

Minutes of the meeting of Wimblington Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th December 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. Abbott; Cllr. Harding; Cllr. Dent; Cllr Gowing & 3 members of the public

Number	Title & Agenda No		Action
194/23	Apologies for Absence - 1	Cllr Johnson (holiday); Cllr Clark (work) ; Cllr Best (Covid)	
195/23	Absentees	None	
196/23	Chairs Additional items - 1a	The Chairman to report additional items for consideration, which the Chairman deems urgent by virtue of the special circumstances to be now specified: Cllr Davis advised the meeting that Cllr Wright has now resigned due to work commitments. The usual notice has been displayed as advised by FDC elections.	
197/23	Declarations of interest - 2	i)declaration: ii)written dispensation requests: There were none. iii)dispensation grants: There are none.	
198/23	Public Participation - 3	None	
199/23	Confirmation of minutes - 4	RESOLVED – that the minutes of meeting held on 14 th November 2023 were correctly recorded and that they be signed as being a true record. Proposed: Cllr. Abbott; Seconded: Cllr. Dent All in favour.	
200/23	Fenland District Council - 5	Cllr Davis reported that There was a full Council meeting yesterday with an independent remuneration panel sitting to advise on Councillor remunerations. FDC have the lowest paid Cllrs. in the area and they must accept their findings. There is a drive from County Council about not eating meat and moving to a plant based diet. Motion was that Council will try to buy from local outlets/farmers first.	
201/23	Cambridgeshire County Council - 6	Cllr Gowing reported that CCC had full council meeting today there was a motion about the state of the roads/repairs. Opposition wanted to prioritise the repairs in regards to the amount of traffic on each road. They were advised that rural roads have different traffic – lots of heavy goods and tractors so they will look at it again. Nothing was mentioned about Bus routes. Last question was about the designated monies for transport which was to go to students, which could be counterproductive as there are few buses for them to use. Manea Fire station will be discussed shortly at the Fire Authority agenda. He met with Steve Barclay about the underpass at Stonea where a Land Rover had recently got stuck.	
202/23	Clerks report - 7	Clerk has been advised that Cambs County Council are starting a 2 year project to replace all of their street lights with LED.	
203/23	Other Matters - 9	a) Parish Nature recovery plan: To be addressed when volunteers come forward. b) Manea Fire Station closure: Further to a letter (emailed, forwarded to Cllrs 22.11.2023) received from Manea Parish Council, they would like our support in trying to stop the closure of Manea Fire Station. They ask whether we would make representation to Cambridgeshire Fire Authority and our MP Steve Barclay. The proposed closure of Manea Fire Station would have a severe implication for the operation of Chatteris Fire Station who would be expected to provide cover for Manea; however, Chatteris Fire Station will be expected to cover for Sutton, Ely and March in the event of a major incident, this would leave both Chatteris, Manea, Doddington, Wimblington, Christchurch and Benwick without emergency cover. After discussion resolved to write to Cambridgeshire Fire Authority and Steve Barclay stating our concerns around any closure of Manea fire station. Proposed: Cllr. Harding. Seconded: Cllr. Dent. c) Defibrillators: Further to an email received by the chairman, it seems that there is a Government scheme to match fund defibs' and cabinets at cost of £750.00 incl P&P for both items. They must be fitted within 4 weeks of receipt. After discussion resolved to ask Eastwood Hall whether they would site one and/or purchase one and fit at the top of 5b and move when a different site is found. Proposed: Cllr. Hennen Seconded: Cllr. Abbott. d) MVAS: Further to an offer email received from Elan City, for either battery or solar MVAS at cost of £1799.00, clerk asked whether we want another solar powered MVAS anywhere? After discussion resolved to purchase 2, one for Stonea, one for Eastwood End. Proposed: Cllr. Hennen. Seconded: Cllr. Abbott. e) Staff: moved to the end of the meeting – Staff salaries etc. Staff were asked to leave the meeting.	PA MD PA PA

		Clerk had forwarded a table showing various staff wages increases. Those on basic wage is prescribed by Government as increasing by 9.8% to £11.44 per hour. f) Re-cycling credit: Clerk reported that for the first time in many years we have received an amount of £159.55 recycling credits. After discussion resolved to gift to PTFA at Thomas Eaton school. Proposed: Cllr Abbott. Seconded: Cllr Harding. g) Air pollution: Further to an email received from FDC , forwarded to Cllrs on 4.12.2023, do Councillors want any area in Wimblington tested for air pollution? After discussion resolved to ask for Eastwood End & if possible 16 foot at Honey Farm bends to be tested. Proposed: Cllr. Hennen. Seconded: Cllr. Abbott. h) Cambs ACRE: Membership renewal is now due – cost is £60.00 for the year. After discussion resolved to re-join. Proposed: Cllr. Dent. Seconded: Cllr. Abbott. j) Pension scheme: clerk has heard back from the Pension fund we can exit from this fund from 31st January 2024. After discussion resolved to exit Cambridgeshire pension fund as from 31st January 2024 – see previous minutes for resolution to cease member ship of the fund	PA PA
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204/23	Payments - 10	a) The members to consider the following: accounts for payment:				
		Payments		NET	VAT	£
		Salaries	*Including pension, tax & NI			2518.40
		D Biggs	PAT test festoons	166.67	33.33	200.00
		CAB	Outreach session Jul-Sept			165.00
		13-12 Ltd t/as Grahams bins	Hall bin clean Oct-Nov			25.00
		I Cooper	Interim audit 6 month check			125.00
		Idverde	Grass cutting Nov	584.47	116.89	701.36
		Generis Security	6 month CCTV/alarm service & clean	217.00	43.40	260.40
		Fenwinds	Replace hall broken roof tile	45.00	9.00	54.00
		Data shredders	Shred confidential archive	3.56	0.71	4.27
		Southern electric	Street light electricity Oct	297.18	16.56	313.74
		Wave	Cemetery water Sept-Dec			64.47
		Wave	Hall water Sept-Dec			93.91
		Wave	Pavilion water Sept-Dec			19.96
		A Muskett	Street light investigation	120.00	24.00	144.00
		Invoices paid by Barclaycard				
		Giff gaff	Pavilion data	10.00	2.00	12.00
		*See appendix a for salary breakdown				
		= Previously approved by Chairman or at previous meeting				
		All payments to be made - Proposed: Cllr. Abbott Seconded: Cllr. Dent all in favour.				
		Finance report: Clerk advised that recorded to date is: Income £113,882, outgoings of £72,525.00 leaving a balance of £179,408.00				
204/23b	Precept /Budget for 2024/5	Further to a finance committee meeting held on 11 th December proposed budget had been forwarded to Cllrs on 12.12.2023. After discussion resolved to accept it as read. There will be no increase in our precept, so it will stay as last year at £67,168.00. Proposed: Cllr. Harding; Seconded: Cllr. Dent.				
205/23	Risk Management/	a) To review policies/procedures: Tree Policy forwarded to Cllrs. on. 15.11.2023. After discussion resolved to approve as read. Proposed: Cllr. Dent Seconded: Cllr. Harding.				
		PA				

	Policies & Procedures - 11		
206/23	Planning - 12	Planning: the clerk reported that the following planning applications had been received for comment: a) F/YR23/0986/TRTPO Felling of 1no Lime tree covered by TPO M/2/465/17 at 3 Chapel Lane – object as it is a healthy tree. b) Neighbourhood plan: Cllr Johnson could not attend c) AECOM report: carry forward to next meeting.	PA
207/23	Highway matters/Street lighting/Transport - 13	a) Street lights reported: WPC 090 Norfolk St/King St/Eaton Est & O/S Ray Ct. Clerk has reported these to maintenance. Clerk asked whether any future replacements should be the same as the ones recently installed on Church Lane which give a greater splay and greater light – cost currently is £318.00 net. After discussion resolved to replace with the greater splay lights as and when lights fail. Proposed: Cllr Dent. Seconded: Cllr. Abbott. Also, quote to re-connect the Manea Rd knockdown light was forwarded to Cllrs on 6.12.2023. Cost is £2564.00 net. Unfortunately the insurance company could not find the driver of the vehicle which knocked down the light even with the crime reference number. after discussion resolved to commence with the reconnection. Proposed: Cllr. Hennen Seconded: Cllr. Dent. b) Footpaths and highways issues: Further to the onsite meeting with Bellways, they do not object to moving the bus stop and could see why we object to the position – it is dangerous at this point – but it has been approved by Cambs CC – Chairman has been in contact and agreed that CCC request Bellways to conduct an independent road safety audit regarding the siting of the bus stop, as we are so concerned about the safety of its positioning. This has already been done and they are happy with its position! Cllr. Davis met with CCC highways and County officers n Hook Rd. where the road is collapsing due to a failed pipe under the road. CCC highways say that the pipe does not belong to them, we have asked who it belongs to but they don't know. CCC suggested the pipe must have been installed before the road! . CCC will contact the owners of the land on the other side of the ditch, and the owners of the land immediately adjacent to Rhonda Park. CCC will also contact Rhonda Park residents. If the ditches were properly cleared and the lower ditch cleared then the ditch would not fill and overflow.. However the road still needs repair. Many lorries use this road and we believe that there will be a serious accident if the road is not repaired. Cllr Davis will advise when she hears back. Cllr Harding said that there has been an abandoned burned out car which has melted 2 of the reflectors. Just past the bends towards the Chatteris end. Cllr Davis will attend Regarding the salt bin for Horsemoor Rd: cost of £140.00 from CCC was advised to Cllrs on 6.12.2023 After discussion resolved to purchase the bin at cost of £140.00– Proposed Cllr Hennen seconded Cllr Dent. Cllr Davis has asked the Police about the fires on the travellers site. c) Street light maintenance: Clerk asked whether we should add our recent contractor Andy Muskett, who did the street light cleaning/test, to our contractors list for ongoing general maintenance and ask Cable test for knock downs? Andy Muskett is much quicker in responding to requests. After discussion resolved to do as above. Proposed: Cllr. Dent Seconded: Cllr. Abbott. Cllr Gowing said that there is a 'one network' app which advises of road closures. Clerk advised that the speed survey on Hook Rd has been requested and the company have applied to Cambs CC for the permit, which apparently can take approximately 6 weeks to come through. Once the permit arrives they will be back in touch to finalise the position.	PA MD
208/23	War Memorial playing field - 14	a) Security CCTV: Cllr Clark could not attend. Cllr Dent said that all is well now despite the heavy rain. The mural should be started tomorrow weather permitting. Clerk to ask Generis about a zoom lens on the current cameras.	PA
209/23	Parkfield - 15	Cllr Dent said that all is Ok there. The first carvery went well with a second one planned for next month.	
210/23	Doddington Rd. Cemetery - 16	a) Payment for plot: A resident has enquired about purchasing a burial plot and wants to know whether we would accept 4 stage payments. The total cost for the Exclusive Rights of Burial only is currently £772.00. They would have the payments completed before the end of this financial year. After discussion resolved not to commence with a part payment system. Proposed: Cllr. Abbott Seconded: Cllr. Harding.	

211/23	Parish Hall - 17	a) Air Con unit repair: Clerk to get a third/fourth quote and re-contact the first 2 quoting companies. b) Electricity supply: The hall electricity contract ends on 31.1.2024. Clerk to get cheapest quotes. Proposed Cllr Dent. Cllr Abbott.	PA PA
212/23	Correspondence /other business -18	A letter of thanks for the donation of £250.00 has been received from East Anglian Children's hospices. Cllr Dent said that the events group will hold an AGM on 10th January 2024. The Summer show may continue. Liz Wright wishes to run the Summer show in future, but the committee will allow 1 year for this to happen. The events group will hold the bank balance for 1 year after which, if the Summer show does not continue they will be gifted the money and they may be able in a years' time to hold the event themselves. Most of the original Summer Show committee have resigned. Cllr Davis extended grateful thanks to the events committee for such a lovely switch on.	
213/23	Confidential items comprising exempt information, members of the public asked to leave the meeting:	Confidential items comprising exempt information, members of the public asked to leave the meeting: To exclude the public (including the press) from a meeting of a committee it is necessary for the following proposition to be moved and adopted: "that the public be excluded from the meeting for items which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph 1 of Part 1 of the Schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) as indicated Proposed Cllr. Abbott : Seconded: Cllr. Harding. Staff were asked to leave the meeting: Pay for 2024/25 as set out in document forwarded to the chairman on 24.11.2023. Those staff on Governments minimum wage will increase by 9.8% to £11.44 from £10.42. Various options had been forwarded. Cllr Davis excused herself from the debate and decision re the clerk due to their personal friendship. Councillors expressed concern about the effect of the increase in the basic wage and the erosion of differential which would occur with other staff salaries. After discussion resolved to increase all staff wages by 9.8% After discussion resolved to award 9.8% to all staff. Proposed: Cllr. Dent Seconded: Cllr. Abbott Clerk had asked whether any staff vouchers, volunteer (Mr & Mrs Harnett) gift and wine for those residents who personally pay for the Defibrillator cabinet electricity should receive a gesture. After discussion resolved to give bottle of wine to Defib cabinet holders; Port and cheese to Mr & Mrs Harnett with vouchers for staff – 3 x £20.00, 2 x £30.00. Proposed: Cllr. Hennen; Seconded: Cllr. Abbott	
214/23	Date of next meeting - 20	Next meeting: Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 19.00 Meeting closed at: 20.55	

Appendix a*

Payments	December 2023	NET	VAT	£
Handyman	Handyman duties			486.37
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				2518.40