chairman for the fourth time, and in May 2020 the government decided that the usual Annual Parish Meeting and AGM had to be postponed for a year because they had to be open, publicly, for all members of the Parish. Since then, all but one of our General Parish Meetings have been held remotely and we are indebted to Councillor Clarke for setting us up on Skype each month.

Despite the intervention of the pandemic, we have achieved quite a lot over the last two years, but we are still struggling to make progress in some areas. I would like to list our successes:

1. Installing a defibrillator in the old phone box and getting training to use it.
2. Creating a 20mph speed limit in the centre of the village, supported by a flashing speed sign which we can move around the village.
3. Restoring the Nene Close Water Pump.
4. Refurbishing the Community Hall.
5. Removal of most of the A6118 signs, after we got the A6118 redesignated as the C340 (Highways England still haven’t changed the signs on the A1 slip roads). We are well underway with replacing the large A road sized signs with Finger Posts which are more appropriate for a village.
6. Repainting of the road markings in the centre of the village.
7. Maintaining the Wansford Play Area in Nene Close.
8. Installing a new litter bin adjacent to the church.
9. Contributing to the maintenance of the Burial Ground at St Andrew’s Church in Thornhaugh, a responsibility shared with Thornhaugh PC and financed by PCC.
10. Continuing to help keep litter in the village under control.

Outstanding issues continue to frustrate our efforts:

1. The dualling of the A47.

Despite the replacement of the initial Highways England team organising this, Historic England still resolutely oppose passage of the new road through the Ancient Monument, whilst refusing to investigate whether there is anything of value there. This incurs an additional cost estimated at £16million and increased disruption during construction. The Western Roundabout on the A47 junction with A1 will certainly be a serious problem unless it is replaced with traffic lights as we propose.

(In December 2019 we held an Extraordinary Meeting with Highways England in St Mary’s Church but any optimism generated as a result has evaporated)

Signed.....Chairman

Date

2. For over a year we have been badgering PCC to do something about the parlous state of the Old Leicester Road/A47 Junction.
3. The ever-increasing amount of HGV traffic from the Kings Cliffe Industrial Site continues to cause serious disruption.
4. Footpaths: PCC accepts that the footpath from Old Leicester Road to Old Pump House Corner needs re-laying but has yet to do it, and the status of the footpath from Nene Close through to Peterborough Road needs to be established.
5. Clear road signs needed south of the river to prevent HGVs from the A1 heading north, crossing the ancient bridge.

We continue to deal with many Planning Applications and represent the interests of residents in Wansford. I feel that we have resolutely observed the democratic obligations of a Parish Council and will continue to do so. Since February 2008, Wendy Gray, our Clerk, has helped us with this and has earned her retirement. We will miss her and her support, thank her for all her work and wish her all the very best for her retirement. I must also thank all the Councillors for their support. We hope that Jill Sardeson, our new Clerk, will find us all amiable and amenable, and enjoy working with us in the future.

Tim Pearson

Signed.....Chairman

Date