

Minutes of the meeting of Wimblington Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th August 2025 at Wimblington Parish Hall, Addison Rd. Wimblington PE15 0QT, at 7.00 pm.

Present M T Davis (Chairman), Mrs P Amos (Clerk), Cllr. Abbott; Cllr. Campbell; Cllr. Best; Cllr. Johnson; Cllr. Hennen; Cllr. Dent; Cllr. Harding ;
4 members of the public. Cllr. Thornhill.

Number	Title & Agenda No		Action
126/25	Apologies for Absence - 1	Cllr. Clark - work commitments	
127/25	Absentees		
128/25	Chairs Additional items - 1a	<i>Any items for consideration, which the Chairman deems urgent by virtue of the special circumstances to be now specified: 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:</i> 1 - F/YR24/1000/F - this application will go before planning committee. Do Cllr wish to re-iterate their concerns about it? After discussion decision is to re-send our initial objection to re-iterate our concerns. - Subsequent to the meeting the Chairman had the opportunity to read the full papers attached to the agenda for the FDC Planning Committee meeting to be held on 20.8.2025. The Parish Council's objections previously sent to FDC were re-produced in full in the officers recommendation for refusal. The Chairman e-mailed the clerk and all Councillors on 14.8.2025 with a link to be able to read these comments and advised that she felt there was now no need to re-send our objections. <i>2 - Staff item to be discussed at the end of the meeting.</i>	PA MD
129/25	Declarations of interest - 2	i)declaration: All Councillors re F/YR25/0542/F; ii)written dispensation requests: There were none. iii)dispensation grants: There are none.	
130/25	Public Participation - 3	None	
131/25	Confirmation of minutes - 4	RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2025 were correctly recorded and that they be signed as being a true record. Proposed: Cllr. Campbell; Seconded: Cllr. Dent. All in favour.	
132/25	Fenland District Council - 5	Cllr Davis said that: There was nothing relevant to Wimblington at the last District Council meeting to report	
133/25	Cambridgeshire County Council - 6	Cllr Thornhill reported that re Stonea bridge incidents - he is working with the safety officer to think of ideas to help. A speed camera was set up, but the second one will be installed at the end of this month. Network rail will not install an automated level crossing. He will continue to pursue a resolution to the continuing collision into the bridge.	
134/25	Clerks report - 7	Clerk has finally received confirmation that the funds to maintain the 2 bus shelters and the digital information signs next to the Bellways development, is ultimately the responsibility of the Combined Authority - local transport division - so the funds will go to them for their maintenance. Clerk, Cllr's Davis and Johnson met on 17.7.2025 with Liz Wright to complete a spreadsheet from Cambs CC - forwarded to Cllrs 24.7.2025 - supplying the information they asked for and giving suggestions/comments to them regarding all of the Rights of Way in our Parish. Also sent was a section from our emerging Neighbourhood Plan , written by Cllr Johnson, which was a huge help on the day. Thanks go to Liz Wright who gave up several hours of her time to help, with her knowledge of our ROW's. As per request at the last meeting to stick something to the inside of the Multi goal to reduce the impact when children bank their heads whilst retrieving a ball, Clerk did find some rubber angle Handyman has fitted it - see payments to Start traffic Ltd. LGA 1972 Sch 14 paragraph 27. Clerk pointed out the new water heater in the hall kitchen, which has been chained to the wall for security. Morton & Hall have updated on the hall roof progress - planning application is progressing, building regs details are complete, details are being checked with the green roof company and when all of this is completed they will be able to issue details to the builder. They expect their fee to be as quoted at £1650.00 net. Clerk has approved structural engineers to continue with building regs application for the green roof and has paid building control application fee - see payments to Sth. Norfolk Council The zip wire repair will start in early September.	

		Clerk has ordered a trauma first aid kit in consultation with the chairman, having read through the latest Martyn's Law information. - Event's group have been advised - see payments. The brick plinth and post for the village sign has been completed today. Possible unveiling at 12.00 on second Sat in October Subject to availability of the apprentices and tutor that worked on the post and scroll work. Cllr Davis suggested that the 2 freeman of the Parish pull the string to unveil the new village sign. Thanks were given to Shirley Morrissey for replanting and keeping the village planters refreshed and watered also to Del Millard, John and Ann Best who also keep them all watered.	
135/25	Other Matters - 8	a) Another Defibrillator?: The Clerk had received an email from London Hearts offering another defibrillator at a reduced price of £950.00. We have been offered a host for it on the corner of Hook/Horsemoor Rd.. After discussion, resolved to buy and take up the offer of supplying electricity to the cabinet from Mr & Mrs Kendall. LGA 1972 S.137 Proposed: Cllr Hennen Seconded: Cllr. Harding b) Annual Parish Meeting: Information given to Cllrs at the July meeting was, that whilst there is a written duty to hold this meeting, Arnold Baker 3.1 says that there is no sanction for not holding such a meeting. In previous years this meeting has been extremely poorly supported with 3 attendees in 2016; 2 attendees in 2017; 11 in 2018; 9 in 2019; Covid then stopped face to face meetings and from 2023 we have amended it to be very short and immediately followed by the volunteer evening, After discussion resolved to forgo the Annual Parish meeting. Proposed: Cllr Abbott. Seconded: Cllr. Campbell c) Compulsory/offered land purchase: Whilst looking for another statutory power, the Clerk found that Parish Council has the power to purchase land by compulsory purchase - LGA 1972 S.125. Reading through the act, Parish Council would have to try to make an arrangement in the first instance and presumably then use a solicitor to make a compulsory purchase, should negotiations not work out. Interest was expressed in finding out whether it would be possible to purchase the corner piece on Fullers Lane/Norman Way and at what price After discussion resolved to get an independent valuation, then contact the owner. Also, further to an offer from Fenland District Council for Parish Council to buy the green at Morley Way and round robin emails to all Councillors to ask whether to purchase or rent, the majority wish to purchase the land at a price of £30,000.00 (FDC's valuation from an independent valuer) LGA 1972, S.124, S.126, S.127. After discussion resolved to approve and continue with the purchase of the Morley Way Green and register it in perpetuity as a village green for the recreational use of residents. . Proposed: Cllr. Best Seconded: Cllr. Abbott. d) East Anglian Children's Hospice Donation: Further to an email received and forwarded to Cllrs on 18.7.2025,. Parish Council did not donate to them during the last financial year. LGA 1972, S.137. After discussion resolved to donate £500.00 Proposed: Cllr. Best Seconded: Cllr. Dent e) War Memorial Trust newsletter: Clerk has contacted the War Memorials Trust regarding the newsletter we receive. It is not available digitally, but can be read online at www.warmemorials.org/bulletin-back-issues/ Do Cllrs wish to continue to receive 3 paper copies a year, just one, or none at all? Stop it altogether Proposed: Cllr. Hennen Seconded: Cllr. Campbell f) Land registry access: The Chairman had asked the clerk for information regarding Land registry access which could help us, particularly in boundary queries. Parish Council are aware that County Council have this access and information found says that Parish Council would need to set up a Variable direct debit, have 2 administrators and this would allow Parish Council to search land registry at a reduced fee, typically £7 per search. After discussion resolved to apply for Land registry access. Proposed: Cllr. Johnson Seconded: Cllr. Campbell	PA MD PA PA PA PA

136/25	Payments - 9	a) The members to consider the following: accounts for payment:					
		Payments		NET	VAT	£	
		Salaries	*Including tax & NI			3385.33	
		FDC	Church waste Jun-Sept			145.86	

[illegible]

		Lane and Horsemoor in Wimblington. The village has already made a substantial contribution to the provision of Gypsy and Traveller sites and has exceeded policy requirements. Further development at this location would cause significant and unacceptable impacts on the local environment, infrastructure, and community. 1. Existing Provision and Non-Compliance - Wimblington currently has three established Traveller sites along Hook Lane and Horsemoor. - All three sites were granted retrospective planning permission, with some failing to comply with attached conditions. - Several plots have expanded without permission, with brick-built “utility/day rooms” resembling small bungalows in scale. - Construction activities have already commenced on the site associated with application F/YR25/0515/F. Visual inspection indicates that the drainage infrastructure substantially exceeds the capacity required to service two plots! 2. Infrastructure Damage and Safety Hazards - The transport of large static caravans and mobile units has severely damaged the narrow rural lanes, leaving deep ruts that damage vehicles. - Grass verges have been obstructed, narrowing the carriageway and creating hazards for pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders, farm machinery, and emergency services. - High hedgerows and long sections of solid wooden fencing have reduced visibility and eroded the rural character. - There are no passing points along the lane. 3. Traffic Disruption and Blockages - The delivery and removal of large units frequently blocks Hook Lane for extended periods, restricting access for residents, agricultural vehicles, and emergency services. - These activities are undertaken without authorisation or adequate traffic management, causing unnecessary disruption and safety risks. 4. Overdevelopment and Visual Harm - The cumulative impact of existing and proposed sites is disproportionate compared with surrounding areas. - Public verges have been eroded by unauthorised encroachments. - The NPPF seeks to maintain the vitality of rural communities; this overdevelopment is having the opposite effect, degrading the landscape and countryside views. Conclusion Wimblington has already exceeded its share of provision for Traveller sites. Further development at Hook Lane and Horsemoor would be unsustainable, cause further harm to local infrastructure, and permanently damage the rural environment. We therefore urge the Council to refuse this application in the strongest possible terms. <u>F/YR25/0527/F</u> - Change of use of land for the use of travellers including siting of 6 x static and 6 x touring caravans, change of use of stables to day room/store room, and the keeping of horses (part retrospective) at Cedar Rose Stables Horsemoor Road - object as for F/YR25/0515/F above <u>F/YR25/0542/F</u> - Replacement of part of existing roof with a sedum flat roof to existing building at Wimblington Parish Hall Addison Road - no comments <u>F/YR25/0546/F</u> -Erect a first-floor side extension to existing dwelling at 6A Eastwood End - no objections F/YR25/0563/VOC - Variation of Condition 4 (access alterations), 5 (access surfacing), 6 (surface water drainage scheme) and 8 (list of approved plans) of planning permission - <u>F/YR23/0208/F</u> - (Erect an extension to existing agricultural grain store, 2.5 metre high palisade and security mesh fencing, installation of a weighbridge and associated hut, and widen existing access) - access width reduction and amendment to timeframe of delivery at Knowles Transport Limited Manea Road - object - conditions have not been met within time limit - object - Summary: The proposed variations to Conditions 4 and 6 of F/YR23/0208/F would increase traffic hazards, breach drainage policy requirements, and create an unacceptable flood risk.	PA PA PA PA
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		Key Impacts: Traffic & Access (Condition 4) - Moving the entrance closer to the A141 increases conflict with business accesses opposite the site. - Proximity to a signal-controlled junction risks traffic queuing and safety issues. Drainage & Flood Risk (Condition 6) - Surface water system not completed before site construction — contrary to Drainage Board policy. - Risk of uncontrolled discharge above greenfield runoff rates. - Attenuation pond maintenance strip only 1.5 m wide (5 m required). - Proposed tree planting will obstruct future pond maintenance. - No confirmation of 300 mm freeboard for extreme events or installation of underground attenuation tanks. - Deferral of flood protection works until October 2026 exposes the site and neighbouring properties to flood risk. New Drawing (Condition 8) - The new drawing includes 'lorry parking spaces' this was not in the initial plans 'granted' in application F/YR23/0208/F. Once again with this applicant we see additional items included in VOC applications. - It is noted that in Condition 2 that the premises shall be used for agricultural crop and equipment and for no other purposes, with lorry spaces being included in the drawing referencing Condition 8 are we seeing the start of this becoming a haulage yard Conclusion: These changes compromise public safety, contravene established drainage standards, and should be refused. <u>F/YR25/0583/TRTPO</u> - Works to 1x Ash tree, 1x Lime tree, 1x Maple tree and 1x Oak tree covered by TPO M/2/465/17 at 58 March Road - no objections Cllr Best asked re F/YR25/0476/RM, 7 bungalows behind 14A Addison Rd. has this been withdrawn? - It was confirmed that the application had been withdrawn mainly due to Anglian Water objecting as they have assets in the ground. b) Neighbourhood plan: Cllr Johnson: FDC say they are still awaiting the software to be able provide the maps needed to complete the draft NHP.	
139/25	Highway matters/Street lighting/ Transport – 12	a) Street lights reported: None b) Re-connection of March Rd street light: Clerk forwarded the revised quotation from UKPN to re-connect the knockdown light on March Rd. on 9.7.2025. Quote is £4,871.00 net. However, maintenance company used by Parish Council telephoned to ask whether we had received an update from UKPN and has, after discussion with a friend who works for UKPN, come up with another solution. He is able to install a feeder pillar, and make an armoured cable connection himself. Parish Council would just have to add the new feeder pillar as an asset. The quote for this work is £1580.00 net. After discussion resolved to approve the feeder pillar option Proposed: Cllr. Johnson Seconded: Cllr. Dent. add to asset list once installed c) Footpaths and highways issues: Cllr Abbot says that the salt holder sited at the top of Bridge Lane has been knocked over - clerk to contact highways. Cllr Best said that the chevrons on the bends opposite Lily Ave approaching March are both overgrown, one is completely hidden. Cllr Abbot said that on March Rd, Bellway's site the latest ones seem too close to the road and will impede visibility if turning left from Bridge Lane - Cllr Davis will check and inform planning.	PA PA MD
140/25	War Memorial playing field – 13	a) Gates service: Clerk & handyman met Artistic Metallica to inspect the gates, they suggest fitting 2 retainer hooks to hold the main gates back when open for large vehicles and adjusting the swing of both pedestrian gates so that they naturally swing closed rather than open. Adjustments were made to the main gates whilst on site. No further adjustments will be able to be made, should it be necessary in the future, major works will have to be considered. Quote yet to be received b) New children's rocker: 2 quotes have been received to remove old rocker and replace with a little duckling rocker which is not on an open spring, Quote 1 -£2296.17 net; Quote 2 - 2514.10 net. The quotation received from the company who will be repairing the zip wire to just replace the spring in the current rocker was approximately £1,000 (adjustment for	PA

		'prelims' charge). After discussion resolved to go with quote 1 if there is no travel, or quote 2 if the first has travel added. Proposed: Cllr Hennen. Seconded: Cllr. Abbott Clerk has forwarded photos to Cllrs 12.8.2025, of the moved drain/sewer cover and broken concrete curtain, Cllr Clark has checked CCTV and no one appears to have moved it, handyman will get a steel plate and bolt to the good concrete.	PA
141/25	Parkfield - 14	Cllr Davis has applied for a grant for solar panels for Parkfield.	
142/25	Doddington Rd. Cemetery – 15	a) CCTV?: Whilst the clerk was refreshing the planters, the neighbour brought the waste bin back from being emptied. Whilst talking to him, it seems that youths are still using the gazebo, they are playing music and leaving cigarette ends upturned on the gazebo, he has also on occasion stopped children from playing football in the Cemetery, the playing of games in a Cemetery is illegal. 2 bags of marijuana on 2 separate occasions have been found under the seats there too, they have been handed to the Police whilst reporting the offence. Clerk has also recently received an email offering solar powered CCTV at a cost of £500 plus annual fee of £75.00 for cloud storage- email details forwarded to Cllrs on 17.7.2025. Whilst researching further the only other viable option would be from Generis security (hall security supplier) who can offer a solar powered cctv system at approximately £2950.00 plus an annual fee of £90.00 for back up, email quote forwarded to Cllrs on 31.7.2025. After discussion resolved not to have CCTV yet, but to investigate motion sensor lights. September meeting.	PA
143/25	Parish Hall - 16	a) Hall gas contract: The current contract with SSE for hall gas ends on 14th November. Quotes have been sought -Quote 1 best offer is with Yu energy, 3 year fixed, no standing charge, at current usage would be £1836.28 per annum. Or, a 4 year with British gas would be £ 2034.00 per annum. Quote 2 best offer is through British gas - 4 year fixed rate £2151.97 pa.; 3 year fixed rate £2164.06 pa. After discussion resolved to go with quote 1 3 year with Yu energy. Proposed: Cllr Campbell; Seconded: Cllr Best b) New oven, microwave & fridge: Further to minute 123/25b clerk had forwarded quotes for a new oven, microwave and fridge to Cllrs on 23.7.2025. On measuring the size for the oven clerk found that the gap is only 59.5cm, not 60cm which most ovens are. Handyman has checked and looked for a solution, it would be difficult to move the small cupboard to the right of the oven, so if we replace the fridge for a narrower one, the cupboard between the two appliances would move over more easily and the cost of the fridge would be less than employing a kitchen fitter to alter a cupboard and as the fridge door hinge is loose anyway, it would seem prudent to replace it at the same time. After discussion resolved to purchase new fridge, 60cm oven and microwave Proposed: Cllr. Best Seconded: Cllr. Johnson. LGA 1972, section 133 c) Report on electrics etc due to Storm damage: Hall steward reported that after the storm and lightning 2 weeks ago, the internet at the hall and phone line were not working with many of the Ethernet cables burned at the plug, the filter blown across the room in pieces and the front of the wi-fi hub was blown off the device. Clerk reported to BT and after many hours on the phone BT attended the following day to repair internet. Once the internet was working it was found that the hall phone and hive were also damaged - new phone and hive hub ordered - phone now working. Handyman noticed that the outside lights at the Parish hall are not working after the storm/lighting strike - Electrician attending. Also internal large room lights are compromised - most now in 'dimmer' mode, electrician contacted to investigate fully, but will need scaffolding to do so - handyman to liaise with electrician.	PA PA PA
144/25	Correspondence /other business -17	Cllr Johnson said that the Bridge Lane group have sent a letter to FDC as they are looking at taking legal action regarding the large shed and other applications. Cllr Davis said that there are problems behind Lily Ave, there is new pipework there. To be investigated. Cllr Campbell noticed that the extremely loud motor bike is still riding in the village, he will forward information to Cllr Davis who will report it to the Police again. Cllr Abbott said that Speedwatch has a campaign at the moment as there have been 8 motor bike deaths in the area recently. She also asked Cllrs to consider at the next meeting, purchasing a hand held radar to make taking the figures quicker and easier, . It needs batteries to work. Cllr Hennen said that passing places were added to a list for County Council capital projects.	

		Cllr Dent said that Street Pride are looking at changing the tyres at the village gates for recycled plastic planters if Council are in agreement. They will apply for a grant to pay for them. She also said that regarding Martyn's Law they are implementing suggestions now, e learning etc. she has completed courses giving information. They have 3 first aiders, but Cllr Davis said she would prefer the events group to employ a first aid company. Cllr Best has tried to connect the hive with no joy. Clerk had forwarded an email from LHI team asking for expressions of interest for the 2026/27 initiative. Clerk asked Cllrs if they had any projects they would like to put forward for this? Can Cllrs bring their proposals to the September meeting.	
145/25	Confidential item - 18	Staff item: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Proposed: Cllr. Campbell: Seconded: Cllr. Abbott.	
145/25	Date of next meeting - 19	Next meeting: Tuesday 9th September 2025 at 19.00. Meeting closed at: 21.00	

Appendix a*

	August 2025	NET	VAT	£
Inland revenue	Staff tax & NI			[REDACTED]
Handyman 1	Handyman duties			[REDACTED]
Clerk	Clerk duties incl. home wkg all.			[REDACTED]
Hall steward	Hall steward duties			[REDACTED]
Cleaner	Hall cleaning			[REDACTED]
Caretaker and Handyman 2	Caretaker and Handyman duties			[REDACTED]
Total				3385.33