

Minutes of the meeting of Wimblington Parish Council held on Tuesday 8th August 2023 at Wimblington Parish Hall, Addison Rd. Wimblington PE15 0QT, at 7.00 pm.

Present M T Davis (Chairman), Mrs P Amos (Clerk), Cllr. Hennen; Cllr. Clark; Cllr. Johnson; Cllr. Dent; Cllr. Abbott; Cllr. Best; Cllr. Wright; Cllr. Harding;
Mrs Moulton; Mrs Hart; Mrs Kahan; Mrs Best; Mrs Summers; Mr. Gary Christie;

Number	Title & Agenda No		Action
134/23	Apologies for Absence - 1	None	
135/23	Absentees		
136/23	Chairs Additional items - 1a		
137/23	Declarations of interest - 2	i)declaration: Cllr Johnson re CCC/23/015/FUL ii)written dispensation requests: There were none. iii)dispensation grants: There are none.	
138/23	Public Participation - 3	Mrs Summers said that there are a lot of weeds on Meadow Way/Norman Way – chair said that this is County Council responsibility – she may be able to get the payback team to clear them and March Rd. and Old Station Way.	MD
138a/23	3a	Garry Christy (March Town Council; FDC; and chairman of FACT) regarding village bus routes: He has proposed that smaller buses be used on the less used routes/ Timetables have not changed for many years and need to be updated. Even though Stagecoach has been awarded the tenders they are stopping supplying The combined auth has a bus service plan he has asked that rural areas are covered with fit for purpose services. Working closely with Cambridge dial a ride. We are pushing forward proper mini bus types of community transport. A route of this nature has been awarded between Eye and Thorney so we are being listened to. For the moment the service will stay as it is. There will be a service to Metal craft for the 16 year old apprentices. We've received some funding from CCC for inclusion type services – a mini bus between Wimblington & Doddington once a week. Could PC ask residents when they would like this service. Also there is a small budget for the advertising of the service. Any ideas would be welcome. Chair said that the wellbeing bus (Dan Horne) goes to Doddington, perhaps it could be tied in with that and also look at which clinics are on, on which days at the hospital. Chair will speak to Social Subscriber at the surgery for info on clinics. This will be for one year. Cllr Johnson said that the questions could be incorporation with the next NHP questionnaire as are Doddington. We are pushing the concept of community transport. They are all run as not for profit and this also generates local jobs. Residents will not have to be FACT members for these services. They will be operated under a S22 licence and all FACT services are now not for profit. He will leave lots of leaflets about all services available. Day trips are also available and popular. Finally we also have a grant from Cambs foundation regarding volunteering in Fenland. We would like to find out if there are any volunteering opportunities in the area. We also have a fully kitted out bus for promoting local community services which could attend at any volunteering events. Chair asked about a 'men shed' he has arranged one in March. The mobile community fridge could come here but it needs volunteers to run it. They collect food from all of the local supermarkets. He is keen to involve the Parishes and all are welcome to visit the site. Finally we have befriending clubs and at Christmas time we run a party and we are starting to organise this, we would like some volunteers if possible to help at the party.	
139/23	Confirmation of minutes - 4	RESOLVED – that the minutes of meeting held on 11 th July 2023 were correctly recorded and that they be signed as being a true record. Proposed: Cllr. Abbott; Seconded: Cllr. Hennen. All in favour.	
140/23	Fenland District Council - 5	Cllr Davis said that there is nothing relevant to Wimblington to report. All Councillors are currently attending many training courses.	
141/23	Cambridgeshire County Council - 6	Cllr Gowing did not attend.	
142/23	Clerks report - 7	Contractors confirmed on 13.7.2023 that the new street light column is fitted on Manea Rd/Frogs Abbey Lane corner and they are awaiting UKPN to connect the electricity supply. The new pole for the MVAS is now fitted on Eastwood End. New tap, cover and drain + concrete surround have now been fitted by handyman.	

		The overhanging brambles on March Rd near the bend adjacent to Lily Ave has been reported to highways again, the reply is that 'it is part of our planned maintenance programme, we will be carrying out work to address this issue this financial year. At this stage we cannot provide any further timescales or specific dates for this work to be carried out' Regarding Lily Ave footpath Cllr Gowing has contacted the correct person at Cambs CC and they continue to ask Mathew homes for the correct application/drawings. It seems that Mathew homes have not submitted plans for drainage from the footpath. Fenland District Council's enforcement officers are aware and may be able to commence enforcement, but this could include legal proceedings as Mathew homes have not completed their obligations within their planning consent. The paper bank in the car park is full, clerk had tried the number on the bin, but it doesn't work. Contacted FDC, they say that the contractor has closed down and they can't find another one to take the paper. This bin will be removed, so we won't have a paper bank. The external auditors report/certificate has been received with no questions, but one comment – 'The smaller authority should ensure that it has regard to the level of reserves held when considering future precept requests. Any earmarked reserves should be considered and formally approved by the smaller authority' Cambs CC have confirmed that our 2023/24 LHI bid has been successful and we should get road markings adjacent to the War Memorial playing field – although budgets have been restricted so some schemes may not come to fruition. Cambs CC tell us that works to install the yellow lines at Eastwood End are scheduled to start on 11 September 2023.	
143/23	Other Matters - 9	a) Parish Nature Recovery Plan: Further to minute 123/23c (July) and an email from FDC regarding restoring nature. At the last meeting Chair asked member to try to think of anyone who may be willing to help as the wider community needs to be involved. After discussion, decision is to keep asking for volunteers. Cllr Johnson attended the open day about it, there is a lot of information particularly for schools. They will go to allotments to give information and run a courses for residents which would include small scale bee keeping etc. They will come and install a hedge row and give advice on many topics. NHP will include questions in next questionnaire. Cllr Dent said that she will ask Street Pride volunteers for their help. After discussion carry forward to next agenda. b) Fens reservoir representatives Further to minute number 123/23g clerk had received a reply from the Fens reservoirs group saying that there is currently no specific timetable for arranged meetings, but they anticipate they'll be quarterly to allow for project developments to occur. Attendees are expected to attend all meetings and actively participate in discussion, representing the views of their community and to share these with the project team. An agenda will be provided to all invitees a week in advance of the meeting. After discussion Cllrs Harding, Abbott and Wright volunteered to be our representatives. c) Hedgehog highway project: Further to an email from hedghogsrus, information forwarded to Cllrs on 17.7.2023. They are asking Council to purchase a box of hedgehog highway surrounds. Each box of 50 is £150 and includes: 50 Hedgehog Highway surrounds & 50 information leaflets; A display box & window sticker showing you are part of the project. Ideas of how to benefit your community include: Donate the Highways and leaflets to your local school to educate in wildlife conservation; Swap the Highways for a donation of Hedgehog food which can then be given to your local Hedgehog Rescue Centre. After discussion resolved to Proposed: Cllr Seconded: Cllr. Next agenda d) Golden Age Fair: The hall has been booked for a Golden Age Fair, Chairman asked Councillors whether we could allow this to be a free booking for the community. After discussion resolved to allow free of charge. Proposed: Cllr. Davis Seconded: Cllr. Abbott e) Warm hubs: An email was forwarded to Cllrs on 31.7.2023 from Cambs ACRE which said that the Warm hubs initiative has now been extended to Fenland. We would need volunteers to man it to make tea and welcome older people into a warm room with free refreshments. This would also help to combat loneliness. After discussion resolved to see whether we could combine this with March's/Garry Christie's community fridge.	PA PA PA MD

144/23	Payments - 10		a) The members to consider the following: accounts for payment:				
			Payments		NET	VAT	£
			Salaries	*Including pension, tax & NI			2528.40
			FDC	Hall bin empty Jul - Oct			138.19
			FDC	Church bin empty Jul - Oct			138.19
			D&J supplies	3 bags cement Cemetery tap	20.00	4.00	24.00
			PKF Littlejohn	External audit	420.00	84.00	504.00
			EDF	Hall gas April – June	1433.76	71.69	1505.45
			EDF	Hall gas July	59.84	2.99	62.83
			Chadwick designs	Web hosting 2023/24	95.88	19.18	115.06
			Chadwick designs	Web site monitor update etc	120.00	24.00	144.00
			Southern electric	Street light electricity July	1655.52	8.73	174.25
			Graham’s bin clean	Hall bin clean July/Aug			25.00
			101/23d				

146/23	Planning - 12	Planning: the clerk reported that the following planning applications had been received for comment: a) CCC/23/015/FUL- Erection of toilet block, portacabin and outdoor chillers (with enclosures), extension of hardstanding for outside storage, extension of litter catch fencing and palisade, alterations to lighting and noise management scheme at existing plastics recycling facility (part retrospective) at Recyplas Limited, Hook Lane. – Cllr Johnson said - All green space has been dug up and is now concrete. It is questionable whether the gullies for overflow are there – the adjacent ditch seems to be full. 2 roll up doors are now installed without permission. 3 chillers are now installed without permission. There should have been 180 mm insulation and it is 45 mm. Noise management plan is t be looked at – there appears to be no foul drain from the toilet block. This will impact heavily on the 9 houses to be built as well as houses already in situ. This is a 24/7 working site. Is their exemption certificate still valid. Object. F/YR23/0647/F - Erect a single-storey side infill extension to existing dwelling at 3 Bridge Lane – no objections. b) Neighbourhood plan: Cllr Johnson said that we have now applied for the next round of funding. There will be a steering group meeting next week and another questionnaire will be sent out soon. We will include Nature recovery. We need to log green spaces, but there must be evidence as to why it should be a green space. We met with FDC this morning with good results and suggestions from them.
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147/23	Highway matters/Street lighting/ Transport - 13	a) Street lights reported: None. Thanks you to Cllr Johnson for reporting on the whole village street lights – ie whether column or bracket. b) street light 6 year test: Quote 1 -6 yearly test and inspect at £17.50 per light – 95 lights = £1662.50; Quote 2 - £18.23 for high level (brackets); £14.83 for low level (columns) – 95 lights = £1408.85 min; £1731.85 max. (quote not clear as divided into ‘high’ level and ‘low’ level) meaning access. Quote 3 - £1975.00 After discussion test all lights now – resolved to employ quote 1 Proposed: Cllr Hennen; Seconded: Cllr Johnson. c) Footpaths and highways issues: Missing footpath March Rd. - Cllr Davis found out that Matthew Homes had sent some technical drawings to CCC and they would not approve them for various reasons. It seems that there is some sort of stalemate situation. The latest info is that FDC will have to issue a Breach of Conditions notice (has to be FDC as local authority and not CCC even though it is CCC saying path cannot be done until Matthew Homes get new correct technical drawings). That Breach of Conditions notice will have to go before a magistrate who will decide if it is a breach and what has to be done. The breach of conditions hearing should be ok as it is clear that the path is needed on that bend and that is why it was included as a condition - and so we have to wait and see.	
148/23	War Memorial playing field - 14	a) Play eqpt: More information/quotes were forwarded to Cllrs on 31.7.2023. After discussion resolved to possibly go for quote from either Proludic or Playfitness. Council are prepared to spend up to £15,000 if it's possible to get matched funding. Clerk to try for discount, chair to try for funding. Proposed: Cllr. Wright Seconded: Cllr. Harding.	
149/23	Parkfield - 15	a) Written report – not received. Clerk reported that the trees which were overhanging the football pitch have now been cut back. b) Fencing: further to 2 tenders being forwarded to Cllr, resolved to employ quote 1. Proposed: Cllr Hennen; Seconded Cllr Best.	
150/23	Doddington Rd. Cemetery - 16	a) Nothing to report	
151/23	Parish Hall - 17	a) Spot lights: clerk asked whether we could install just 2 spot lights on the smaller side of the hall to light up a stage for future use? After discussions resolved not to install spot lights Proposed: Cllr. Davis Seconded: Cllr. Abbott. b) Freedom Jazz Orchestra: Further to a request to Cllr Abbot – email forwarded to Cllrs on 18.7.2023 – The Freedom Jazz Orchestra wondered whether they could use the hall free of charge once a month for practice and in return put on a concert twice a year – proceeds to the hall. 12 practices x 4.5 hours would cost them £702.00 in hall rent. 2 concerts if we sold 40 tickets at £4 would bring in £320.00. After discussion resolved not to agree. Proposed: Cllr. Davis Seconded: Cllr. Hennen	
152/23	Correspondence /other business -18	Cllr Dent asked whether Street Pride through FDC who are getting a grant to buy carts/wheelbarrows could store it in the shed. After discussion – yes it can live in the shed. Cllr Davis said that the tyres at the village entrance gates are looking a little tired. Cllr Best said that he will raise this at the next Street Pride meeting – he will report back at the next PC meeting. Cllr. Best said that the recent planning training he attended was very good and very informative.	
153/23	Date of next meeting - 20	Next meeting: Tuesday 12th September 2023 at 19.00 Meeting closed at: 21.06	

Appendix a*

Payments	Aug 2023	NET	VAT	£
Handyman	Handyman duties			496.37
Clerk	Clerk duties incl. home wkg all.			1031.32
Hall steward	Hall steward duties			125.10
Cleaner	Hall cleaning			180.61
Inland revenue	Staff tax & NI			354.64
LGSS	Clerks pension			340.36
Total				2528.40