

# WILSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF WILSFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 13 MAY 2025 AT 6.30PM IN THE SMALL ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL.

**Present.** Cllr Sirs (Chair) District Cllr A Hagues, 8 members of the public and Denise Gascoyne Parish Clerk.

**1. Welcome by the Chair.** The Chair Cllr Sirs welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

**2. To resolve to approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting** held on 21 May 2024 (copies circulated at the meeting). It was proposed, seconded and **Resolved** to accept the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21 May 2024 as a true record and these were signed by the Chair.

### **3. Presentation of Annual Reports.**

- **Chair Report** - Cllr Sirs report was circulated to all present, and a copy is attached to these minutes. Cllr Sirs thanked Cllr Hagues for all his hard work in helping the Parish Council during his time as County Cllr.
- **District Cllr Report** - Cllr Hagues had forwarded his report and a copy is attached to these minutes.
- **Allotments** – A report had been received and read out by the Clerk. A copy is attached to these minutes.
- **Cemetery/Church/Churchyard** – Cllr Reseigh gave a verbal report. She said that the clock was now working and hopefully eventually the clock face will be gilded. A new notice board was now in place.
- **CLT** – Unfortunately, nobody was able to attend so no report.
- **Village Hall** – The Chair of the village hall gave a verbal report. She said everything was going very well and bookings were up. The maintenance list was nearly complete with new notice board, carpets in small room and acoustics in the main hall. The only thing outstanding was a new cooker.  
The AGM would be held in June and any new committee members would be welcomed.

**4. Financial Report.** The Parish Clerk had circulated her report.

### **5. Questions from the Public**

Finance Report Newsletter – A former editor of the News and Views requested that a financial report be included in the News and Views. Cllrs did not think this was totally necessary; all financial information was on the website and the AGAR and Notice of Public rights to view accounts will be in the noticeboards.

Marquee - A parishioner asked if there could be a notice in the news and views to say the Parish Council had a marquee and this could be used by the public. This was owned by the Parish Council but was housed at the village hall.

Meeting closed at 6.50pm

Signed .....

Chair Wilsford Parish Council

Date .....

# **WILSFORD PARISH COUNCIL: CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2024-25**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Thankfully this past year can be described as reasonably uneventful, with a mild winter, no repeat of last years spring deluge and a warm pleasant start to what we hope will be a good summer. A number of properties in the village have changed hands, resulting in the departure of some long-term residents, but also the presenting the opportunity to welcome some new families into our community.

## **PARISH COUNCILLORS**

The vacancy caused by the resignation of Councillor Simon Davey from both Council and his position as Chair resulted in some reorganizing within our numbers, with Councillor Sirs taking over as Chair and the vacant position being filled by the co-opting of Beris Brickles. Beris is well known to many residents, having been born and brought up in the village and following a period of absence has recently returned to full residence. Otherwise, Councillors, Val Blankley, Keith Corner, Mick Harrison (our Deputy Chairman), Martyne Miller and Sarah Reseign remain in place. They have all been very supportive throughout this past year and my thanks go to them.

## **CLERK TO THE COUNCIL**

Denise Gascoyne remains Clerk to the Wilsford Parish Council and has continued to provide a first-rate service. She is also Clerk to Ancaster Parish Council which is very useful when our interests overlap, for instance in managing the effects of the recent road closure on the High Dyke and in jointly approaching Mid UK Recycling re litter caused by their activities.

## **DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

For the period of this report, our representative at both District and County level has been Councillor Andrew Hagues. He has managed to attend almost all of our meetings and has been invaluable in his assistance and advice in approaching and dealing with higher administrative matters. As a result of the very recent election results he is due to be replaced at the County Council level by Councillor Ray Whitaker who we look forward to welcoming to our future meetings. Our thanks go to Councillor Andrew Hagues for his support and friendship during his time in office!

## **VILLAGE MAINTENANCE (Contributed by Councillor Keith Corner)**

In an effort to visually improve the outlook of our village, the Parish Council have employed a part time handy man, Mr Andy Walton who has lived on School Lane for numerous years and therefore knows the village well. He has been very busy over the winter and spring, carrying out a number of jobs, including regularly washing and clearing road signs of foliage, regular litter picks, tidying of path edges, cutting Ivy from the trees near the cemetery and cleaning the bus shelter. Andy has and continues to be most proactive in carrying out his duties, looking for any work that is required around the village and plans to varnish the notice boards this summer and is also intending to clear the overgrown grass around the hard standings in the play area. Due to Andys hard work, the footpaths around the village are looking much better.

## **Wilsford Naturehood Programme (Contributed by – Councillor Martyne Miller)**

The year saw continued progress for our Wilsford Naturehood Programme, with an increase in the number of species seen.

Early in the year, when it eventually stopped raining, overgrown paths, encroaching ivy, and broken or overhanging branches were cleared around the playing fields and wooded areas. And once again we encouraged villagers to consider creating their own mini meadows to provide early nectar for bees and butterflies.

Our meadow areas, left to grow naturally throughout the summer with relaxed mowing, were a huge success with more plant species identified, adding to the 104 listed plant and wildlife species identified in 2023. Of note this year and a cause of much excitement, was our first Common Spotted Orchid on the long meadow bank, the delicate pink and highly perfumed flowers are particularly attractive to day-flying moths.

In another area, behind one of the goals, we had a swath of Lady's Bedstraw – a delicious low growing sweet-smelling plant with frothy yellows flowers and a honey-like scent. Historically, lady's bedstraw was used to curdle milk in the process of cheese-making - a convenient vegetarian replacement for rennet. The plant was also used in years gone by to make ladies straw mattresses smell sweet, especially those expecting, hence the name.

Heal-all or Self-heal as it's also known, was much appreciated by the bees, it's a low growing purple flower that can be found in short grass where chemicals are not used. In herbal medicine Self-heal has a long tradition of being used for everything from stopping bleeding and healing wounds, to treating heart disease and sore throats, and the bees love it.

Another favourite with the pollinators was the abundance of Yarrow, with its feathery, aromatic leaves and flat white flowerheads.

In May we took part in the **Get to Know Your Village** event, reminding villagers of the benefits of being immersed in nature, telling the story of work done to date by the Naturehood Programme and provided information for how everyone could get involved.

The bench, commemorating Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Majesty King Charles III's accession, arrived and was positioned at the end of the long meadow; allowing villagers to sit and take a moment in their busy lives to simply enjoy nature, watch the butterflies & bees and listen to the birds.

\*In September 2024 Butterfly Conservation declared a UK butterfly emergency with one of the lowest recorded numbers seen for many years. For some species, including some commonly seen in Wilsford, it was the worst count in its 14-year history. Making our Naturehood Programme efforts even more important.

The Naturehood Programme has worked closely with the Community Orchard Project over the last year, however the plans for the Orchard have not, as yet, come to fruition. We are now looking at ways of continuing to work together, to create improved green spaces for all, raise awareness of the importance and benefits of enjoying nature and protecting our environment.

Planning is already underway for the coming season with the laying of a natural hedge at the vehicle entrance of the playing fields booked. A date will be arranged for volunteers to clear more plastic and saplings, to allow light in between the trees and

support the underplanting of native bulbs and plants planned for this autumn. Aligned to this is the scoping of a proposal for replacing blind bulbs on the verges around the village.

## **PLAYING FIELDS AND PLAYGROUND**

The Parish Council continues to oversee maintenance and upkeep of both the playing field and the children's playground. The playground is inspected annually by an independent agency, with the Parish Council responsible for undertaking any required repairs. All but one area highlighted for action in the last report was resolved immediately and we continue to actively find an agency with the pertinent skills to resolve the final action, a weld repair to the Skate Ramp. With respect to grass cutting, the previous policy of ad-hoc cutting, on an as and when required basis, was deemed open to interpretation and has not been continued this year due to unsatisfactory feedback. Instead, our contractor now cuts on a regular basis (fortnightly) and we will continue to review this situation into the future.

## **TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT**

In an effort to discuss and better understand options available with respect to traffic management both within the village and when entering/exiting onto the A153, Councillors held an on-site walk around meeting with representatives of Lincs County Council Highways Department. Two initiatives, which were agreed and have been formally passed to Highways for consideration, include parking restrictions at the junction of Main Street and School Lane and a reduction of the speed limit on the A153 to 50mph. The lower speed limit has been requested between the level crossing and the current 30mph zone and also includes a request to extend the 30 mph zone toward Sleaford so as to come into force before the bends in the road. We currently await the results of these formal requests for action. Unfortunately initiatives such as making Main Street 'One Way' and the introduction of a vehicle weight limit through the village which had been raised by some residents were not supported.

Despite best efforts, the village suffered greatly due to increased HGV traffic during the recent resurfacing work on the High Dyke. Once it became apparent that such vehicles were not following the recommended diversion route, but choosing Wilsford as the preferred short-cut, highways at our request positioned placed "Unsuitable for HGVs" signage at all approach roads. In addition, the highways representative overseeing the work, made personal requests on our behalf to both Recycling and Quarry sites to please brief drivers to avoid this route. Unfortunately this proved to no avail, resulting in numerous issues and at least one vehicle collision when an HGV stuck in the village reversed into a following vehicle. Thankfully on completion of works all appears to be back to normal, but please be reassured that we have and will continue to make our displeasure known to all relevant agencies.

## **COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH (Contributed by Councillor Keith Corner)**

Volunteers supervised by Councillor Corner have carried out four speed checks on Town End in the past year and are looking to resume them this spring. The team would currently welcome additional volunteers, particularly from anyone interested in setting up a second site outside the village hall. Repair of the automatic speed signs at Town End has been requested.

## **DOG FOULING**

Despite the installation of numerous dog bins around the village and installation signs reminding owners to “Do Their Duty” a small minority of dog-owners in the village simply have no thought or consideration for others by allowing their animals to do their business in the street or on the playing fields (where it is a particular risk for children) without picking up and safely disposing of the excrement. This most unsociable activity is not acceptable within our community and residents are requested to maintain awareness and report offenders accordingly.

## **FIREWORKS**

The Annual Wilsford Firework Display continues to be probably the most popular village social occasion. The Parish Council has in the past sponsored (although the event is now essentially self funding) and provided oversight of this event since its inception. However, with its increased popularity it became necessary to put its organisation on a more formal footing and bring it in-house. This event is now therefore an official Parish Council event run by a small village working group and we would hope to continue with it into the future.

## **DONATIONS TO OTHER BODIES**

During the year the Parish Council gives donations to local organisations and other bodies to advance their work on behalf of the community. In the last year we have given various sums of money to St Mary’s church for grass cutting in the cemetery, to Wilsford and Kelby News for publication of the newsletter, the Village Hall; the Christmas tree fund; the mobile library visit and other community events. We hope that these donations will help to build a closer community.

**From:** Cllr Andrew Hagues <cllr\_Andrew\_Hagues@n-kesteven.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 07 May 2025 09:13  
**To:** clerk@leasinghamroxholm-pc.gov.uk; clerk@cranwell.pc.gov.uk;  
raucebypc@gmail.com; Wilsford ParishCouncil  
**Subject:** FW: MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

Dear All

Please find below, which may be of interest for your members.

Best wishes  
Andrew

#### NEW SCHEME AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT FARMING BUSINESSES IN LINCOLNSHIRE

To support farm businesses in navigating challenges such as increasing financial pressures, changing regulations and workforce challenges, Business Lincolnshire has launched the Lincolnshire Farm Support Programme, delivered by Savills.

The programme supports farmers with resilience and offers guidance with exploring diversification. The support is only available to farm businesses where the main source of income comes from farming.

#### APPLY NOW FOR VETERAN BADGES

Former service personnel in North Kesteven who have not yet had their Veterans Badge are invited to step forward to receive it at a celebration in June.

The Council champions the roll of everyone who contributes to HM Forces, through it's Armed Forces Day activity in June. On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June there'll be a public flag raising in Sleaford's Market Place at 10.30am. Later veterans will be celebrated and presented with badges on recognition of their service, with a special focus on the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversaries this year of Victory in Europe (VE Day) on May 8<sup>th</sup> and the ultimate end to the Second World War, Victory in Japan (VJ Day) on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Badges are presented to anyone who has served in the British Army, Royal Navy, Royal Air Force or Merchant Navy at any time and for the duration, as regular, reservist or on National Service now receive their badges automatically, out there are many whose service ended prior to this and may not yet have one.

District veterans of any length or type of service, from any period, wishing to apply for a badge to be presented- can email – or anyone acting on their behalf- can email [Armedforces@n-kesteven.gov.uk](mailto:Armedforces@n-kesteven.gov.uk) or call their Partnership Team on 01529 414155 BEFORE FRIDAY MAY 16<sup>TH</sup>.

#### POLICE PRIORITY SETTING

Lincolnshire Police want to work together to make our county the safest place to live, work and visit.

As Part of Lincolnshire Police neighbourhoods' teams work, they look at the issues affecting their communities and set some agreed priorities for the work they undertake often in conjunction with partners on a quarterly basis.

To enable and support this work, they have a survey where Councillors, Parish Councillors and the community can all contribute towards informing the priorities set.

Please can we ask that you share these details within your communities, so if there are concerns in your community the police can consider these with the feedback in the surveys.

The police are keen to encourage an increase in responses, as they have a better understanding of what is important in you and your communities.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Council frequently has employment opportunities currently advertised. To find out more please visit the North Kesteven District Council's jobs page on the website.

They include five new apprenticeships available – on the apprenticeship webpage.

## FANTASTIC FORUM HELD

The NK Parish and Town Council Forum took place on Thursday April 10<sup>th</sup> and welcomed Clerks and Members from Parish and Town councils across the District to NKDC Council Chamber.

They heard from the Leader and the Chief Executive about Local Government Reorganisation, alongside Planning updates including the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning and Infrastructure Bill which was introduced to Parliament in March 2025. Information about the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and projects undertaken within North Kesteven and future opportunities, was shared too. The event also provided an opportunity for attendees to network with colleagues from other councils. The feedback was positive, and NK are already starting to plan the next event.

## SURVEY WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT

Anglian Water is writing to landowners and other key stakeholders ahead of further technical and ground survey works within the early stages of shaping its proposals for a reservoir.

While it involves some activity on the ground, this second phase of survey work is not a sign of construction starting.

The survey work will take place at different times from late spring through to early autumn and will be progressed by Anglian Water in accordance with the agreed approach with North Kesteven District Council (under Anglian Water's permitted development rights) and by engaging with landowners to request access.

In some places a small Anglian Water team will conduct site visits, and in other locations. Anglian Water will undertake ground investigations including boreholes and trial pits to understand more about the land and soil factors to consider. A works compound will be set up on land off Mareham Lane to support the surveys.

## REPORT FROM RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER

Once again the Precept stayed the same £1800. This has remained the case since 2020. However, a small increase has been requested for 2025/2026 financial year.

As you can see from the attached receipts have risen slightly. This was due to an increase in bank interest and increased advertising costs.

Payments have risen mainly due to increased grass cutting costs. Although we receive and grant from LCC of £900 this is still costing us in the region of £5500.00

## Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2024/25 for

WILSFORD PARISH COUNCIL - L10424

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2024 £	31 March 2025 £	
1. Balances brought forward	30,554	34,347	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	18,000	18,000	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	2,820	3,759	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	5,201	5,213	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	11,827	14,784	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash-book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	34,347	36,108	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	34,347	36,108	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – <b>To agree with bank reconciliation.</b>
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	27,595	30,835	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.
10. Total borrowings	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).
<b>For Local Councils Only</b>	Yes	No	N/A
11a. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)			The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.
11b. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)			The figures in the accounting statements above exclude any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2025 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

**Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval**

*[Signature]*

Date

07/04/2025

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

13/05/2025

as recorded in minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

Signed by Chair of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

# Receipts and Payments Account

Unaudited

31/03/24 £		31/03/25 £
	<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
2,127.92	Income	3,229.98
104.43	Interest on Investments	110.55
18,000.00	Precept	18,000.00
587.73	VAT on income/Vat repayments	418.31
<u>20,820.08</u>	<b>RECEIPTS TOTAL</b>	<u>21,758.84</u>
	<b>PAYMENTS</b>	
16,609.58	Expenditure	19,174.66
0.00	General Administration	0.00
0.00	S. 137 Payments	0.00
418.31	VAT on Payment	822.66
	Capital reduction long term borrowing	0.00
<u>17,027.89</u>	<b>PAYMENTS TOTAL</b>	<u>19,997.32</u>
30,554.36	Balance as at 01/04/24	34,346.55
20,820.08	Add Total Income	21,758.84
51,374.44		56,105.39
17,027.89	Deduct Total Expenditure	19,997.32
0.00	Stock Adjustment	0.00
0.00	Transfer to/ from reserves	0.00
<u>34,346.55</u>	Balance as at 31/03/25	<u>36,108.07</u>

Signed

Chair

  
Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer

# Financial Summary - Cashbook

Summary of receipts and payments between 01/04/24 and 31/03/25 inclusive. This may include transactions with ledger dates outside this period.

Balances at the start of the year

## Ordinary Accounts

Current Account £7,809.76

## Short Term Investment Accounts

Earmarked Reserves £9,911.09  
Events Account £2,334.11  
Savings Account £14,291.59  
Total £34,346.55

RECEIPTS	Net	Vat	Gross
General Administration	£18,872.93	£0.00	£18,872.93
Grounds Maintenance	£991.12	£0.00	£991.12
Misc	£1,894.79	£0.00	£1,894.79
Total Receipts	£21,758.84	£0.00	£21,758.84
PAYMENTS	Net	Vat	Gross
General Administration	£7,645.11	£149.13	£7,794.24
Grounds Maintenance	£5,104.50	£4.40	£5,108.90
Donations	£2,835.01	£14.04	£2,849.05
Misc	£2,969.98	£594.00	£3,563.98
Playing Field	£314.63	£0.00	£314.63
Naturehood Project	£305.43	£61.09	£366.52
Total Payments	£19,174.66	£822.66	£19,997.32

Closing Balances

## Ordinary Accounts

Current Account £7,878.87  
£7,878.87

## Short Term Investment Accounts

Earmarked Reserves £10,021.64  
Events Account £3,756.54  
Savings Account £14,451.02  
Total £28,229.20  
£36,108.07

Reserve Balances

Earmarked Reserves £0.00  
Reserves total £0.00

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

  
Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer