

Minutes of the meeting of Wimblington Parish Council held on Tuesday 11th July 2023 at Wimblington Parish Hall, Addison Rd. Wimblington PE15 0QT, at 7.00 pm.

Present M T Davis (Chairman), Mrs P Amos (Clerk), Cllr. Clark; Cllr. Abbott; Cllr. Hennen; Cllr. Johnson; Cllr. Dent
Mrs Moulton; Mrs Hart; Nick Blencowe; Cllr Gowing; Jill & David Foskett;

Number	Title & Agenda No		Action
113/23	Apologies for Absence - 1	Cllr Best (holiday); Cllr Wright (illness) Cllr. Harding (appointment)	
114/23	Absentees	None	
115/23	Chairs Additional items - 1a	None	
116/23	Declarations of interest - 2	i)declaration: None ii)written dispensation requests: There were none. iii)dispensation grants: There are none.	
117/23	Public Participation - 3	Mrs Hart asked when the paper bank will be emptied - clerk contact FDC to clear paper bank	PA
118/23	Confirmation of minutes - 4	RESOLVED – that the minutes of meeting held on 13 th June 2023 were correctly recorded and that they be signed as being a true record. Proposed: Cllr. Hennen; Seconded: Cllr. Abbott All in favour.	
119/23	Presentation by Citizens Advice Bureau - 4a	Citizens Advice had asked for a Teams meeting to discuss current funding/costs. They need to change the costings to us to reflect the actual hours worked by their staff. Manager Nick Blencowe thanked us for continued support which helps local community. Each area CAB are independent charities. Covid changed operations heavily using more IT for services. Now they deliver face to face services and need to cover costs. There is outreach in Chatteris, St Neots and Wisbech as well as Wimblington, to date we have helped over 1500 clients with more than 6 issues per client. Cost of living crisis has added more clients with more working people struggling. There are often at least 3 visits per client. There is ongoing support to each person if needed including Benefits advice, energy team and local assistance team, with up to two hundred thousand pounds worth of benefits sourced. The service in Wimblington needs to pay for itself but they find that if their staff member sees 3-4 people there is then more work required off -site At the moment cost is £79 for 2 hours. Then staff can do at least another 3 hours writing it all up etc. They need to look at a way to cover costs and Parish Council need to know what cost it would be. Propose 2 clients £55. 4-5 clients then 5 hours of work at £115 then if 6 or more 7 hours cost would be £167. A two hour service can only accommodate 4 clients and they recommend the £115 option, then if only 2 people arrive Parish Council would only be charged £55. After discussion as there are more and more people needing help and as March do not have a service, Cllrs. resolved to go for the £115 Proposed: Cllr Dent Seconded Cllr Johnson; All in favour by show of hands. See 123/33e	
120/23	Fenland District Council - 5	Cllr Davis reported that The last Council meeting in May was mostly to ratify positions etc. and consider proportionality. There was also a question from a member asking about affordable housing schemes, info given was that in . We have seven schemes coming to fruition in 2023/24, when 326 affordable new homes should be made available locally, and we currently have a further nine sites in the pipeline with 486 affordable units scheduled to be completed after 31st March 2024	
121/23	Cambridgeshire County Council - 6	Cllr Gowing reported that Because of proportionality, he has changed panels and is now on the Police panel. He asked whether anyone has applied for solar panels through CCC with a company who were offering cheap solar panels – the company has gone into liquidation.	
122/23	Clerks report - 7	An email thanking the PC for the donation as received from the Bobby trust. Regarding the street light at Frogs Abbey Rd/Manea Rd. Contractors had to escalate this with UKPN who have now said that they won't connect this light on the bracket as 'it goes against their policy' Cable Test will rectify and will schedule as soon as is possible. Clerk has received a credit note from SSE for hall electricity. It appears that they have overcharged us from Aug 2021, they have just refunded us £554.90. They did recently replace something in the meter, which may have shown an earlier fault or mischarging. Handyman has pressure washed the village entrance gates and the play eqpt at the WMPF. Cambs CC Rights of way officer has confirmed that public footpath number 5 (Woodmans Way) 'is due a surface cut and that I will appoint a contractor to cut back the encroaching hedgerows and clear away any residual hedge cuttings in the autumn.'	

		Owner of the hedgerow adjacent to Woodysfield and footpath has contacted the clerk and he will be cutting the hedge back in the Autumn once the birds have finished nesting.	
123/23	Other Matters - 9	a) Church clock maintenance: Quote for continued church clock maintenance for the current company received is Option 1 For payment in advance at a fixed cost of £575 net plus VAT per Clock. this will include the servicing for 2024, 2025 & 2026. Payable 30 days from the invoice issue date. Option 2 pay your account annually, the cost for the 2024 service will be £192 net plus VAT per clock. This option is subject to an annual price increase. After discussion resolved to go with option 1. Proposed: Cllr. Abbott Seconded: Cllr Clark b) Rural touring/creative arts East; Cllr Wright had received information from Creative arts East about 'free' plays for rural venues. Having received the brochure/information they are not free, but at reduced cost. Membership of £50.00 plus all ticket sales for the first performance, then any further performances would be charged at their minimum cost which is between £225 and £300. After discussion re previous plays put on at the Parish Hall and the lack of support resolved to not join. Proposed: Cllr Clark Seconded: Cllr Johnson c) Parish Nature Recovery Plan. Information about this has been received from FDC, it may be of use for our Neighbourhood Plan. We could produce our own Nature Recovery Plan for the Parish but would need to engage the local residents, local farmers, the school and other elements of the community ie. The allotment committee, the church warden, Parkfields, the golf range and, others in our local area to gather information. It would be up to the local councillor leading this project to look for funding towards planting of new trees, hedgerows and wild flowers; at improving the biodiversity of the local environment. It will require a team of volunteers lead by someone with knowledge and an interest in the wildlife surrounding our villages. After discussion resolved to put on agenda's going forward with hope that more help is forthcoming from District Council. Chair asked for Cllrs. to think of anyone who might help. On following agenda's d) Fitness rush: contacted clerk to ask if we would be interested in a 6 week free fitness session for over 65's. Information received from the zoom meeting is that it is sponsored by Cambs CC in an effort to get older people fitter and stronger with a view to them perhaps continuing with fitness sessions. Fitness rush travel to each venue with all eqpt in a van. After discussion resolved to trial it at the WMPF, thereafter he would have to find another venue: Proposed: Cllr. Hennen Seconded: Cllr. Abbott. e) CAB discussion: See presentation above. Further to the earlier presentation and documents forwarded to Cllrs. on 4.7.20203, Cllr Davis asked whether CAB's proposed costings of £55 for 2 hours, 2 clients ; £115 for 5 hours 4 clients and £117 for 7.5 hours 6 clients was acceptable? After discussion resolved to go with £115 option. Proposed: Cllr. Dent Seconded: Cllr. Johnson – see 119/23 f) Staff pension: Further to a zoom meeting with Cambridgeshire pensions last year and an email just received, it may be possible to buy out of the current pension scheme without a huge penalty. The zoom meeting informed us that every 3 years they conduct an actuary estimate to find out whether there are any 'strain costs' – lack of fund due to early retirement – at this point there will be a very good indication of the cost to buy out of the scheme, the lady thought that as we are fully paid up, our cost might be in the region of £3000-£5000. Given that at the moment we are tied into this scheme and that both the employer contribution and employee contribution rates are high (currently 21.5% employer rate; 5.% employee rate) this might be a good opportunity to buy out of this scheme. Once the 'strain' cost has been factored in at 1st August Clerk will contact provider for updated estimate of cost to buy out. Ask after 1st August g) Fens reservoir representatives: Further to an email received by the clerk, Fens Reservoir Project Team are forming a new community liaison group that will act as a forum for community representatives to ask questions and share local views. To that end we have been asked whether 2 people would like to join the group to be a key link between the project and the community for the duration of the Fens reservoir project. After discussion advertise for volunteer/s plus 1 councillor. Clerk to forward names. Ask Judith if she's interested – on next agenda Ask them what it entails, how many meetings etc.	PA PA PA PA PA PA

124/23	Payments - 10		a) The members to consider the following: accounts for payment:				
				NET	VAT	£	
		Salaries	*Including pension, tax & NI			2727.40	
		Swift Fire & Safety	Replace call out points	269.00	53.80	322.80	
		F T Nixon	Wood for play WMPF eqpt	76.50	15.30	91.80	
		Idverde	March grass cuts (inv not rec)	584.47	116.89	701.36	
		Brian Elmore	New steel Cemetery tap cover	21.50	4.30	25.80	
		EDF	Hall gas 22/3 -15/6	1420.20	71.21	1491.21	
		Rialtas	Part invoice annual support	103.42	20.69	124.11	
		BT	Hall phone & b'band June-Aug	102.19	20.44	122.63	
		R Nicholas	Hall boiler service + repair			110.00	
		Cable Test	Norfolk St light repair	39.14	7.83	46.97	
		108/23a	Worby Tree service	Cut back Cemetery hedge		250.00	
			Toolstation	Cemetery tap parts	7.35	1.47	8.82
			Information CO	Annual certificate		35.00	
			EDF	Pavilion electricity Junen	23.81	1.19	25.00
			Taymor plumbing	Cemetery tap	46.88	9.38	56.26
			Southern electric	Street light electricity June	181.94	9.55	191.49
		101/23d	Invoices paid by Barclaycard				
			Giff gaff	Pavilion data	10.00	2.00	12.00
			Bobby trust	Grant donation			100.00
			Keto Plastics Ltd	Rubber feet for stepladder	4.16	0.83	4.99
			Safety signs4less	WMPF anti climb paint signs	18.03	3.60	21.63
			Westcotec #	Speedwatch eqpt repair	135.50	27.10	162.60
	High viz workwear	3 x safety vests for handyman	15.22	3.04	17.36		
	*See appendix a for salary breakdown						
	= Previously approved by Chairman or at previous meeting						
	# half to be repaid to us by Doddington PC						
	All payments to be made - Proposed: Cllr. Johnson Seconded: Cllr. Dent all in favour.						
125/23	Risk Management/ Policies & Procedures - 11	a) To review policies/procedures: Data Protection Policy forwarded to Cllrs. on 20.6.2023. After discussion resolved to accept as read Proposed: Cllr. Abbott Seconded: Cllr. Johnson					

126/23	Planning - 12	Planning: the clerk reported that the following planning applications had been received for comment: a) F/YR23/0485/TRTPO Felling of 1no Ash tree, 1no Cherry Plum tree and 1no Silver Birch tree covered by TPO M/2/465/17 at 44 March Road – no objections but ask for all to be replaced. F/YR23/0493/F Erect a shower/utility block at 5 The Paddocks Horsemoor Road – object as no detail as to drainage and ask why no response to condition in original application as to drainage of foul water Full details as to full drainage is not shown. Has condition 9 on planning notice been fulfilled. <i>CLlr Davis did not take part in discussions regarding the above planning applications as she is a member of FDC planning committee.</i> b) Neighbourhood plan: CLlr Johnson said that we are still struggling to get a date for funding/grant portal to be opened. We are continuing without spending anything. FDC have been asked how we go about designation of green spaces and listing assets of local value. Hopefully funding will continue. Design code is being proof read by all of the group.
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127/23	Highway matters/Street lighting/ Transport - 13	a) Streetlights reported: 6 yearly clean: Quotes have been sought and 1 received as follows: 6 yearly test and inspect at £17.50 per light – 95 lights = £1662.50. Cable test have not yet replied although asked for price on 23.6.2023 Keep getting quotes b) Footpaths and highways issues: Cllr Clark said that the King St sign off A141 has been knocked down he has reported it. Bollard at entrance to Eastwood End knocked down it has been reported. Cllr Davis said that from 23rd July Number 56 bus will stop running as company say its not viable to run. The 9.30 bus to March is well supported but the early bus is not. The 11.30 return bus is also well used. The owner of FACT is speaking to a bus company to see whether the FACT bus could be used to fill the gap. A report has been received that the early afternoon return bus sometimes will not come to the village if it's running late as the school service takes precedence. As so much money has been spent in Cambridge on the guided buses, there is little left for the outlying villages. If anyone asks about buses please direct to Cllr Davis and she will collect evidence and information as to the 56 bus usage/need.	PA
128/23	War Memorial playing field - 14	a) Play eqpt: Quotes for a 'ninja trail' style were forwarded to Cllrs on 27.6.2023 for consideration. Cllr Davis said that it appears that the average cost to install will be in the region of £30,000, which could be reduced for less eqpt. and hopefully some covered by funding from outside sources. If Cllrs are happy to consider this she will attempt to get some funding towards the cost. What figure are Cllrs happy to spend from our reserves? After discussion resolved to top up from any funding gained up to £30,000.00. Proposed: Cllr. Hennen. Seconded: Cllr. Clark. Ask all contenders for any installations nearby so that we can visit to see them.	PA
129/23	Parkfield - 15	a) Written report: received 28.6.2023 - Our Lunch Times are going well and so is the Pub side. We continue to welcome everyone here. There will be a Quiz night on Sunday 2nd July at 7:30pm. Cricket matches that are scheduled to be played at Parkfield Sports Club Will be on 1st, 8th, 9th, 15th, 16th and 30th of July. All cricket matches start at 1:00pm. Junior cricket is held on Thursday evenings. Our pool teams plays on Tuesday evenings, we also have a Crib team which have started their season, they play on Wednesday evenings. Wimblington Men's football team are continuing their training on Wednesday evenings and the Ladies football team train on Thursdays.	
130/23	Doddington Rd. Cemetery - 16	a) Cemetery gates: Handyman has power washed the gates removing the green algae. This has shown that the gates need to be painted. Clerk has received quote from Artistic Metallica to remove, clean and paint them at a cost of £1460.00. Proposed: Cllr Johnson Seconded: Cllr. Abbott. b) Memorial bench: Further to handyman looking at a memorial bench to clean it, photos of it were forwarded to Cllrs on 6.7.2023. The bench was placed by the family of an interred resident in 2006, so their responsibility for it is complete. There was not a policy in place at that time. After discussion resolved to remove the bench and give plaque to family. Proposed: Cllr. Clark Seconded: Cllr. Abbott Letter to family. Clerk has received a text from Generis Security. After seeing the damage caused to the gazebo he has found that a new solar powered CCTV system is proving effective. Cost would be £2700.00 net but would need a 6-8 meter lamp post to hold it not included in the price. Recording is to an SD card but accessible remotely. It only records when it senses movement. His email is not working at the moment hence the text. After discussion decision to wait to see if there is any more damage caused.	PA PA
131/23	Parish Hall - 17	a) Hive heating controls: as per informal discussion at the June meeting, a quote to install the hive heating control system has been received of £300.00 net. After discussion resolved to approve/agree the quote. Proposed: Cllr Hennen. Seconded: Cllr. Clark.	
132/23	Correspondence /other business -18	Cllr Hennen asked about the dormer windows and large extension built onto a bungalow on Hook Rd. Roof tiles are very different on original bungalow and extension. Advice was to ring planning department and ask or ask at planning training.	
133/23	Date of next meeting - 20	Next meeting: Tuesday 8th August 2023 at 19.00 Meeting closed at: 20.50	

Appendix a*

Payments	July 2023	NET	VAT	£
Handyman	Handyman duties			496.37
	Play eqpt project			100.00
	Cemetery sign mileage			99.00
Clerk	Clerk duties incl. home wkg all.			1031.32
Hall steward	Hall steward duties			124.90
Cleaner	Hall cleaning			180.61
Inland revenue	Staff tax & NI			354.84
LGSS	Clerks pension			340.36
Total				2727.40