

Minutes of the meeting of Wimblington Parish Council held on Tuesday 11th March 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. Abbot; Cllr. Campbell; Cllr. Best; Cllr. Hennen; Cllr. Dent; Cllr. ; 9 members of the public.

Number	Title & Agenda No		Action
021/25	Apologies for Absence - 1	Cllr Gowing; Cllr Johnson;	
022/25	Absentees	None	
023/25	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> None	
024/25	Declarations of interest - 2	i)declaration: Cllr Harding re 038/25a; Cllr Davis re Window cleaning: Cllr Abbot re window cleaning; Cllr Clark and Abbott re F/YR25/0132/F ii)written dispensation requests: There were none. iii)dispensation grants: There are none.	
025/25	Public Participation - 3	Cllr Davis presented Mrs Moulton, who is retiring on the 31st March after 25 years working for the Parish Council, with our thanks, a card, flowers and a small gift from Cllrs and the clerk. RE. planning application F/YR25/0084/F Mr Thorn: said re this planning application that the building has already been built, it should already have been knocked down after refusal and a refusal of the appeal. The building is huge, there is no drainage and it towers over surrounding gardens. The letters of support are from people who do not live nearby. The vehicles it is supposed to house have never been seen.	
026/25	Confirmation of minutes - 4	RESOLVED – that the minutes of meeting held on 11th February 2025 were correctly recorded and that they be signed as being a true record. Proposed: Cllr. Dent ; Seconded: Cllr. Abbott; All in favour.	
027/25	Fenland District Council - 5	Cllr Davis reported that there is to be a special meeting to discuss the change in local Government proposed by the Government. She expects work to be done to local amenities before the closure of District and County council. The work was vote through unanimously including the green at Morley Way becoming an asset of community value. Cllr Davis has asked for 2 options for acquisition of the green: to either have it for a peppercorn rent, lease for 50 years or to buy it outright. She is awaiting more information from FDC.	
028/25	Cambridgeshire County Council - 6	Cllr Gowing said could not attend	
029/25	Clerks report - 7	Playsafety will be attending the WMPF and Parkfield at some point in April to do their annual inspection of the play equipment. A new email address has been set up for the new hall steward who started work on 1st March to allow for a handover and training. BT have advised that as from 1st April 2025 the price for our telephone and broadband package will increase by 6.4% - email forwarded to Cllrs 19.2.2025 Memory Lane Cinema was not well attended with just 6 attendees, therefore from the £24.00 takings, £20.00 was given to the Cinema (normally 25% of takings is required) and £4.00 put back into petty cash. Citizens advice confirmed that they had no visitors to the March drop in session. The waste bin next to the green on Morley Way has been repaired. FDC have advised the rates for the Parish hall is £0 (Rate relief for 1 property) and £109.78 for the Cemetery for 2025/26 The apparent leak at the water meter cover in the entry to the Parish Hall has been reported to Anglian Water. CCC highways have confirmed that works will take place over the next year at the following roads: Chapel Lane, Dobson Walk, Eaton Estate, Fenland Close, Morley Way, Parkfield Lane, Waggoner's Way, we believe that this is to update their street lights. Invitations to the Annual Assembly & volunteer evening will be sent out over the next 10 days.	
030/25	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) Big lunch/VE day celebration: Quotes from the 2 local fish and chip shops have been sought. Quote 1 is £10 per head, but could only accommodate us on Saturday 7th June and	

		not until 14.45. The second quote was £10 per head and could only do Saturday 7th , but would have everything ready for 12.30 and would include 20 portions of mushy peas and some curry sauce. After discussion resolved to place the order with quote 2 as timing is better. Proposed: Cllr Hennen Seconded: Cllr. Harding. c) Citizens advice service: Further to minute 10/25f, CAB have advised the February session helped 2 people from Wimblington and 1 from Doddington. To continue monitoring. d) Royal Garden party nominations: Cllr Campbell had emailed the clerk and chairman asking whether he could approach the Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire to ask for invitations to the next Royal Garden Party. Protocol is that whilst he could as an individual request invitations for residents, he could not do this (as his initial email read) in 'his capacity as a Parish Councillor' unless the request had been approved by Full Council. Therefore Cllr Campbell proposed that the Parish Council officially request invitations for deserving residents. Seconded: Cllr Best Clerk asked all Cllrs to forward to her names of any residents who they think deserve such an invitation. e) Standing orders/Financial regs - minor addition: Chairman asked whether Cllrs. would amend the above to allow the clerk devolved authority to purchase smaller items, such as replacement keys, repair items up to a value of £50.00 without having to get written approval from the chairman, but report at the following meeting? After discussion resolved to approve and amend Standing orders/Financial Regs to reflect this. Proposed: Cllr Davis, Seconded: Cllr. Hennen f) CAPALC membership 2025/26: Advice of the fee for 2025/26 was received and forwarded to Cllrs on 5.3.2025, Cost will be £670.95 with Data protection officer scheme or £720.98 with the addition of the scheme. After discussion resolved to continue membership without DPO scheme. Proposed: Cllr. Abbott. Seconded: Cllr. Best. g) New flag for Community living room: As our association with Cambs ACRE at the end of March, clerk obtained quotes for a new advertising flag - quote 2 forwarded to Cllrs on 11.3.2025 After discussion resolved to purchase option Proposed: Cllr. Best Seconded: Cllr. Abbott	PA PA PA PA PA
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031/25	Payments - 9	a) The members to consider the following: accounts for payment:				
	018/25e					
	10/25e MVAS					

		 = Previously approved by Chairman or at previous meeting All payments to be made - Proposed: Cllr. Best ; Seconded: Cllr. Hennen; all in favour. b) Finance report: At 11.3.2025 opening balance was £162,995, income recorded was £134,174.00 totalling £297,170.00. Recorded expenditure is £124,924.00. leaving an amount of £172,246 with £416.00 transfer to/from reserves. Budget report shows that we have received 102.5% of expected income and have spent 103.3% showing a variance of 0.8% = £664.00. Approved budget for 2024/25 expected an overspend of just over £6000.00 for the full year.	
032/25	Risk Management/ Policies & Procedures - 10	a) To review policies/procedures: Bio-diversity statement forwarded to Cllrs on 18.2.2025. After discussion resolved to accept as read. Proposed: Cllr. Best Seconded: Cllr. Dent All in favour by show of hands.	

033/25	Planning - 11	Planning: the clerk reported that the following planning applications had been received for comment: a) F/YR25/0084/F -Change of use of land to domestic land, erection of a shed and formation of hardstanding involving the demolition of existing garage (retrospective) at 6 Bridge Lane - Cllr Abbott has been asked whether a resident can put forward a comment anonymously and she has advised. Object: There have been a number of previous applications, an appeal, an enforcement notice and now another planning application with retrospective inclusions. A large 'agricultural warehouse', (not a garden shed) that has been built to house large heavy vehicles, has been erected in the grounds of the dwelling, No. 6 Bridge Lane, (the property itself already houses three double brick-built garages), it is out of character with the historic countryside environment of the lane, as is the dwelling itself. The size and design of the agricultural building and the dwelling are not in keeping with the built form of the village or the linear layout of Bridge Lane. There is already an Enforcement Notice (raised in 2022) with regard to the removal of the 'agricultural building' which, after a dismissed appeal in 2023, was put into force in September 2024. This agricultural building imposes on the homes in Bridge Lane, the view from some of the neighbours rear windows and their gardens is now that of a metal wall and roof. Stated, in previous granted planning applications, was the fact that this dwelling would not compromise the amenities of neighbouring occupiers but this is not the case both with the size of the dwelling and the size of the agricultural warehouse. Therefore, we feel this application does not complying with LP12 Part C, LP16 (d), DM3 - Delivering and protecting high quality environment and Chapter 12 of the NPPF F/YR25/0132/F -Change of use from shop storage to take-away at 2 Norfolk Street - Object - Parish Council objects to this application. The shop/Post Office already causes issues with parking and noise, to add a take-away service to this would increase the level of traffic. The junction at Addison road/Norfolk Street/Fullers Lane/Church Street can be difficult to negotiate particularly in and out of Norfolk street, usually, due to parked cars outside the shop. It is not unusual to have cars meeting head on and one vehicle having to reverse to allow the other though. The road is very narrow and is also a bus route. Take-away shops are generally busier during the evening which could have an impact in the winter months when evenings are darker. Whilst there is previous approval under F/YR08/0913/F for the change of use change of use to cover a kitchen for preparation of hot/cold food for a take-away service within the existing shop and erection of a flue, this new application does not provide any information in terms of what cooking odour and noise mitigation measures will be incorporated (or are still retained) within the existing extraction system sited in the kitchen and not the storage area. There is an Extraction and Ventilation Statement – Rev B report of 30.09.2008 submitted in support of F/YR08/0913/F which lists information pertaining to ventilation and extraction, however an update is required to ensure that measures are suitable and sufficient with the existing flue to be brought back into use, to ensure that the amenity of nearby residents isn't compromised. The Local Highway Authority seeks transport information to demonstrate that the proposed development would not be prejudicial to the satisfactory functioning of the highway. There is reference to the potential trip attraction caused by a change of use from 'Retail store' to 'Proposed Takeaway' however this application is not a change of use from a retail store it is in addition to the store and Post Office. The Highway report says this may pose a material	MD MD
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		impact on highway safety. Therefore, further clarification is required as to the nature and scale of the business. We note that both the design and access statement and Highways report make reference to off street parking spaces. This parking space is used by the occupier personally and related to the domestic accommodation above the shop. At no time has this been available as parking for the shop/Post Office and if it were where would the occupier then park his vehicles. The design and access statement refers to the already dropped kerbing off Norfolk Street/Church Street but that too is for the benefit of the occupier. The design and Access Statement also states "The actual proposal is to amend the front elevation and also change of use internally". This application makes no reference to amending the front elevation. There are also environmental concerns relating to the possible litter of take-away containers in nearby streets. Parish Council would further comment that this seems an incomplete application that requires more information before being considered further and that there is nothing mentioned about the take-away hours of business which should be no more than the existing shop hours. b) Neighbourhood plan: Cllr Johnson: could not attend. We are now awaiting for maps from FDC to go to the consultant and work has been done to include comments from stakeholders. It will go to consultation again and then to FDC and an inspector. We are unsure whether a proposed Unitary trust will use the current Local plans, so after discussion it is important for us to have our NHP. c) Teversham letter to Minister of State for Housing: Further to an email received from Teversham Parish Council with their letter to the Minister of State for Housing, forwarded to Cllrs on 10.2.2025, would Wimblington Cllrs like to send a similar letter? After discussion resolved to send a similar letter. Proposed: Cllr. Campbell. Seconded: Cllr. Harding	PA
034/25	Highway matters/Street lighting/Transport – 12	a) Street lights reported: b) Footpaths and highways issues: Cllr Harding reported that a lot of reflectors are missing along 16 foot bank, Boots Bridge to Honey Farm bends, 6 are broken and 2 missing . Cllr Davis will address. Cllr Hennen said that he attended Steven Barclays surgery as a resident and asked about the repair to the road at the bottom of Eastwood End. Mr Barclay will look into it. Chairman and clerk have received the following reply from the CCC highways senior design engineer, regarding the Hook Rd. repair: 'I can confirm that the designs for the replacement pipe are close to completion, including the installation of prefabricated concrete headwalls. We also plan to repair the carriageway surface localised to the pipe location where the water has been ponding. I reviewed the drawings today and identified some minor amendments, which will hopefully be actioned by the end of the week or early next week before submission to our contractor for pricing. I can also confirm that funding has been allocated for the repair of Hook Road at this location. However, it requires approval from the Highways & Transport Committee on 4th March. The funding must be spent within the new financial year, but we will explore the possibility of delivering the works simultaneously with the culvert replacement to minimise disruptions (i.e., avoiding two separate road closures). That said, I hope you understand that the pipe repair/replacement is a priority, so we may need to repair only the small section of surfacing near the pipe first and return at a later date for the remaining repairs. This is particularly important as a repair design for the carriageway in this location still needs to be developed and cannot be developed until the new financial year (April 2025). Cllr Connor also mentioned that a nearby road closure on Eastwood End is using Hook Road as part of the diversion route. I believe this may be due to works undertaken by developers in this location. While I can't comment on the specifics of the closure, I'm unsure why the diversion couldn't utilise the northern end of Eastwood End instead. It may be that they want to avoid diverting all traffic onto the busy, high-speed A road.' Chairman advised that she has been regularly chasing this for over a year. c) MVAS posts: Clerk met the highways contact regarding the siting of the 2 new MVAS. The quote to supply and install them has come in at £1200.00 net for the 2. After discussion resolved to purchase them. Proposed: Cllr Hennen; Seconded: Cllr. Abbott. Cllr Davis reported that she has again applied for 20mph on the road adjacent to the school	MD
035/25	War Memorial playing field – 13		PA

[illegible]

Appendix a*

	March 2025	NET	VAT	£
Inland revenue	Staff tax & NI			
Handyman 1	Handyman duties			
Clerk	Clerk duties incl. home wkg all.			
Hall steward	Hall steward duties			
New hall steward	Hall steward duties/training			
Cleaner	Hall cleaning			
Caretaker and Handyman 2	Caretaker and Handyman duties			
Total				2973.99