

Minutes of the meeting of Wimblington Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th January 2025 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. Best; Cllr. Abbott; Cllr. Campbell; Cllr. Johnson; Cllr Hennen; Cllr Dent; Cllr Gowing 11 members of the public.

Number	Title & Agenda No		Action
001/25	Apologies for Absence - 1	Cllr Harding;	
002/25	Absentees	None	
003/25	Chairs Additional items - 1a	<i>Any items for consideration, which the Chairman deems urgent by virtue of the special circumstances to be now specified:</i> See item number 018/25a to be heard now. Also, F/YR24/1020/TRTPO - Works to 1no Lime tree covered by TPO04/2013 at 29 Norfolk Street - no objections.	PA
004/25	Declarations of interest - 2	i)declaration: None ii)written dispensation requests: There were none. iii)dispensation grants: There are none.	
005/25	Public Participation - 3	Mr Steven Dubois of 31 Norfolk St said re planning application F/YR24/1000/F, please take into consideration the limited access to the site through Morley Way, the flood threat and disruption to a listed heritage property and property of historic value. Despite the better design there is still no merit to the application. Also, the green amenity, now registered as a community asset, adjacent to Morley Way should be taken into account and should be given consideration when discussing the application. He thanked Cllrs for their attention.	
006/25	Confirmation of minutes - 4	RESOLVED – that the minutes of meeting held on 10th December 2024 were correctly recorded and that they be signed as being a true record. Proposed: Cllr. Best; Seconded: Cllr. Campbell; All in favour.	
007/25	Fenland District Council - 5	Cllr Davis reported that there is nothing new regarding Wimblington to report.	
008/25	Cambridgeshire County Council - 6	Cllr Gowing said that there is nothing new regarding Wimblington to report. He has forwarded a CCC email regarding their Council Tax increase which is the maximum allowed, forwarded to Cllrs on	
009/25	Clerks report - 7	FDC Environmental health have installed an air quality monitoring tube at the King Street and Isle of Eye Way junction, they will update us on result in about 1 years' time. This equipment will only collect gases pollutants. In consultation with Cllr Johnson there could be a second installed later in the year at a different place. NALC have backed the Governments proposals for all Councils to be able to hold remote meetings, but strongly opposed proxy voting. The 8th defibrillator is now active outside number 45 Doddington Rd - we are very grateful to the resident who is supporting this defibrillator and completing the weekly check. We are waiting for the electrician to complete the wiring for the 9th village defibrillator on the front wall of Parkfield Sports club. Re clerks request to apply for a different bank card, they are not available for the savings account, but after raising a complaint, it seems that we can pay in cash at a Post Office to the correct account using a paying in book, which I tried today. Our local PO's say they cannot accept but Chatteris did, March apparently are still training new staff. I do have the letter from Lloyds to take to the Post Office to confirm that it is possible. Clerk has received a copy of a letter delivered to King St residents advising of the closure of King St on 20th February between 08.00 - 16.00	
010/25	Other Matters - 8	a) Parish Nature recovery plan: To be addressed when the County wide strategy has been announced and volunteers come forward. FDC have said that the NHP should include this. b) Village sign: Metalcraft of Chatteris have written advising that our application to their community fund has been approved. They will supply the materials and carry out the fabrication of a new village sign frame and post. It will be a project for their apprentice section and the measurements have been forwarded to them already. Their teacher wants to make it in mild steel which could rust and would need regular painting, we would prefer stainless steel, so he's gone to price up, Chairman offered to make up the difference dependent upon the cost. He suggested that as they cannot make a relief image, that we have a screen-printed board for the main part of the sign, clerk has contacted Benwick who have such signs for the name of their supplier. He will look at the angel memorial to see whether they can incorporate a likeness on top of the roof section.	PA

		c) Arnold Baker Local Council Administration: Further to the internal auditors suggestions clerk asked whether Cllrs would like to purchase the latest (13th) edition of the above book, as ours is the ninth edition. SLCC member can access a discount of £25.00 making the book £137.00 plus postage. After discussion resolved to purchase. Proposed: Cllr Hennen Seconded: Cllr. Dent d) Resident has offered PC a 2 furrow plough, which needs renovation, as a heritage object to reflect the rural community. After discussion resolved to get the size before making a decision. Proposed: Cllr Best; Seconded: Cllr. Hennen e) MVAS - Clerk has received notification that prices of new solar MVAS will increase as from Feb 2025, do Cllrs want to buy another one at last year's prices? They have said that 'Vision' model would cost £2250.00 net and the 'mobility' (same as last one purchased) would cost £1899.00 net, both with free shipping. Clerk reminded Cllrs that we already have a spare solar MVAS awaiting installation and asked for road positions where it might be needed. After discussion resolved to buy another one at £2250.00 and to site the one we have on March Rd. Adjacent to Honeymead. Clerk, chair. Cllr Hennen and Cllr Abbot to meet to decide the position. Proposed: Cllr Johnson Seconded: Cllr. Campbell. f) Cambs ACRE/membership: Do Cllrs wish to join for 2025, membership would cost £65.00 After discussion resolved to continue membership. Proposed: Cllr Best Seconded: Cllr. Campbell g) 'The big lunch'/VE day 8th May 2025: Whilst a decision not to hold a VE day event has already been made, Cambs ACRE have advised that during the week-end of 7/8 May there is to be a nationwide 'big lunch' event, which the clerk asked whether Cllrs would like to consider, perhaps with the Church, holding an event? Clerk to contact the Church/Vicar.	PA PA PA PA PA
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011/25	Payments - 9		a) The members to consider the following: accounts for payment:					

013/25	Planning - 11	Planning: the clerk reported that the following planning applications had been received for comment: a) F/YR24/0997/F - Use of existing holiday caravan park to accommodate 16 x caravan pitches, and the formation of an internal track and parking areas at Camping Site at The Golden Lion Sixteen Foot Bank Stonea - no objections with the condition that sewage treatment is proper and correct spacing between static caravans is adhered to. F/YR24/0979/DE2 - Demolition of existing dwelling at 29 March Road - no objection with conditions. F/YR24/1000/F - Erect 5 dwellings with associated garages and the formation of an attenuation pond at Land West Of 27 Norfolk Street Accessed From Morley Way - object as before with additions - see attached objections. F/YR24/1018/F - Convert existing barn to 1 x self-build/custom dwelling including the erection of single-storey rear extension, involving the demolition of part of existing building, the erection of a car port and 2.0m high front boundary wall, and widening and reinstating of existing access at Buildings South East Of The Farmhouse Nixhill Road - no objections but have condition regarding sewage/surface water? The Chairman reported that a resident in Coney Walk who is affected by the lighting in Knowles car park affecting his bedroom has asked for help. There have been inspections by planning and environmental officers. An original planning condition was that the lighting be no more than 3 meters high, but they are higher than that, however FDC say technically the light pollution is no more than the lighting permitted within the condition. It is unclear who is interpreting the lighting technical report – is it a specialist or an FDC Officer and if FDC Officer what is their experience in lighting. There is a formal complaint lodged with the 3C's Team. FDC are treating this as a fait accompli. Cllr Davis will seek more guidance. b) Neighbourhood plan: Cllr Johnson: Movement is slow from the consultees. FDC required small changes to be incorporated. Historic England; Anglian Water and local companies have made suggestions which will be incorporated. Our NHP is vital now, given the new planning proposals by Government.	MD AJ MD AJ MD AJ MD AJ
014/25	Highway matters/Street lighting/ Transport – 12	a) Street lights reported: None. b) Footpaths and highways issues: None c) 2024/25 LHI proposal - updated road marking in front of Sisco garage: Email with proposed design was forwarded to Cllrs on 7.1.2025. After discussion resolved to comment as follows: Whilst it is not a full solution to the problem, we understand the difficulties at this junction and welcome the road markings proposed. Proposed: Cllr. Abbott; Seconded: Cllr. Clark. d) LHI 2025/26 updated application information: Further to a long-awaited meeting with the Senior projects manager for LHI, an updated application form has been submitted with his comments taken into account. As the deadline for the application was Friday 10th January, there was not time to consult with Full Council as to the level of funding the Parish Council would offer, therefore having listened to the Senior projects managers suggestions and taking into account that all bids score more highly if more funding is offered by Councils, an amount of £10,000.00 was submitted to both widen, level and replace up to 100 meters of footpath adjacent and leading to the War Memorial playing field. Cllrs were advised on the day of the meeting (8.1.2025) to give time for any objections to be received before the final submission deadline. None were received.	PA
015/25	War Memorial playing field – 13	Nothing to report	
016/25	Parkfield - 14	No report received - clerk to chase	
017/25	Doddington Rd. Cemetery – 15	a) area for spreading ashes: Clerk had found that it is possible to have such an area, usually something like a circle of remembrance, often straight onto grass in a specific area. Our regulations would have to change to insist on a Funeral Director being present to ensure that the correct ashes were spread. Also, that there would still be a charge for the service and full details of the deceased would need to be kept as proof of disposal, for the future. Clerk had invited the local Funeral Director to speak about the practicality and legislation: Mr Mark Turner said - there would have to be a separate area with a barrier as ashes cannot spread onto an area where graves could be dug. The previously reserved, but unused children's area would be the best place for it, but other issue is if ashes are spread onto a grass area it will burn the grass. In hot weather they would cause hot spots. They could be watered in immediately after spreading, but relatives may not like this. The area will still need to be mown or tended. When mowing some ashes will be taken up and they must remain in the Cemetery as human remains may be held within the grass cuttings and cannot	

		leave the Cemetery. The biggest problem will be people who come and spread without permission - details of the correct ashes/deceased have to be kept by the Parish Council and a funeral Director should be in attendance. Also, memorials could be a problem, if not a headstone, then flowers, bulbs etc. might be planted, which would have to be mown away. Cllr Best said that other Cemeteries have open ground/soil areas, but someone then has to come and turn that over. Cllr Hennen said it would become weed ridden. It was suggested that we could possibly take a small space of the allotments with a path through the hedge to access it. For the next agenda b) Removal of double depth graves option: Further to a double depth grave digging recently, the contractor struggled to dig the depth as the ground is so sodden that the sides collapsed despite robust shoring up. He has advised that he cannot dig double depth in our soil in the future as it would be dangerous and probably not possible, this is not unique to us and he is finding this happening in other parts of the County. Turners have advised that in other Council run Cemeteries where double depth is not feasible, the Council offers a discount when 2 plots are sold side by side to the same family. Clerk asked Councillors to consider this and any change to the fees as a result. After discussion resolved to offer a discount of 50% for the second Right of Burial only, for 2 family plots side by side. Proposed: Cllr. Clark Seconded: Cllr. Abbott	PA PA
018/25	Parish Hall - 16	a) Kitchen shelf made into a cupboard: Cllr Hennen had suggested that the shelf which holds the public address system be made into a cupboard. He had found that when he did the fire alarm test, that the paperwork which also sits on that shelf was always very dusty. To build a cupboard around it would reduce the dust getting into the amplifier. After discussion clerk to ask the handyman to build the cupboard. Proposed: Cllr. Campbell; Seconded: Cllr. Best b) Fenland memory lane cinema: clerk was contacted by memory lane cinema; would we like a free showing of a 3-hour Fenland memory film - Fenland floods. We charge and they take 25% of takings, there is no other charge. Suggested charge was £5.00 to include tea and coffee. Email info forwarded to Cllrs on 6.1.2025. After discussion, all in favour by show of hands. c) Ladies toilet hand dryer replacement: Further to comments received that the hand dryer in the ladies is very poor, clerk forwarded quotes to buy a new one as is in the disabled and gents to Cllrs on 13.1.2025. After discussion resolved to replace the current hand dryer with a new one to be decided in consultation with the electrician, but it must be as powerful as the other 2. Proposed: Cllr. Dent. Seconded: Cllr. Johnson Cllr Davis reported that she has found funding for Works towards the flat roof of the hall to include a green roof. Clerk has sought a quote for the roof's replacement to include insulation.	PK PA PA
019/25	Correspondence /other business -17	Cllr Dent said that 2025 is the 10th year of Christmas Lights could the event group celebrate this? After discussion Councillors all agreed.	
020/25	Confidential - staff - 18	<i>Confidential item – Staff - 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. Davis . Seconded: Cllr. Clark</i> Chairman advised Cllrs that our hall steward has handed in her notice with effect from 31 March 2025, clerk had advised them by email as the hall steward has told several people in the village already. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	PA PA

		The Chairman raised an issue with the pay increases decided at the last meeting for the Clerk and Handyman 1. The clerk had raised concerns with the Chairman about the level of salary increase offered to the herself and Handyman 1 by Cllrs at the December 2024 meeting, being 9.7%, which she believes was misread from the document provided, as this was the 2024 uplift by Government not the 2025 figure which is 6.730%. Would Cllrs like to amend the first offer? After discussion it was resolved that the level of increase remain at 9.7%. Councillors are very aware of the skills and amount of unpaid time both the Clerk and Handyman 1 put in and it was unanimously agreed that the differential between these two staff members and the Caretaker, Cleaner and Hall Steward would be better reflected at this rate. Proposed: Cllr. Hennen; Seconded: Cllr. Johnson. The Chairman abstained from the vote as she is a personal friend of the Clerk.	
021/25	Date of next meeting - 19	Next meeting: Tuesday 11th February 2025 at 19.00. Meeting closed at: 21.15	

Appendix a*

	January 2025	NET	VAT	£
Handyman 1	Handyman duties			
Caretaker and Handyman 2	Caretaker and Handyman duties			
Clerk	Clerk duties incl. home wkg all.			
Hall steward	Hall steward duties			
Cleaner	Hall cleaning			
Inland revenue	Staff tax & NI			
Total				