

Minutes of the meeting of Wimblington Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th September 2023 at Wimblington Parish Hall, Addison Rd. Wimblington PE15 0QT, at 7.00 pm.

Present Mrs M T Davis (Chairman), Mrs P Amos (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer), Cllr. Clark; Cllr. Hennen; Cllr. Best; Cllr. Johnson; Cllr. Harding;
Mrs Moulton; Mrs Hart; Mrs Best; Mrs. Summers;

Number	Title & Agenda No		Action
154/23	Apologies for Absence - 1	Cllr. Wright; Cllr. Gowing; Cllr. Dent; Cllr. Abbott	
155/23	Absentees		
156/23	Chairs Additional items - 1a		
157/23	Declarations of interest - 2	i)declaration: None ii)written dispensation requests: There were none. iii)dispensation grants: There are none.	
158/23	Public Participation - 3	Mrs Best thanked the PC for the new bench on the mound.	
159/23	Confirmation of minutes - 4	RESOLVED – that the minutes of meeting held on 8 th August 2023 were correctly recorded and that they be signed as being a true record. Proposed: Cllr. Best ; Seconded: Cllr. Johnson. All in favour.	
160/23	Fenland District Council - 5	Cllr Davis said that there is nothing new to report relevant to the Parish. There has been a hiccup with the school bus service to Cromwell College as there are more passengers over 16 who have to get to Cromwell from the village, it has been full due to March children using it. We now have a bigger bus.	
161/23	Cambridgeshire County Council - 6	Cllr Gowing could not attend	
162/23	Clerks report - 7	Clerk has been informed by Cambs CC that the double yellow lines to be installed at Eastwood End has been pushed back to start on 16th October rather than the September date we were given, due to pressure of other works. Clerk has received notification from Lloyds bank that they will now be closing on 28th May 2024 instead of this October to allow time for a new deposit facility to be arranged. Regarding the unlawful removal of a hedge on Blue Lane the District enforcement officer has advised that extensive enquiries were made by both themselves and the Police, into who was responsible for its removal. Unfortunately, so far this has been unsuccessful. The Police have now confirmed that due to lack of any evidence at all – no CCTV, no witness; the investigation has had to be filed until further lines of enquiry come to light. They are sure that someone knows who removed it but possibly being a close-knit community no one is saying, in any event the landowner will be advised that the hedge will need to be reinstated in the next growing season. Fenland Reservoirs Project team have advised the clerk that they will soon begin overhead land surveys, carried out by drone. The drones will be undertaking a topographical survey of the land, as well as looking for possible archaeological features. The anticipated start date is 11 September 2023 and will take approximately two weeks. The drone will be operated between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Friday; however, this is dependent on light and weather conditions. Email from Cambs CC forwarded to Cllrs on 11.9.2023 regarding their change in policy for weed spraying, in short they stopped weed spraying to help the environment and reduce costs. However they realise that they should have consulted with Town and Parish Councils (and clearly they should include District Councils but haven't!) first and will do so going forward. If we find that we have a weed problem anywhere it is to be reported via their online portal and they will assess it. They will be sending out a survey to find out the effect of the change in policy. See 163/23d below. The Rural Crime Action Team (RCAT) will be holding a meet and greet event on Friday 22 September from 10am - 2pm to highlight how you can help them towards a safer Cambridgeshire. The event will be held at Harvest Barn Farm shop in Farcet (PE7 3DR) Chairman reported regarding the nitrous oxide cylinders being dumped on Blue lane. The Police have tried to monitor it but as it's open country they can be seen coming, so have not been successful in catching anyone.	

		Cllr Johnson said that a resident reported to her that Eastwood End has been weed/chemical sprayed. Clerk said that we do not have Eastwood End sprayed, she will forward photo's to clerk to enquire. (subsequently established that a leaf blower was being used and definitely no weed spraying had been done)	
163/23	Other Matters - 9	a) Parish Nature recovery plan. It is now included in the NHP questionnaire. b) Hedgehog highways 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 make a donation towards food of £200.00 Proposed: Cllr. Harding Seconded: Cllr. Hennen. c) Pension: Email form provided forwarded to Cllrs on 29.8.2023 & 8.9.2023. We have asked for the first tier of information – forwarded to Cllrs on 8.9.2023. It appears that there should be enough money in the fund (168%) to maintain the 2 pensions should the Council opt out of this scheme. Should Council wish to take the next step – to pay an actuary to establish whether there would be a shortfall when Council would have to pay an unspecified amount to make the fund good - will cost between £3.5-5.5 thousand pounds. Clerk has asked to speak to our 'Hymans Robertson LLP consultant' of which we were not aware until receiving the first document. After discussion resolved to carry on once we have spoken to the consultant if they think there is enough to keep it going. Proposed: Cllr. Best Seconded: Cllr Clark. d) Cambs CC Weed policy: Further to an email received and forwarded to Cllrs on 21.8.2023, our County Councillor has asked whether we would sign and back a petition to Cambs CC to change their new 'weeds' policy, which does not have roadside weeds sprayed and is believed to be a cause of many potholes on our roads. After discussion resolved to support the petition all in favour by show of hands.	PA PA PA

164/23	Payments - 10	a) The members to consider the following: accounts for payment:					
		Payments		NET	VAT	£	
		Salaries	*Including pension, tax & NI			2528.40	
		Idverde	Grass cutting June	584.47	116.89	701.36	
		Idverde	Grass cutting July	584.47	116.89	701.36	
		Swift Fire	Annual alarm monitoring	365.00	73.00	438.00	
		Surveymonkey #	NHP renewal			420.00	
	130/23a	Fenland Metallica	Refurbish Cemetery gates	1460.00	292.00	1752.00	
		Idverde	Grass cutting Aug	584.47	116.89	701.36	
	See171/23a	Edf	Hall gas July – Aug	59.59	2.98	62.57	
		Hallmaster	Annual fee	135.00	27.00	162.00	
		Southern electric	Street light electricity August	317.40	17.60	335.00	
		Wave	Hall water June – Aug			94.40	
		Wave	Pavilion water June – Aug			16.56	
		Wave	Cemetery water June – Aug			112.73	
		TKH PAT testing	Hall PAT testing	68.00	13.60	81.60	
		Edf	Pavilion electricity April-July	21.81	1.09	22.90	
		101/23d	Invoices paid by Barclaycard				
			Giff gaff	Pavilion data	10.00	2.00	12.00
			The display Centre	Hall leaflet holders	61.35	12.27	73.62
		One connection Ltd	MHP ink carts	42.75	8.55	51.30	

		*See appendix a for salary breakdown  = Previously approved by Chairman or at previous meeting All payments to be made - Proposed: Cllr. Davis Seconded: Cllr. Johnson, all in favour. Whilst a Finance report was not on the agenda, clerk advised that at 31st July funds of £2198.38 were held in the Treasurers acc.; £107,512.82 in the Business acc. And £85,730.97 in the NatWest acc. To date an income of £63,150.00 has been recorded with expenditure of £36,577, summary report forwarded to Cllrs on 12.9.2023. # See NHP report	
165/23	Risk Management/ Policies & Procedures - 11	a) To review policies/procedures: Grievance Policy & Procedure forwarded to Cllrs. on 9.8.2023 2023. After discussion resolved to accept as read. Proposed: Cllr. Best Seconded: Cllr. Harding	
166/23	Planning - 12	Planning: the clerk reported that the following planning applications had been received for comment: a) F/YR23/0206/F - Erect 48 dwellings involving demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings at Land North Of Stoneleigh 22A Eaton Estate – revised plans – object - b) Neighbourhood plan: Cllr. Johnson said that the grant is through and a final questionnaire is being prepared, this just before everything goes to the consultant for the draft MHP to be written. AEOCOM will give a site viability advice. Spoke to FDC re non-designated heritage assets and he was impressed with the amount of photos and information have for Wimblington. We need to sort out criteria's. Cllr Davis would like to simplify the draft questionnaire. c) SurveyMonkey: Cllr Johnson said that the grant for this year has now been received, so no help with payments will be needed. Cllr Davis reported that FDC have advised that the Rural Exception Site - Land Adjacent 47 Doddington Road has now had the plans submitted for it. The application is awaiting validation by the planners but hopefully it won't be too long before it is allocated a reference number and appears on the portal.	PA MD AJ
167/23	Highway matters/Street lighting/ Transport - 13	a) Street lights reported: None. Cllr Davis said that Doddington PC are actively looking to increase the power/splay of the lights. b) street light 6 year test: Clerk has contacted the preferred contractor, work will commence starting tomorrow 13.9.2023. c) Footpaths and highways issues: None d) LHI bid 2024/25: An email has been received from Cambs CC advising that the next round of LHI bids for 2024/25 will open late Autumn. Chairman asked Cllrs for their options. Cllr. Davis has been asked by a resident whether we could have a yellow lined box in front of Sisco's garage on Doddington Rd.; Cllr. Johnson has balloted Eastwood End to see whether residents would like the road to be reduced to 30 mph. and the road is poorly maintained. After discussion resolved to apply for a resolution outside Sisco's garage, whatever that may be with help from highways. Proposed: Cllr. Davis; Seconded: Cllr. Harding; Ask Joshua Rutherford for help to reduce speed on the Hook and what the red line is on 16 Foot Rd.	PA
168/23	War Memorial playing field - 14	a) Play eqpt: After discussion resolved to purchase form Playfitness as long as the price does not increase. b) New/old bench: Quote received and forwarded to Cllrs on 4.8.2023 - £200.00 to sand blast and powder coat the old metal bench which was on the mound, to re-site in the WMPF. After discussion resolved to approve. Proposed: Cllr. Johnson Seconded: Cllr. Hennen c) Graffiti: We now have a second quote. The first quote was £900.00. He would also work with local children at a price of £1300. Second quote is £2000.00. The first quote is for the painting and to involve local youths. The second quote includes 2 evening sessions with local kids and then a day painting with the kids with 5 support/youth workers helping (all DBS	PA

		checked for both suppliers). After discussion resolved to engage quote 1. Proposed: Cllr. Davis; Seconded: Cllr. Best Re-send school email.	PA
169/23	Parkfield - 15	a) Written report: Not received Clerk has been advised that planning has been approved for the extension to the club house/changing facilities, although it seems that the football association have asked for slightly bigger changing rooms, so they may have to apply for an amendment.	
170/23	Doddington Rd. Cemetery - 16	Clerk reported that the re-painted gates are now back in-situ. But pointed out that the promised 'burnishing of the finials may not have been done -Ask company about the burnishing and right hand post.	PA
171/23	Parish Hall - 17	a) Hallmaster: Our annual fee is due on 1 st October, it will cost £135.00 net (this includes a £10 discount as we are ACRE members) for the following year, do Cllrs wish to continue with this facility? After discussion resolved to continue. Proposed: Cllr. Clark Seconded: Cllr Hennen. b) Regular bookings: clerk has this week taken a hall booking from Cambs & P'boro NHS for Pulmonary/breathing classes, this is for 1.5 days a week, but on occasion a class won't run if they are told at the last minute that users cannot attend. To this end they have asked whether they could have a key so that no one is inconvenienced if they don't arrive, they would still pay for the hall. After discussion resolved not to give them their own key. Proposed: Cllr. Davis. Seconded: Cllr. Best As the gas contract for the hall ends in November to give enough notice time Cllrs were forwarded quotes for a new contract on 11.9.2023. After discussion clerk to advise SSE that we wish to take out a contract with them for 24 months. Next agenda for formal resolution. Contact citizens advice as March people are still coming and last week were seen by the stand in. New people must be told Wimblington rules.	PA PA PA
172/23	Correspondence /other business -18	After the agenda was advertised, clerk was contacted by FACT mobile community fridge who have agreed to bring the 'community fridge' to the hall every Friday morning and we would, with the 13 volunteers already signed up, provide a 'warm hub' with a free tea or coffee. Whilst this is not on this months agenda, it was discussed last month and all were in agreement. Monday choir to be closed down due to lack of numbers – some members will join the Chatteris choir with C Hennen taking over as their choir master. Cllr Johnson has been asked to raise points re Knowles planning application – 2 reports have gone onto the portal re highways and flooding. Highways – report is that articulated lorries are using the site but we were told that only tipper lorries would use the site. Re flooding – Curf and Wimblington drainage board have said that they do not have to respond but on this occasion they will be sending a detailed report.	
173/23	Date of next meeting - 20	Next meeting: Tuesday 10 th October 2023 at 19.00 Meeting closed at: 20.45	

Appendix a*

Payments	September 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