

Minutes of the meeting of Wimblington Parish Council held on Tuesday 13th February 2024 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. Dent Cllr. Abbott; Cllr. Best; Cllr Johnson;
Cllr John Gowing; Cllr. 14 members of the public.

Number	Title & Agenda No		Action
021/30	Apologies for Absence - 1	Cllr Harding.	
022/31	Absentees	None	
023/32	Chairs Additional items - 1a	Cllr Davis welcomed our newly co-opted Cllr – Cllr. Campbell.	
024/33	Declarations of interest - 2	i)declaration: Cllr Best re F/YR24/0051/F; ii)written dispensation requests: There were none. iii)dispensation grants: There are none.	
025/34	Public Participation - 3	Mr Dubois said he lives in the thatched cottage behind which planning application F/YR24/0051/F is for . There are 2 sticking points – 1st is access and the second is that 3 of the proposed properties border on to this heritage asset site which is a grade 2 listed. The building so is not allowed to have double glazing and it has plaster board walls, is partly timber framed and clad, all of which gives Mr Dubois cause for concern. There is also a considerable flooding risk to no 29 Norfolk St and a previous application has been rejected on those grounds. Access via Morley Way would cause a huge upheaval, the cul-de-sac would be lost and the grass area which is used regularly by dog walkers and children would be a dangerous area and at risk of being heavily disrupted by building traffic. The conservation officer has been invited to visit the listed property to formulate any objections due it's affect on a heritage site. In connection with the green space, the original plan of Morley Way has a strong emphasis on providing a green space, but it also acts as a buffer between the historic part of the village and the developed part of the village. Design codes says when considering heritage buildings soft planting and landscaping must be taken into consideration, so this area must be preserved. Mr Spear said he lives on Dolby Close and uses the grass field for dog walking and it is used by children to play. Construction traffic would make this a dangerous area and when there are cars parked on the road the excess traffic will cause a lot of stress to residents particularly the older residents. The mud etc will cause havoc. The H&S risk via the footpath is high and it would be an accident waiting to happen. The entry and exit via Morley Way would be disastrous. As Mr Dubois said any listed property would suffer greatly. There are already many developments in the village and we don't need another shoehorned development in the village. Terry Haynes lives in Woodysfield – The traffic problem would be difficult, when previous developments were given permission we have been told that there would be little extra traffic, which is just not true. As this development would be bungalows there would still be a lot of extra traffic, even if the buyers were older. The access is too small and will cause a major accident. This is a village which is becoming a town if we carry on at this rate of development and some people are moving out because of the developments. This one is not wanted by residents. Jeff said he also lives in Woodysfield and uses the green area behind his house, this is the only area in the village where dogs are allowed to roam. Being from Trumpington he has seen how places can grow out of control. Having lived here for 7 years he has still not been able to get a doctor's appointment, we need it to stay as a village. Mrs. Kahan lives right next to the proposed entrance to this development and there are already a number of public service vehicles using the road, if construction traffic is added the road will be unusable. Every day there are more and more vehicles in the road. The turning point road surface is already breaking up due to the number of cars using it. This is not a suitable access and will be awful for residents. Cllr Davis advised each of the objectors to lodge a written objection to FDC. This may cause the application to be sent to the planning committee, where residents can go and speak against it, along with Parish Council. Mrs Kahan said that she would take many residents' letters to planning.	

		Mrs Summers said representing the Willows garden development residents where there is an application in for 3 further houses with access via Willow Gardens: Parish Council have objected to the application for a further 3 houses and the plan show that the width of the driveway to these 3 is too narrow, the suggestion is that if it is not changed then Willow Gardens may not be adopted. If that were to happen then Willow Gardens would become a private road, which is not what current residents expected when they bought their houses and could amount to a huge added monetary investment which people just cannot afford. Cllr Davis said that now that you have raised this issue, even though Parish Council have already commented we can go back to FDC and comment again, given that there is new information. Mrs Summers said that if it becomes a private road then residents would become liable for roads and drains and current residents did not buy their houses with this over their heads. Parish Council will now comment again to planning against this application.	
026/35	Confirmation of minutes - 4	RESOLVED – that the minutes of meeting held on 9 th January 2024 were correctly recorded and that they be signed as being a true record. Proposed: Cllr. Best ; Seconded: Cllr. Johnson All in favour.	
027/36	Fenland District Council - 5	Cllr Davis reported that there is nothing relevant to the village happening at District council.	
028/37	Cambridgeshire County Council - 6	Cllr Gowing reported that today was a full County Council meeting. The alliance will spend some money on highways, the amendment suggested was to improve roads. Workhouse drove resident, which is a byway, contacted him. As her car is not working, she contacted the community car scheme, who refused to go down the drove due its state. The ROW officer will look at it and Cllr Gowing asked to attend his inspection– Cllr Davis asked for details of the resident to see if she can help. Manea meeting re the Fire station closure, there were 2 officers from the Fire Authority – Cllr Gowing was not consulted beforehand, basically Fire Authority will go ahead with the closure, the problem being that there are not enough local staff to man the Fire Station. They need more volunteers who could be available during the day. Cllr Davis asked whether he knows about the proposed reduction of fire crews form 5 to 3. They now want to have 3 on site to attend immediately, during which time the other 2 people would be called to attend. These people are often 1st responders and do not always go out to a fire. Cllr Davis said that we have already written a letter to the authority asking them not to close Manea Fire Station, is there anything else that we can do ?– hold on to see the outcome of the consultation – he will report back. He has a meeting at Stonea underpass with Cllr Davis and others to discuss what might be done to make this safer. Highways are now saying that the residents would suffer and might not be able to get out of their driveway if it were closed.	MD
029/38	Clerks report - 7	Clerk had attended online training from CAPALC entitled ‘Addressing the Biodiversity crisis for Town and Parish Councils’ as a recent email from them showed that ‘local councils have a duty from January 2024 to help tackle the growing biodiversity crisis’ Information to be saved – slides forwarded to Cllrs on 23.1.2024 2 new ‘wet floor’ signs have been purchased and are in the broom cupboard for whenever there is a spillage in the hall. The defibrillator at the Anchor was used over the week-end of 21/22nd so our spare pads have been attached. We have received a grant from FDC heritage & culture fund, to pay for the graffiti at the WMPF Clerk & Cllr Johnson had completed the interim Fire Safety check on 2.2.2024.	
030/39	Other Matters - 8	a) Parish Nature recovery plan: To be addressed when volunteers come forward. b) Biodiversity statement: Further to information received by the clerk, Parish Council’s, from January 2024 - Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006); and The Environmental Targets (Biodiversity) (England) Regulations 2023 - now have a duty to consider what action they can properly take to further the ‘general biodiversity objective’, which is the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in England. Clerk had forwarded a draft Biodiversity statement to Cllrs on 18.1.2024 for consideration and as a pre-cursor to a policy yet to be formulated. After discussion resolved to adopt the statement as read. Proposed: Cllr Dent. Seconded: Cllr. Best. Clerk had also drafted a bio-diversity policy which needs to align with our Neighbourhood plan. The first draft was forwarded to Cllrs on 31.1.2024. For discussion at March meeting.	

031/40	Payments - 9	a) The members to consider the following: accounts for payment:																																																																																	
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		was lodged, we can now go back and object again with further information. (Subsequent to the meeting the application was withdrawn) b) Neighbourhood plan: Cllr Johnson said that our first NHP version 1 draft has been received from the consultant and we now need to input extra information, namely: History open spaces, green spaces, non-listed heritage buildings with photos. Re public rights of way, we have applied to register some which are used but not listed, hopefully our application will be approved and these footpaths will be added to the ROW definitive map. The footpath around Knowles yard may be moved if approval is granted by CCC. We have asked CCC who will keep ROW open and ensure that the signage is correct. We have to add reasons why we would like some places as green or open spaces. c) AECOM report: Further to the report being available to all residents for the last 3 months, Cllr Johnson proposed that the report be adopted by Wimblington Parish Council. After discussion resolved to adopt the report Seconded: Cllr. Best. All in favour by show of hands.	MD AJ PA
034/43	Highway matters/Street lighting/Transport – 12	a) Street lights reported: b) Footpaths and highways issues: the 2 new MVAS have arrived, one to be fitted on Eastwood End as per June 2023 meeting resolution. Clerk asked if there were any other roads which Cllrs felt were speeding hot spots? After discussion resolved to site the second new MVAS when Cllrs have looked around the village and given more thought to need – clerk to ask highways to approve and install a pole for it. Cllr Abbott said that Bellways have mended the broken footpath but there is now a large hole on March Rd/Bridge Lane corner caused by the lorries. Cllr Dent said that the corner of the path opposite the Bellways development is very muddy and a Street Pride volunteer almost slipped over due to the mud. Cllr Johnson said that the Hook Rd hole has now dropped again. Cllr Davis said that CCC have now said that the broken pipe under the road is theirs. They have completed a temporary repair and have applied for a road closure to complete a repair by putting in a new pipe and re-surfacing the road, they will also sand bank the sides of the ditches. They have written to the Rhonda Park residents and the owner of the land opposite for both ditches to be unblocked, if they are not they will be taken to court. Notice was received today that Sixteen foot bank, Manea Rd. Wimblington and Wimblington Rd Manea, will be closed at various times, between 07.30 and 18.30. The work should be done between 1st and 5th March although the accompanying letter says ‘The proposed Order will come into operation on 1 March 2024 and will continue until these works have finished or on the 31 August 2025 whichever is the earlier’	PA
035/44	War Memorial playing field – 13	Cllr Dent said that the ground is very wet, especially at the bottom of the field.	
036/45	Parkfield - 14	‘Business at Pub in the Park remains steady, with various events for the local community along with the continuation of their successful Bingo and Quiz nights. They have added a monthly Sunday carvery hosted by Gemma at Glam Grazing plus a monthly karaoke evening, which are proving to be successful additions. The weather has hampered their sporting fixtures with many games having to be cancelled or postponed, due to a waterlogged pitch. The 3G pitch utilisation has increased to 40% as they continually look to get more traction from local clubs or private bookings. They have also seen an increase in bookings for wakes, for not just local parish funerals but also from March crematorium. They have a meeting this month with Sports England regarding the planned extension and grant. So that this can be in the hands of the Parkfield committee and not the late Mr Jolley. The last committee meeting was held on 16th January 2024 and their current committee of volunteers consists of the following: Mr Steve Durdant-Hollamby – Chairman Mr Rob Grant – Vice Chairman Plus committee members: Mr M. Sheeran, Mrs S. Lenson, Mrs C. Dawson Cllr Abbot said that the metal fence has a broken bar which needs to be repaired Cllr Dent will report to management.	JD
037/46	Doddington Rd. Cemetery – 15	All is well	

038/47	Parish Hall - 16	a) Water supplier/contract: Further to quotes received and forwarded to Cllrs on 8.1.2024, Quote shows that by moving to Everflow we could save £39.99 pa, which is the difference in admin charges between Anglian water and Everflow. After discussion resolved to stay with Anglian Water Proposed: Cllr Johnson; Seconded: Cllr Dent b) Air con servicing: Further to minute number 018/24a clerk had arranged the air con repair and asked them their cost for servicing. It is approximately £90.00 cheaper than the company who fitted the units and they respond much quicker, clerk asked whether we can in future ask them to complete the servicing. After discussion resolved to agree to this Proposed: Cllr Abbott Seconded: Cllr. Hennen. c) Interim Fire Safety check: Further to Cllr Johnson and the clerk completing an interim fire safety check, this has raised questions posed by Cllr Hennen who completes the weekly fire alarm check. The form found through CAPALC and Worknest has various categories which may or may not be relevant to us. Cllrs Johnson and Hennen to get together to sort out form d) hall tables: As most of the ladies who volunteer to man the Community Living Room are struggling to be able to put the tables away and our men volunteers can't always get back for closing down. The Chairman reminded Councillors that most events in the Parish Hall are organised and run by older residents of the village. The chairman had asked clerk to try to find some tables which are lighter and easier to collapse than the ones we have. Details of various tables forwarded to Cllrs on 7.2.2024, but only one of the options will fit into the storage cupboard. 12 of these tables would cost £2676.40 net including carriage. They weight 2.5kg lighter than our current tables and have an easy to collapse system for the legs. After discussion resolved to buy, but see if we can get a sample first even if we have to buy that. Proposed: Cllr. Best. Seconded: Cllr. Hennen	AJ CH PA
039/48	Correspondence /other business -17	Keep Britain Tidy litter pick on 16th March run by Street Pride in our village. The half grant funded defib is now installed at the top of 5b March Rd. Cllr Best said that he needs apologise for the next meeting, and, there are 2 Flag raisings on March 1st and 11th March. Cllr Dent volunteered to raise the flag when he is away.	
040/49	Date of next meeting - 18	Next meeting: Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 19.00 Meeting closed at: 21.00	

Appendix a*