

Minutes of the meeting of Wimblington Parish Council held on Tuesday 11th February 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. Abbott; Cllr. Campbell; Cllr. Johnson; Cllr. Hennen; Cllr. Dent; Cllr. Harding; 16 members of the public.
Confidential section at end

Number	Title & Agenda No		Action
001/25	Apologies for Absence - 1	Cllr Gowing - CCC meeting; Cllr. Best - flu;	
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: None</i> <i>A resolution under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960 states that if publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the special confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it must be proposed if any such item should be discussed in Committee - Item to be discussed at the end of the meeting.</i>	
004/25	Declarations of interest - 2	i)declaration: Cllr. Abbott F/YR25/0058/O; Cllr Davis re 16f ii)written dispensation requests: There were none. iii)dispensation grants: There are none.	
005/25	Public Participation - 3	A resident said that there is already a lot of support for F/YR25/0058/O, but from people who do not live near the site, so surely their comments are not relevant. Traffic on Bridge Lane is already getting heavier and faster and should this go through there would be more, causing damage to the road surface, which is already bad. Developments never result in improvement to infrastructure, also from personal experience the land is not suitable for building, there is already movement to houses on Bridge Lane when there are vehicles on the railway line. Also, why is there a road junction at the narrowest point on Bridge Lane? Would Council please remind planning department that this is still a single-track road. Another resident said that HGV vehicles will not be able to deliver to the site from the single-track road, the access just does not allow for large HGV's to turn, also as the application is for 9 on half of the land, it seems that there would be another application for the other half should this be approved. Cllr Davis said that previous objections to an application for this land are still valid and will be made to FDC. Resident asked if it goes to appeal, would precedent of the Bellway's site help the application. Cllr Davis said that the application for 44 houses in the next field has now been refused which should help refute this application.	
006/25	Confirmation of minutes - 4	RESOLVED – that the minutes of meeting held on 14th January 2025 were correctly recorded and that they be signed as being a true record. Proposed: Cllr. Dent ; Seconded: Cllr. Johnson All in favour.	
007/25	Fenland District Council - 5	Cllr Davis reported that at the moment there is disarray due to the new proposal of Unitary Councils which will start next year with Cambridgeshire County Council and Fenland District Council's being dissolved. The change will not affect Fenland until 2028, so existing District Cllrs will probably be asked to stay for an extra 11 months. This has caused difficulties with the budget, the business plan. We are likely to be part of a Unitary Council comprising Peterborough, Huntingdon, East Cambs and ourselves. . Peterborough already has a £240+ million pound debt so any assets from Fenland will go going into the new Unitary Fund will be lost in paying off Peterborough's debt which does not bode well for Fenland.. All of the budgeting will now have to be done again.	
008/25	Cambridgeshire County Council - 6	Cllr Gowing said in a written report: 'Whilst the County Council has loudly proclaimed a massive additional investment to fix our roads of £40m , the announcement is different to the detail. Only £20m is new and that is hypothecated for 2026/27 . Of the original £20m only £10.8m has been allocated to fix our roads. Only £2m is to be spent next year on peat soil damaged roads. With damage of £300m identified in the peat soil damaged road report, that would take 150 years to repair.'	
009/25	Clerks report - 7	Further to minute number 017/25b updated Cemetery Rules & Regulations were forwarded to chairman for approval and distributed to our local Funeral directors - copy is on the web site. The SLCC has advised that the Government will increase the information Commissioners Office fees from £40.00 to £52.00 for Councils with less than 10 staff members. Cambs ACRE, have advised that their funding will be reduced after March 2025 and they will not be Government funded but funded by a private Company. Therefore it was agreed that funding to Parish Council for the Hub will cease at the end of March 2025. Parish Council will continue to run the Hub. Proposed: Cllr Johnson. Seconded: Cllr Abbott	

		Swift Fire & Safety who installed and service our Fire alarm system have advised that as from February 2025 the annual charge for monitoring the Fire alarm system will increase to £395.00 from £365.00. Cllrs advised by email with no objections in reply. Lloyds bank have advised that our 'Business account' will be changing from 15th April and will be called 'Commercial Instant Access account'. It seems from information clerk could find that there will be charges: £8.50 per month for the account; 100 free electronic payments out, 20p per payment over 100; £1.50 per £100 cash payments in over the counter; £1 per cheque payments in over the counter; BACS file submission £5.50; CHAPS £30.00. This will now mean that our daily banking will cost us more than it has to date. For next agenda to discuss collection of hall hire fees. Cambs CC has advised that Chapel Lane will be closed at some point from 5th April 2025 - 4th April 2026 for street light improvements.	
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. Cllr Dent has attended a Street Pride meeting, and they are doing a Bio Blitz, which offers an app to identify plants, birds etc for the info to go back to a National data base. App name to be advised. b) Village sign: Clerk has approached the company who has produced the vinyl signs for the Cemetery etc, but it is not something he would be able to do, needing a lot of digital imagery manipulation. 3 quotes have been obtained and forwarded to Cllrs on 11.2.2025 as Stainless metalcraft have today asked that we have the picture part of the sign made first and they will make the frame to the exact size. Quote 1: £219.14; Quote 2: £289.98; Quote 3: £162.00 all net. After discussion resolved to purchase quote 3. Proposed: Cllr. Campbell. Seconded: Cllr. Clark. c) A Resident has offered PC a 2 furrow plough: Following on from the Jan meeting Cllr Dent did not obtain the size, but the handyman believes that it's too heavy for the hall roof and clerk and handyman believe that it cannot go onto the public highway or the WMPF. After discussion, sadly all decline the offer. d) 'The big lunch'/VE day 8th May 2025: Canon Mark has confirmed that they would love to be involved and that we hold a shared 'big lunch' celebration. Cllr Davis suggested that it would be difficult to actually cater for 80/90 people, would Cllrs donate a fish & chips lunch? Clerk will get costings, but events club have been quoted £10.00 per head. All Cllrs were in agreement dependent upon cost. Proposed: Cllr. Abbott Seconded: Cllr. Campbell. e) CPR/Defibrillator training; Clerk has found that free CPR/defibrillator training is offered by East Anglian Air Ambulance, would Cllrs Like to take this offer up and organise for March or April dependent upon their availability? After discussion resolved to arrange when possible. Proposed: Cllr. Hennen. Seconded: Cllr. Johnson. f) Citizens advice service in Wimblington: Further to an email received and subsequent meeting with the CAB's new Compliance and Operations lead, they have had difficulty inputting the data required, but have now been able to identify that 13 clients were seen during the 9 month period April-Dec 2024, with 3 of those being from Doddington, which is cost charged at the same rate to Doddington PC. The cost to us for that period was £495.00 = just over £38.00 per resident seen. Clerk asked Councillors whether, in light of a new service starting in March to which both Wimblington and Doddington residents could visit, we should continue to pay for the service, when our residents could visit March with no cost to PC? After discussion resolved to continue for 3 months only and assess/review Wimblington usage. Proposed: Cllr. Clark. Seconded: Cllr. Dent. g) Village waste bins: Further to minute 200/24d FDC have confirmed that a dog waste bin will be installed at the walkway behind North Witchford lodge and 060/23c that a multi waste bin will be installed at the junction of Bridge Lane and March Rd. the original request being installed in the wrong place adjacent to Woodman's Way. Cllrs Dent and Abbot advised that both new bins are already in place. h) Office computer - Windows 11: Clerk has received notification that support for Window 10 will not be available from October 2025. The Councils computer is still on Windows 10 as when Windows 11 was installed the whole of Outlook, all emails etc were lost/not able to open, would Councillors allow Upwell Computers to install Windows 11 to make sure that nothing is lost? Quote is £90.00. Proposed: Cllr. Campbell. Seconded: Cllr. Johnson	JD PA JD PA PA PA

		j) VE day flag: Further to meeting with Canon Mark and Church reps. We will put on a 'big lunch' as a joint event on Sat/Sun 8th May. To purchase a special VE day flag quotes are: 1. £11.29 incl or 2. £12.29 incl. - see payments, purchase approved by chairman	
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011/25	Payments - 9		a) The members to consider the following: accounts for payment:				
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013/25	Planning - 11	Planning: the clerk reported that the following planning applications had been received for comment: a) F/YR25/0058/O - Erect up to 9 x dwellings (outline application with all matters reserved) at Land South Of 2B And 2C Bridge Lane - Object - F/YR25/0067/F - Re-location of 1no Lamp Column and Installation of 2no CCTV Columns (Retrospective) at Land East Of 2A Blue Lane - Comment that CCTV do not infringe on surrounding property or GDPR etc. FDC are not happy for us to register open green spaces - end of Fuller Lane, Norman Way and Meadow Way. Cllr Davis said that the planning application for a Special Needs centre next door to the Parish Hall had been refused by FDC. Also, it has been agreed by FDC that we will be able to rent at a peppercorn cost, the piece of land adjacent to Morley Way. Term etc to be confirmed. b) Neighbourhood plan: Cllr Johnson: Said that we are progressing slowly. She has an appointment with FDC to discuss their required amendments. Consultant will try to change as much as possible before this meeting. Middle level has just returned their comments. Anglian water will be sending their assets map shortly. Bio diversity net gain does not take into consideration bat houses bird boxes etc. Flora and fauna only are considered for net gain. PC should have a S 106 list of projects.	AJ MD PA
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014/25	Highway matters/Street lighting/Transport – 12	a) Street lights reported: WPC004 O/S 58 Doddington Rd was reported to us as not working. Contractor has been asked to repair and attended on 6.2.2025. Report is that it is the very low voltage/supply causing the issue - UKPN have been asked to attend. March Rd knock down: Clerk had understood that the knockdown was on Honeymead not March Rd. A resident had contacted the clerk for an update - hence enquiry and information request from Balfour Beatty who attended in December and made safe. Quote for replacement has been requested from our contractor which has come back at £748.00 net for a 5-metre light and does not include UKPN re-connection. The chairman approved the quote for the contractor to replace the light as speed is of the essence and the light needs to be replaced. As soon as we have a date for installation clerk will ask UKPN to re-connect the light. Approved by Chairman. An insurance claim has already been submitted. b) Footpaths and highways issues: Cllr Abbott said that the footpath opposite Lily Ave is crumbling and difficult to walk on. Report. Cllr Davis is still chasing the new footpath which we have been chasing for 4 years. c) Doddington-March active travel and safety consultation: further to an email outlining proposal to upgrade the route between Doddington and March via Wimblington, the proposals were forwarded to Cllrs on 28.1.2025. After discussion resolved to reply as follows: Reduce 40mph to 30mph. with Cllr Johnson and Davis preparing a list of questions for FDC, as Cllrs. found it difficult to understand all of the proposals.	MD MD
015/25	War Memorial playing field – 13	Nothing to report.	
016/25	Parkfield - 14	Report from Parkfield: Business over the past few months has been variable, with a combination of very quiet hours and some very busy periods of opening. As to be expected, organised functions and sporting events are helping to bring customers through the doors. We are hoping to advertise our presence by completing a leaflet drop in the very near future, as it would appear there are many new villagers who are not aware of where we are and what we have to offer. The new 'respect' fencing in front of the pitch has been very well received and all the football teams have expressed their gratitude. Our main concern at present is an ongoing issue with E-on re the electrical supply. This has been ongoing for years and stems from confusion over the type of meter in situ. I have been in constant communication with E-on for the last year and they finally agreed to send an engineer. Unfortunately, the club's predecessors had no contingency funds in place and E-on has now presented us with a bill to the tune of £22,000. As this figure changes constantly, I have no confidence that this is a correct amount and am still seeking clarification from E-on. We have begun to seek quotations for the sewage plant and the concreting by the play area.	
017/25	Doddington Rd. Cemetery – 15	a) area for spreading ashes: Further to minute number 017/25a Cllrs were asked what decision they had come to regarding installing an area to spread ashes in our Cemetery. After discussion resolved clerk to find more info. Next agenda	
018/25	Parish Hall - 16	a) Fenland memory lane cinema: 22nd February film re Fenland, posters have been put out and advertised on our facebook page. Cost will be £4 on the door to include refreshments. b) Ladies toilet hand dryer replacement: to be confirmed - awaiting electrician. c) Change of hire times for Parish Hall: a resident has asked whether we could increase the hire times, particularly on Friday and Saturday night to 00.30 the following day in other words until 12.30 and extend 31st December every year until 01.00 on the 1st January? Our current premises licence already allows the hall to be open until 12.30 on Friday and Saturday, but the booking system will not accept this. To change the premises licence for 31st December would need an amendment of the premises licence with FDC. Who have advised that the fee for a full alterations is £100. After discussion resolved to not change our times and leave any hirer to apply for a TEN's licence if they need it. Proposed: Cllr. Johnson; Seconded: Cllr. Hennen. d) New hall steward: Further to the advertisement of the job, one application was received and the person interviewed. The chairman announced that Mr Roy Nicholas of Fullers Lane will take over as hall steward as from the end of March this year with a starting date of 17th March to allow for handover and Hallmaster training etc. e) Hallmaster: Due to the addition of a new hall steward who is happy and able to create and email invoices from the hallmaster software, can we please add that to the package - cost would be £66.00 net per annum. After discussion resolved to buy the invoicing module and train the new hall steward in its use. Proposed: Cllr Abbott; Seconded: Cllr. Clark f) Window cleaning: Clerk has received quote 1 of £65 net to clean all hall windows and the front door, inside and out and: quote 2 of £60.00 per clean for inside and outside. Would	PA

		Cllrs like to take this up? After discussion resolved to employ quote 2 to clean the windows and front door twice a year. Proposed: Cllr. Johnson Seconded: Cllr. Dent g) Flat roof replacement: Further to an opportunity to receive funding towards replacing the flat roof sections of the hall roof, quotes were sought, but to date only one received - forwarded to Cllrs 6.2.2024. Quote 1 including structural engineers costs would be approximately (dependent upon time scale, 3 month limitation of quote) maximum of £17,140.00 net which includes additional joists if needed, plus £750.00 if a planning application is needed. Cllr Davis has completed and returned the application for funding. h) Moss on rear roof: Handyman and caretaker advised that the moss on the rear roofs is falling onto the emergency exit footpath making it slippery. Clerk has asked for quotes to clean and spray it with a bacterial moss inhibitor, one has been received at £2000.00. After discussion await further quotes. For next agenda.	PA MD PA PA
019/25	Correspondence /other business -17	Cllr Johnson has received a letter from a resident regarding constant banging from Knowles Manea Rd. site very early in the morning. Cllr Johnson has provided the resident with the relevant information for the resident to approach FDC planning. Cllr Dent asked whether the events group can put an extra shelf in the shed please? Yes - all in favour by show of hands.	
		<i>Confidential item – 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 raised the wording of the Freedom of the Parish certificate for Pat Hart. Expert opinion was sought and advised that normally the person's full given name should be used, but there is no law stating this. After discussion resolved to use the name Patricia Hart as per the electoral role. New hall steward: Chairman asked whether, as the new hall steward will be using his own mobile phone and is happy for the number to be advertised and his own laptop to access and create bookings on the hallmaster system, that the Parish Council should offer a small home working allowance, particularly as the current hall steward does claim for any phone calls she makes? After discussion resolved to give a home working allowance of £5.00 per month. Proposed: Cllr Davis Seconded: Cllr Abbott	PA PA
020/25	Date of next meeting - 19	Next meeting: Tuesday 11th March 2025 at 19.00. Meeting closed at: 21.15	

Appendix a*

	February 2025	NET	VAT	£
Inland revenue	Staff tax & NI			456.13
Handyman 1	Handyman duties			543.86
Clerk	Clerk duties incl. home wkg all.			1191.50
Hall steward	Hall steward duties			137.40
Cleaner	Hall cleaning			297.44
Caretaker and Handyman 2	Caretaker and Handyman duties			163.21
Total				2789.54

1	UK sign shop	3mm ACM Matt White / White 0.2 Skin PRINTING - Double Sided Digital Print 810x960mm	£219.14 net including delivery
2	The sign maker	19mm pvc panel, full colour print 810x960mm	£289.98 net including delivery
3	3B design	3mm Dibond Sign (Vinyl Wrapped) 810x960mm Will need 2 (2 sides)	£81.00 each so £ 162.00 net can collect