

Minutes of the meeting of Wimblington Parish Council held on Tuesday 8th April 2025 at Wimblington Parish Hall, Addison Rd. Wimblington PE15 0QT, at 18.30

Present M T Davis (Chairman), Mrs P Amos (Clerk), Cllr. Clark; Cllr. Dent; Cllr. Best; Cllr; Campbell
Cllr. Johnson; Cllr Gowing. 2 members of the public.

Number	Title & Agenda No		Action
041/25	Apologies for Absence - 1	Cllr. Hennen; Cllr. Abbot; Cllr Harding;	
042/25	Absentees	None	
043/25	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> Clerk noticed on recent bank statement that Lloyds Bank accounts are not now covered by FSCS protection scheme. It was agreed that we must seek to ensure that the bank accounts are protected, even if it means changing banks. Clerk to investigate and also look at Co-op and other banks as an alternative.	
044/25	Declarations of interest - 2	i)declaration: Cllr Johnson re: F/YR25/0211/PIP ii)written dispensation requests: There were none. iii)dispensation grants: There are none.	
045/25	Public Participation - 3	None	
046/25	Confirmation of minutes - 4	RESOLVED – that the minutes of meeting held on 11th March 2025 were correctly recorded and that they be signed as being a true record. Proposed: Cllr. Dent; Seconded: Cllr. Best; All in favour.	
047/25	Fenland District Council - 5	Cllr Davis reported that there had not been a district meeting so nothing to report.	
048/25	Cambridgeshire County Council - 6	Cllr Gowing had nothing new to report	
049/25	Clerks report - 7	Having advised our insurers of items to remove and items to add at renewal at the end of May 2025, their quote is £3633.84 an increase of £114.01 from last year.	
050/25	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) Ely food bank grant request: further to an email received and forwarded to Cllrs 24.3.2025 We have been asked for a donation to Ely foodbank which covers 8 towns and villages in Fenland and East Cambridgeshire. After discussion resolved not to donate. Proposed: Cllr. Johnson Seconded: Cllr. Dent c) Gov.uk - card payment acceptance method - clerk had found that Gov.uk have a free facility which accepts remote card payment. Clerk's investigation was concluded and found that there is a payment made from the receipt to the card service provider, in the test this was 0.15p on a £20.00 transaction which is a fee of 0.75%. Information was forwarded to Cllrs on 19.3.2025. After discussion resolved not to introduce this facility for hall hire. Proposed: Cllr. Best Seconded: Cllr. Campbell. d) The big lunch - ongoing arrangements: Further to the latest meeting with Church representatives, their volunteers are not going to make cakes to give attendees as was first thought. Suggestions at the meeting were that we might like to offer strawberries and cream, but this would mean further outlay, more extensive work on the day and extra washing up. Also decanting the fish and chips onto plates was discussed, but again this would mean extra food handling and extra washing up. Church have approached Tesco for a donation of cupcakes, and the events group have offered to also supply some table flags, bunting and some cupcakes. Clerk asked whether Council are willing to pay additional cost to give a desert, given that the big lunch will already cost £900.00? After discussion resolved not to pay for fruit. Church have secured 3 free boxes of cupcakes from Tesco Parish Council will buy 3 boxes and the event group will make some too. We will buy wrist bands to give on a first come first served basis. Proposed: Cllr Davis. Seconded: Cllr. Johnson. LGA 1972, section 145 e) CAPALC fees - addition of Data protection officer/amendment to minute number 30/25f: Further to information from Doddington PC and emails between Cllrs, clerk has received 5 (email) letters from Cllrs requesting that the decision made in March be revisited. The original motion was to approve re-joining CAPAL either with the addition of the Data protection officer scheme at a cost of £720.98 or without the Data	PA PA

		protection officer scheme at £670.95. The original decision was to join without this addition, however Cllr Davis now proposes that we join with the addition of the Data protection officer scheme at a cost of £720.98. After discussion resolved to approve this addition and rescind the original decision. Proposed: Cllr Dent. Seconded: Cllr Campbell. All in agreement by show of hands. - see payments below. LGA 1972, section 137	PA
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051/25	Payments - 9	a) The members to consider the following: accounts for payment:
	038/25b	

053/25	Planning - 11	Planning: the clerk reported that the following planning applications had been received for comment: a) F/YR25/0211/PIP - Permission in principle to erect up to 4 x dwellings including the formation of a new access at Land North West Of 1C Eastwood End - object - Fenland District Council's Planning Department are required to justify the need for further development within Wimblington Village, this requirement is stated in both FDC's LPPs and NPPF. If the planning department are <u>unable</u> to justify the need for further development then this planning application should be refused. The Design and Access statement constantly refers to 'other planning applications' and the fact that the site is close to the A141. The planning department states the 'other planning applications do not set a precedence so it is hoped that this is reflective. As to the site being close to the A141, the only access to the A141 is along the narrow single-track lane, causing more congestion on what is going to become an extremely busy corner with all the 'granted' planning still to be	AJ
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		built. Responses from other consultees, that were submitted at a very late stage, have questioned the access road and adoption, refuse collection and flooding issues. Although these are not relevant to a 'Permission in Principle' application they should still be reflective of possible problems in the future. The adjacent remaining plot of land houses a number of farm buildings which are reported as being built of 'asbestos' material, this is also another concern especially if future planning is applied for on that plot. Stage 1 PIP assesses the: Location: This amount of development in this location <u>is considered to be fundamentally unacceptable</u> on the basis that it would result in encroachment into the remaining green space and countryside, it is out of the built linear line presented along Eastwood End, also it would create a traffic hazard in the narrow lane at its access point. The narrow lane does not lend itself to large vehicles manoeuvring into other accesses, ie. refuse vehicles, emergency vehicles, delivery vehicles. This proposal is for dwellings to be developed in the last of the green space buffer between the A141 and the present dwellings, as well as the last of the natural habitats for local wildlife. Congestion along the lane will become a major hazard once all present 'granted ' planning applications have been built, this proposal will add to this problem especially with refuse vehicles having to collect from the access point. Use: This site has been an integral part of the environmental open green space between the A141 and the dwellings on Eastwood End. It has been used as a grazing field and minimal farm storage site but is also a buffer and safe haven for wildlife within the natural countryside on the east side of the A141. The existing access is a narrow entrance off of a single lane, Amount of Development proposed: The addition of 4 more executive houses is not a requirement in the village of Wimblington, especially in the settlement of Eastwood End. There has already been an unsustainable increase in 'granted planning applications' along the narrow lane of Eastwood End. This is putting a strain on the infrastructure, the structure of the lane was not built to take the amount of vehicle movement that is now being forced into this area, including the Light Industrial Estate at the north end of the lane where both FDC and CCC have allowed overdevelopment of <u>Heavy Industrial Businesses</u>. LP3 4.7 - This site is in a rural environment not a town street environment. LP3 4.7.1 - This site does not conform with the settlement pattern of the local environment. FDC LPP, as stated in 3.4.2 (Scale) need to review the growth of Wimblington village, as well as Eastwood End, and assess the sustainability of further development. There is a need to evaluate all the granted proposed development that is still outstanding in the village environment and decide if there is justification to grant an application for more 'executive homes' in the village area. LP3 - 3.4.4 Phasing - improvements in supporting infrastructure need to be addressed. Present areas of development need to be completed and assessed before further applications are granted otherwise FDC are not adhering to those policies in the LPP and as such are in breach of their own written requirements. LP4 - Housing FDC has still to address their own 'NOTE' in regard to the Waste Water Treatment Works in Doddington which is struggling with capacity and unable to cope, hence numerous tankers are regularly pumping out sewerage from the area. . Yet, still Anglian Water are stating that the company can cope and FDC are granting more development of dwellings in both Wimblington and Doddington. LP12 - Rural Areas Development Policy This proposal is sited outside of the built form of the village settlement, it is taking away precious views of the surrounding countryside and open landscape. (NPPF -99 Loss of open space) LP13 - Supporting & Managing the Impact of a Growing District (a) infrastructure - FDC and Anglian Water have not addressed the Waste Water Treatment Works in Doddington. Anglian Water are consistently having to pump out drains in various areas of the village, both waste water and sewer. LP14 (b) - all development proposals should adopt a sequential approach to flood risk from all forms of flooding, pluvial and fluvial. Pluvial being the biggest concern here in the village. LP16 (d) - this is not a positive contribution to a narrow rural country lane; it would not enhance its local setting or improve the character of the local built environment. NPPF - 112 - considering development proposals (a) Access to this site is on to and off of a narrow country lane close to a tight left-hand bend that is already congested and struggling with the increase in traffic from other new	
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		developments, construction vehicles, heavy good vehicles (illegally using this restricted 7.5t access) to get to the industrial estate, farms and other businesses further along Hook Road. (C) there will be a conflict on such a narrow country access road, not just with the vehicles using Eastwood End, but with pedestrians, horse riders from the local equestrian centres, ramblers using the PRow routes, cyclists and general public trying to navigate the increasing number of accesses along what should be a country lane not a street of cul-de-sacs. There is a small industrial estate at the south A141 access to Eastwood End and a larger heavy industrial estate off of the north A141 access to Eastwood End. Further along the lane, heading into the Hook, the road is already collapsing from drainage problems and excessive heavy vehicle use. This site will not be within the local settlement area, it will not be in keeping with the local character of the village or Eastwood End, (which has already been subjected to uncharacteristic, oversized dwellings that create a more urban characteristic rather than a quaint historical, rural environment.) This planning application should be refused on the above criteria. F/YR25/0226/TRTPO - Works to 1no Ash tree covered by TPO M/2/465/17 at 44 March Road - no objections F/YR25/0229/F - Erect single-storey side and rear extensions and door canopy to front of existing dwelling at 16 Blue Lane - no objections. F/YR25/0251/PIP -Permission in Principle for 5 x dwellings at Land South West Of Woodbury Manea Road - object - councillors agreed to retain their previous decision to object to the development of 5 dwellings on land South West Of Woodbury Manea Road Wimblington. Below are the previous objections raised and still valid even though this 'Permission in Principle' is for 5 dwellings. Wimblington Parish Council are in agreement with the Planning Officer's previous recommendation of Refusal. As per parish councils' previous comments, which are still relevant, the 'high quality residential environmental design' LP16 (as raised in the Design Guidance and Codes adopted by the Parish), would be compromised in the busy location of the proposed site. Although Highway's now consider their concerns to have been addressed the local community and parish's concerns regarding the congestion around the location of the site have not been adequately addressed. The change of use to 5 residential dwellings' is not within the village settlement area LP3/LP4/LP12 (shown in the developing Draft Neighbourhood Plan), also it is not meeting housing needs LP5/LP13(reference the Housing Needs Assessment adopted by the Parish) the growth of Wimblington village The support representation raises points but fail to address the fact that the location will cause additional amounts of traffic at the junction area, the present site access is only used by customers and present residents. b) Neighbourhood plan: Cllr Johnson said she has a new draft NHP from the consultant. FDC will change the maps we have to include the green spaces etc.	PA PA AJ MD
054/25	Highway matters/Street lighting/Transport – 12	a) Street lights reported: None b) Footpaths and highways issues: None	
055/25	War Memorial playing field – 13	a) Gala day - change of hours: The events group have asked whether they could change the times of this years, newly named, gala. They would like to start at 3pm and finish at 10pm with evening entertainment. Letters are to be given to nearby residents. After discussion resolved to approve. Proposed: Cllr. Campbell; Seconded: Cllr. Johnson	
056/25	Parkfield - 14		
057/25	Doddington Rd. Cemetery – 15	Nothing to report. Chase grass cutting, cut and collect.	PA
058/25	Parish Hall - 16	Nothing to report.	
059/25	Correspondence /other business -17	Cllr Best has updated Hive at the hall. Cllr Davis said that we have recently been made aware of discussion/complaint about the food made by the events group, in that some of it is being made in private homes. The concern was that they might have to have a licence or have other qualifications etc. Clerk has contacted environmental health at FDC who have provided a leaflet and email saying	

		that community groups do not have to have any qualification to sell homemade food, nor does it come under the realm of a business as it is all for a non-profit making group and is not a regular occurrence (regular being at least once a month). It's advisable for those making the food to use a food probe, which they do and helpful if they have a food hygiene certificate, which they do. Also, to use the usual notices advising of food allergies etc. and have a robust risk assessment for this. All advise has been forwarded to the Events group. Clerk asked all Councillors to refer any proper complaints to her via the online complaints form or by email and to ensure that any advice which they give to residents is correct, or if they are unsure to again refer to query to the clerk. Cllr Davis also reported about the cleaning of the Parish Hal roof complaint. The complaint was that we were wasting money cleaning the roof when we could use money to repair pot holes in the roads. The complaint had been dealt with by the Clerk who had advised that Parish Council cannot repair pot holes which is in the jurisdiction of Cambridgeshire County Council. The roof needed cleaning as deposits of green algae etc were falling onto areas under the roof and, in particular, the fire escape route which was now very slippery and would be perilous if the path had to be used to evacuate the hall.	
060/25	Date of next meeting - 19	Next meeting: Annual meeting of the Parish Council on Tuesday 13th May 2025 at 19.00. Meeting closed at: 19.15	

Appendix a*

	April 2025	NET	VAT	£
Inland revenue	Staff tax & NI			
Handyman 1	Handyman duties			
Clerk	Clerk duties incl. home wkg all.			
Hall steward	Hall steward duties			
Cleaner	Hall cleaning			
Caretaker and Handyman 2	Caretaker and Handyman duties			
Total				3160.47