

Minutes of the meeting of Wimblington Parish Council held on Tuesday 10th February 2026 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. Hennen; Cllr. Dent; Cllr. Harding;
9 members of the public.

Number	Title & Agenda No		Action
023/26	Apologies for Absence - 1	Cllr. Johnson (holiday); Cllr Campbell (work commitment)	
024/26	Absentees	None	
025/26	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 - Staff item to be discussed at the end of the meeting.</i>	
026/26	Declarations of interest - 2	i)declaration: Cllr Dent re 036/26b ii)written dispensation requests: There were none. iii)dispensation grants: There are none.	
027/26	Public Participation - 3	Robert Windle a volunteer from Fenland radio said that he is trying to promote the radio take up. It used to be sport radio and is based in Whittlesey. There is a free app which will direct you to the radio. Various topics are discussed and various music tastes catered for. All topics will be considered for discussion. A resident said that at a function on Saturday he noticed that there is no facility for re-cycling cans at the hall. Clerk advised that business re-cycling is to be changed Nationally in 2027 at which time the PC will make the necessary arrangements.	
028/26	Confirmation of minutes - 4	RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 6th January 2026 were correctly recorded and that they be signed as being a true record. Proposed: Cllr. Clark. Seconded: Cllr. Best. All in favour.	
029/26	Fenland-based Communities Team; G. Chappell from Charlottes Way - 5	Introduction to Cambridgeshire County Council's (Fenland-based) Communities Team: Ella Rolfe and Nicola explained that the team can support connecting local groups. They try to know what is going on in most of the villages and towns to share information. They can support with advertising etc. There is a small grant fund for new community groups and a larger fund for current groups. There is a training offer for new youth initiatives including safer space workshops. There is a youth impact programme for 18-21 year old's who are not in work or training trying to re-engage them. Graham Chappell who is the chair of Charlottes Way and resident James Fuller explained that: together with other local campaigners, they wish to advocate for a 2026/7LHI bid, to reduce the speed limit on the highway adjacent to Stone bridge, which is a most infamous most hit bridge in the country. Network Rails strengthening programme has not reduced the number of bridge strikes. At the moment the speed limit is 50 mph on both the rail crossing and the underpass, which is not safe for either road and the underpass is not safe for 2 passing vehicles particularly at this speed. There has been a fatality at this carriageway killing a motor cyclist as the car driver could not see the exiting motor cyclist. This is an unsafe situation not only for road users but for local residents. If drivers are not made aware of the complexity of the junction ahead, the higher speed does not give enough safety. Should the speed limit be reduced it would warn drivers that there is a reason to reduce speed. It has been difficult to get progress between Highways and Network rail and there is a lot of resistance to closing the underpass, which would be the best solution. The signage of a low bridge does not seem to work, but reducing the speed limit could help. Traffic monitoring cameras were installed eventually, but the evidence has not been made public, but we are told that most drivers do reduce their speed to around 30mph. One of the objections to reducing the speed limit is that there would be conflict between 30mph and 50mph. It seems most likely that the only way to achieve a reduction of speed limit is to use the LHI bid to ask for it. CCC have, exceptionally, given us an extension to the closing date and the basic application made has been supported with a written document from Mr Chappell. The likely cost of the scheme would bring it into the complex area which means the CCC fund would be up to £25,000.00 therefore the minimum applicant contribution would be £2633.34. Mr Chappell proposes that we pursue this with 10% of the contribution being given by the charity and 10% offered by the Parish Council making a total contribution of 20% - £5266.68.	

		The higher proportion that can be offered, the more points are awarded which gives a higher rate of success. After discussion resolved to approve this late bid as above. See 033/26a																																																																																					
030/26	Fenland District Council - 6	Cllr Davis reported that: there is little to report other than the upcoming closure of Hook Rd. Also there are going to be business rate increases during the year. Please complete the Fenland 50 survey. A link to it is on our web site. Cllr Davis will complete a general survey for the Parish. Councillors were asked if s there was anything in particular that needed to be included. No further comment was made.																																																																																					
031/26	Cambridgeshire County Council - 7	Cllr Thornhill could not attend.																																																																																					
032/26	Clerks report - 8	Clerk reported that: further to minute number 019/26a, she had been able to secure an even better price through the second agent. Contract signed with Yu energy with no standing charge; 0.75p pkwh weekdays and 068p pkwh at week-ends. The zip wire at the WMPF has had the concrete on the right-hand side replaced - completed on 17.1.2026. Clerk has chased the installation of the 2 street lights on Eastwood End and they should by now have been installed. Chase again as not yet installed. Our preferred tree specialist has been asked to complete a report for all trees at the WMPF. Heads of terms have been agreed regarding the purchase of Morley Way green and solicitors for both parties instructed to complete the paperwork/purchase. Notice has been received that Hook Rd between Hook Farm and number 15 will be closed for carriageway repairs, hopefully between 2 - 27 March 2027	PA																																																																																				
033/26	Other Matters - 9	a) LHI 2026/7: Further to an email received from Graham Chappell from Charlotte's Way (see above presentation), forwarded to Cllrs 12.1.2026, he asks whether Wimblington PC would consider using our 2026/7 LHI bid, to ask for a reduced speed limit to 30mph either side of the Stonea crossing. Council had decided at the January meeting (016/26c) not to bid for a 2026/7 scheme, but after reading Grahams persuasive letter, all Councillors, with our County Councillors support, formally asked for the decision to be revisited. After many emails CCC have agreed to allow us to submit a late application due to the extenuating circumstances and ongoing interest in this section of road. A formal basic application was made on 21.1.2026 and a more in depth document was prepared by Charlotte's Way (who have offered to match the 10% maximum cost) which had to be forwarded to the LHI section by 31.1.2026 - CC'd to all Cllrs. This was completed (copy sent to Cllrs 26.1.2026) confirmation of Councillors decision whether to proceed to be sent to the LHI section tomorrow and we then await the panel decision. After discussion resolved to agree the LHI 2026/27 and offer 10% £2633.34 towards the cost along with the offer of a further 10% from Charlotte's Way making a total of a 20% contribution - £5266.68. Proposed: Cllr. Best Seconded: Cllr. Clark. All in favour by a show of hands. b) Parish Hall/Christmas lights timer replacement: Cllr Dent asked whether the Events group could have an updated digital timer installed to replace the old manual timer, which is old, and temperamental. The quote received by the events group is £140.00 net. to move a light in the shed and supply and install a digital timer in the hall. Cost to be split, with Events group to pay for the move of the light and Council to pay for the timer. After discussion resolved to approve as above Proposed: Cllr. Hennen, Seconded: Cllr. Abbott	PA PA																																																																																				
034/26	Payments - 10	a) The members to consider the following: accounts for payment: <table><tr><td></td><td>Payments</td><td></td><td>NET</td><td>VAT</td><td>£</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Salaries</td><td>*Including tax & NI</td><td></td><td></td><td>3180.49</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>FDC</td><td>Cemetery garden waste 2026</td><td></td><td></td><td>49.00</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Wrights tools</td><td>2 x work gloves</td><td>8.44</td><td>1.69</td><td>10.13</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Southern electric</td><td>Street light electricity Dec</td><td>408.02</td><td>81.60</td><td>489.62</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Lloyds bank</td><td>Bank charges Nov-Dec</td><td></td><td></td><td>4.25</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Giff gaff</td><td>Pavilion data</td><td>8.34</td><td>1.66</td><td>10.00</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Idverde</td><td>Grass cutting Jan</td><td>584.47</td><td>116.89</td><td>701.36</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>FDC</td><td>Hall waste Dec-March</td><td></td><td></td><td>145.86</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>FDC</td><td>Church waste Dec-March</td><td></td><td></td><td>145.86</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>R Nicholas</td><td>Hall plumbing no heating</td><td></td><td></td><td>60.00</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Hugh Crane Ltd</td><td>Cleaning supplies</td><td>128.72</td><td>25.72</td><td>154.28</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Generis Security</td><td>Alarm service CCTV clean</td><td>337.10</td><td>67.42</td><td>404.52</td></tr><tr><td>016/26b</td><td>Onlineplay Ltd</td><td>Zip wire concrete</td><td>516.20</td><td>103.24</td><td>619.44</td></tr></table>		Payments		NET	VAT	£		Salaries	*Including tax & NI			3180.49		FDC	Cemetery garden waste 2026			49.00		Wrights tools	2 x work gloves	8.44	1.69	10.13		Southern electric	Street light electricity Dec	408.02	81.60	489.62		Lloyds bank	Bank charges Nov-Dec			4.25		Giff gaff	Pavilion data	8.34	1.66	10.00		Idverde	Grass cutting Jan	584.47	116.89	701.36		FDC	Hall waste Dec-March			145.86		FDC	Church waste Dec-March			145.86		R Nicholas	Hall plumbing no heating			60.00		Hugh Crane Ltd	Cleaning supplies	128.72	25.72	154.28		Generis Security	Alarm service CCTV clean	337.10	67.42	404.52	016/26b	Onlineplay Ltd	Zip wire concrete	516.20	103.24	619.44	
	Payments		NET	VAT	£																																																																																		
	Salaries	*Including tax & NI			3180.49																																																																																		
	FDC	Cemetery garden waste 2026			49.00																																																																																		
	Wrights tools	2 x work gloves	8.44	1.69	10.13																																																																																		
	Southern electric	Street light electricity Dec	408.02	81.60	489.62																																																																																		
	Lloyds bank	Bank charges Nov-Dec			4.25																																																																																		
	Giff gaff	Pavilion data	8.34	1.66	10.00																																																																																		
	Idverde	Grass cutting Jan	584.47	116.89	701.36																																																																																		
	FDC	Hall waste Dec-March			145.86																																																																																		
	FDC	Church waste Dec-March			145.86																																																																																		
	R Nicholas	Hall plumbing no heating			60.00																																																																																		
	Hugh Crane Ltd	Cleaning supplies	128.72	25.72	154.28																																																																																		
	Generis Security	Alarm service CCTV clean	337.10	67.42	404.52																																																																																		
016/26b	Onlineplay Ltd	Zip wire concrete	516.20	103.24	619.44																																																																																		

		This application is for condition 1, 2 and 4 to be discharged yet the applicant has not provided sufficient information required necessary to make the development acceptable. Condition 1 states '<i>the building currently in situ shall be demolished to ground level and all materials resulting from this demolition shall be removed within 30 days of the date of failure to meet any one of the requirements set out in i) to iv)</i>' The applicants consultant, Morton & Hall Consulting Limited, has provided the proposed site plan H9861/03e but this has failed to cover Condition 1 i)a-c adequately. Morton & Hall's proposed landscaping works submitted details refer to 'plots', 'no further building operations are required', 'the building process has moved on', this is all relevant to a building project not the application as it stands. Morton & Hall's proposed maintenance details are also not relevant to the proposed planning application, they also refer to a 'development' of homes. There has been no indication of a timescale for the scheme, no reference preparation or to long-term maintenance. It is noted that FDC's consultant Mr A Day also raises comments regarding insufficient detail with regard to the landscaping. Morton & Hall's submitted site plan H9861/05 proposed drainage plan, to cover condition 2, does not contain relevant information or a timetable for implementation of a surface water drainage scheme. Morton & Hall request condition 4 be discharged, this is also to do with landscaping, proposed site plan H9861/03e, timescale and its approval. As above, in response to condition 1, the submitted details are lacking. Therefore Parish council do not support the application for discharge of conditions 1, 2 and 4. b) Neighbourhood plan: In a written report Cllr Johnson said 'All relevant maps have been amended by FDC and forwarded to our consultant as well as the draft Consultation Statement and Annex. It is now in the hands of our consultant to finalise the Wimblington & Stonea Neighbourhood Plan for presentation to FDC and the external examiner.' The quote to complete the NHP by the consultant arrived - cost will be in the region of £1400.00 barring extremely difficult questions from the examiner which may require additional work. Whilst Councillors had previously agreed to pay any additional cost in excess of the grant confirmation was sought to agree this amount? After discussion resolved to pay the quoted amount. Proposed: Cllr. Abbott Seconded: Cllr. Harding c) Fenland 50 consultation: Further to an email for FDC forwarded to Cllrs 30.1.2026 FDC are asking for comments on their proposed new Local plan - Fenland 50. The After discussion resolved that the Chairman to complete the survey on behalf of Parish Council. Councillors requested to also respond individually. will reply	MD
037/26	Highway matters/Street lighting/ Transport – 13	a) Street lights reported: None b) Footpaths and highways issues: Pot holes on lots of our roads. c) new MVAS placement and installation cost: Quote 1 from highways to install 2 posts is £1478.75 net. Clerk has asked CCC whether our lighting contractor would be allowed to install posts and he does already do that in other areas. Quote 2 from him £685.00 net in grass or £865.00 net in tarmac. After discussion resolved to accept quote 2 and install one post (MVAS facing North) near Honeymead and the second at the Lily Avenue entrance subject to highways approval. Proposed: Cllr. Abbott; Seconded: Cllr. Dent d) 20mph funding programme: The latest funding round for a 20mph area is now open and closes on 27.3.2026. Chairman has for several years applied for Church St, Chapel Lane and Addison Road, which carry most traffic to and from our village school, to be reduced to 20mph, but with no success, only being around the 50th on the list once scored. In tandem to the new LHI bid, resident Mr Fuller asked that as an addition to the hoped for speed reduction around Stonea crossing/underpass, that Councillors consider applying for 20mph at the Stonea underpass as well. OR as the matrix is set to favour large areas put to 20mph, there seems little point in applying. After discussion resolved to apply for all of the centre of the village. Councillors felt that 20mph along March and Doddington Roads was unsustainable and could not be enforced. Councillors also agreed that our application should draw attention to the Matrix for marking which tends to favour larger applications for towns or whole villages which seems unfair. Proposed: Cllr. Hennen Seconded: Cllr. Clark	PA MD
038/26	War Memorial playing field – 14	a) New play equipment - Sadly on measuring by the supplier, the hoped for cube will not fit into the space because of the amount of 'fall' space needed for the spiders web. Solutions are to choose something much smaller, or move the fence, or on meeting with the project manager we may be able move the small spinner to the old teen shelter space and install the cube where the spinner is now. However, after re-measuring, the fall allowance is not great enough, so to move part of the fence with the addition of 2 more panels, install the cube in	

		the original position would now be £9030.00 net. After discussion resolved to approve this installation. Proposed: Cllr Abbott. Seconded: Cllr. Clark.	PA
039/26	Parkfield - 15	The Chairman has been contacted by Shared Access, who installed the mast at Parkfield, saying that they are going to replace the 15 metre mast with a 22 metre high mast. Cllr Davis has queried with them why they have not completed another consultation and whether they need planning permission. FDC have also been contacted to find out whether they need planning permission. They have also contacted Mrs Bellamy who owns the field next to the mast as they would like to access it via Mrs Bellamy's land, which on inspection by the Clerk and the Chairman they do not need to do as they can access it from Parkfield's car park. Cllr Davis will respond.	MD
040/26	Doddington Rd. Cemetery - 16	Nothing to report	
041/26	Parish Hall - 17	Hive hub down again. Clerk advised Cllr Best that a new smart meter is to be installed on 20.2.2026 which will mean that the electricity will be turned off for about 45 minutes, this may need the Hive hub to be reconnected again.	
042/19	Burnthouse Wind Farm Community Fund - 18	No applications received	
043/26	Correspondence /other business -19	Cllr Hennen said that Horsemoor Rd. is becoming very congested with traffic and mud. It desperately needs some passing places. Cllr Davis said that Highways need to own the land to be able to install passing places. Clerk will contact Highways to ask whether two existing passing places can be repaired and improved. Cllr Davis asked whether in principal we could purchase a bench for the Morley Way green as there is a 10% off, limited offer just arrived. All agreed in principal to purchase - for next agenda.	PA PA
044/26	Confidential item -Staff salaries 2026/27	<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. Clark. Seconded: Cllr. Dent</i> Staff salaries to take effect from April were discussed. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Proposed: Cllr. Best Seconded: Cllr. Dent	
045/26	Date of next meeting - 20	Next meeting: Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 19.00. Meeting closed at: 21.00	

Appendix a *

	February 2026	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				3180.49