

Minutes of the meeting of Wimblington Parish Council held on Tuesday 10th March 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. Campbell; Cllr. Hennen; Cllr. Johnson; Cllr. Dent; Cllr. Harding; Cllr Thornhill.
6 members of the public.

Number	Title & Agenda No		Action																														
046/26	Apologies for Absence - 1	None																															
047/26	Absentees	None																															
048/26	Chairs Additional items - 1a	Any items for consideration, which the Chairman deems urgent by virtue of the special circumstances to be now specified: There were none																															
049/26	Declarations of interest - 2	i)declaration: Cllr Dent re 064/19; Cllr Harding re F/YR26/0088/F planning; Cllr Abbot re planning F/YR26/0143/PIP and F/YR26/0100/PIP ii)written dispensation requests: There were none. iii)dispensation grants: There are none.																															
050/26	Public Participation - 3	A resident asked for an update on when the food waste bins would be issued in Wimblington – Clerk reported we have not had any further information A resident asked when the Eastwood End streetlight will be installed - Clerk reported it is being chased.																															
051/26	Confirmation of minutes - 4	RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th February 2026 were correctly recorded and that they be signed as being a true record with a minor alteration. Proposed: Cllr. Best; Seconded: Cllr. Harding All in favour.																															
052/26	Fenland District Council - 6	Cllr Davis reported that there will be an additional meeting next week regarding the proposal for the decision about proposed Unitary Councils.																															
053/26	Cambridgeshire County Council - 7	Cllr Thornhill said that potholes can be reported via the CCC portal. Cllr Davis has emailed highways asking why the potholes on Wimblington Rd March have all been marked for repair, yet deeper ones in March Rd. Wimblington are not marked. Cllr best advised that some have now been marked. Cllr Thornhill said that mended potholes are, very soon after the repair, re-appearing again, this is being addressed with the contractor now not paid until the work has been inspected.																															
054/26	Clerks report - 8	Clerk confirmed receipt of the Burnthouse Windmill Fund grant for management by Wimblington Parish Council, which has been allotted to an earmarked reserve for small grants. The office computer's new battery did not fit, despite it being the correct make and model, so it's been returned. We are waiting for the correct fitting battery to arrive. FDC have advised that as the Salvation Army have removed their clothes banks, they have been able to secure others to replace them, so we may see Pink Elephant or the Firefighters Charity clothes banks installed instead. Clerk has been advised that the new cube play item should be installed (weather etc. permitting), week commencing 20th April. Cllr. Clark and the Clerk have completed the annual defibrillator check. The 5b March Rd. defibrillator has recently been taken/used, clerk and chairman collected it from Huntingdon Ambulance station. 4 girls have been recorded on our CCTV climbing onto the roof of the pavilion, toilet block and covered seat. All footage has been sent to the Police.																															
055/26	Other Matters - 9	a) Purchase of bench for Morley Way green: Further to a limited time discount offer for benches, do Councillors agree with their intimated approval at the February meeting, to purchase a bench to be sited on the Morley Way green, once the purchase of the land has been completed? After discussion resolved to purchase at cost of £333.00 net. Proposed: Cllr. Dent; Seconded: Cllr. Abbott.																															
056/26	Payments - 10	a) The members to consider the following: accounts for payment:																															
		<table><tr><td>Payments</td><td></td><td>NET</td><td>VAT</td><td>£</td></tr><tr><td>Salaries</td><td>*Including tax & NI</td><td></td><td></td><td>3201.55</td></tr><tr><td>Southern electric</td><td>Street light electric Jan</td><td>396.91</td><td>79.38</td><td>476.29</td></tr><tr><td>Grahams bin clean</td><td>Hall bin clean January</td><td></td><td></td><td>15.00</td></tr><tr><td>PPL PRS for music</td><td>Hall music licence</td><td>456.14</td><td>91.23</td><td>547.37</td></tr><tr><td>Giff gaff</td><td>Pavilion data Feb-March</td><td>8.34</td><td>1.66</td><td>10.00</td></tr></table>	Payments		NET	VAT	£	Salaries	*Including tax & NI			3201.55	Southern electric	Street light electric Jan	396.91	79.38	476.29	Grahams bin clean	Hall bin clean January			15.00	PPL PRS for music	Hall music licence	456.14	91.23	547.37	Giff gaff	Pavilion data Feb-March	8.34	1.66	10.00	
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		*See appendix a for salary breakdown = Previously approved by Chairman or at previous meeting. # 2022 invoices never received. All payments to be made - Proposed: Cllr. Hennen: Cllr. Clark ; all in favour.																																																													
057/26	Risk Management/ Policies & Procedures - 11	a) To review policies/procedures: Biodiversity, Equality & Diversity, Grant scheme policies forwarded to Cllrs on 12.2.2026 and amended versions on 6.3.2026. After discussion resolved to accept all as read. Proposed: Cllr. Best; Seconded: Cllr. Johnson. All in favour by show of hands.																																																													
058/26	Planning - 12	Planning: the clerk reported that the following planning applications had been received for comment: <u>F/YR26/0088/F</u> - Retention of a temporary site compound (in association with the proposed Fens Reservoir) at Land At Honey Farm Sixteen Foot Bank - no objections. <u>F/YR26/0100/PIP</u> - Permission in principle for up to 9 x dwellings at Land West Of 16 Bridge Lane - object - Wimblington village is granted the status of a 'growth village' in the FDC Local Planning document. The 'growth' stated in that document was: LP Policy 12 - Rural Areas Development Policy If a proposal within or on the edge of a village would, in combination with other development built since April 2011 and committed to be built increase the number of dwellings in the village by 10% or more (15% for growth villages) then the proposal should have demonstrable evidence of clear local community support. Wimblington has far exceeded its 15% and the 315 committed/built since April 2011 which appears in the 2024 statement is now supersede by a number of planning applications that have been granted since 2024. Reflecting the NPPF, LP3 (no further requirement as a 'Growth Village') and FDC's consideration for locations for new developments, they must be sustainable, reflect local preferences in terms of location and especially important, deliver new community infrastructure. "Sustainable development principles At an appropriate scale and in locations where it would support the community Ensuring that there is no increase in the risk of flooding Contributing towards community infrastructure Avoidable intrusion into open countryside Overloading existing utilities and services Rural Character: The scale and character of new buildings are modest and in keeping with the rural setting The variable sense of space between and around existing buildings in Wimblington village is retained The loss of or damage to wildlife habitats, hedgerows and trees" The planning application F/YR25/0807/PIP that Swann Edward's refer to was recommended for refusal by FDC's planning officer and by CCC Highways, it was approved by the Planning Committee. Again, this applicant has rallied support for this proposal because they, and their architect, are fully aware that protocol is such that, if the planning officer's recommendation is for refusal, this application has to go before the planning committee. The supporters for this planning application are not local to the village and their reason for support are predominantly 'the need for better quality homes in the village'. Wimblington and Stonea parish have had a professional Housing Need Assessment completed recently and that does not reflect the opinions of these supporters. The proposed dwellings, 'likely to be 3 bedroom bungalows' which will 'provide a diverse housing mix to the area', put forward			PA																																																										

	in Swann Edward's Design and Access Statement are not needed in the village which, as stated in the Housing Needs Assessment, already has more than above the national percentage of bungalows. These planning applications along Bridge Lane are saturating the open countryside views of the historic village environment north of the Wimblington settlement area. Location The location is not, as stated by Swann Edward's, in a residential location, it is in a field in one of the open spaces still part of the rural village environment. It would be accessed off of a narrow, single, historically rural village lane. Highways have already raised concerns about the width of the lane, the lack of pedestrian paths, vehicle passing bays and use by HGV being a hazard. Access by emergency services could be compromised due to the narrow lane and vehicle passing points. This application is to use the same access point as planning application F/YR25/0058/O where the east side runs adjacent to the boundary wall of property 2b Bridge Lane. That could mean there could be possibly 36 vehicles using that access point when Highways has already raised concerns about the volume of traffic for F/YR25/0058/O. The western boundary of the access also raises concern about the safety of the public using the popular PROW (it is not, as stated in the Design and Access Statement, 'an existing pedestrian footpath' it is a country PROW) that is part of the historic Woodman's Way and the Greenwich Meridian Way. The site does not provide an extension of the village, it suffocates the countryside views, therefore it is NOT in accordance with LP3. Use The proposed site of up to nine dwellings will saturate the openness of this part of the village, the density of properties being constructed behind the natural line of Bridge Lane is unacceptable. It does not retain a sense of space and openness thereby NOT complying with LP12 and LP16. This site sits on the edge of Flood Zone 1 which raise concerns about the additional increase in surface and run off water, this concern is also raised by Anglian Water who do not provide for the excess of surface and run off water. LLFA have also raised concern regarding the localised area off of Bridge Lane on previous planning applications. At the same time the development underway now at the back of Nursery Gardens / back of Hassocks Way is draining storm water into the dyke along Woodmans Way which is rapidly filling up and will have knock on consequences for this PIP site and the already granted site. Therefore, NOT compliant with LP14 or section 14 of the NPPF. Bridge Lane is a dead-end road which involves traffic flow continually exiting from a slight incline on to March Road at a tight, busy bend with restricted vision. The unavoidable, one exit/access, increase in traffic at this junction is subject to major congestion especially with the bus stops in close proximity to the junction. Links into and out of the village can only be accessed from March Road therefore the 'sustainable transport options' are NOT compliant with LP15. Development The applicants Design and Access Statement covers irrelevant information for a Planning in Principle application because, as FDC planning department are fully aware, once a planning in principle is granted the ongoing applications can change the type of dwelling, appearance, landscape, the 'sense of place' and even number of properties! Therefore, the applicant cannot guarantee the development will be acceptable in terms of form and character, therefore NOT compliant with LP12 and LP16. <u>F/YR26/0143/PIP</u> - Permission in principle for 3 x dwellings at Land North Of 16 Bridge Lane - Object - At last night's Parish council meeting, 10th March 2026, councillors discussed the above planning application and agreed to submit the following objection. Location This PIP is for 3 dwellings to be built off a 'no through', historic, rural, single track Bridge Lane, which is part of the historic village environment of Wimblington. Bridge Lane became a 'dead end' when the A141 bypass was constructed, it is a narrow lane where cars struggle to pass each other without churning up the verges. The lane comes to a 'dead end' at the tight entrance into the proposed site which is often where larger vehicles usually have to try and navigate turning around to exit back up the lane. This historic country lane's fields and open spaces are becoming saturated with planning applications for open green spaces to be developed with unnecessary, non-essential, non-required dwellings along a single track, rural lane. These applications are coming forward on a piecemeal and speculative basis, with reduced public engagement and fewer guarantees that it will make the most of the village heritage and historic value. As stated in the applicants Design Statement, Fenland District Planning have granted a number of previous planning applications over the past 5 years but that should not set a	MD
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		precedence! What they fail to state is that many of these planning applications were actually recommended by FDC planning officers for refusal: F/YR20/1235/O - recommended by the FDC planning officer for refusal it was the Planning Committee that granted the application for 88 dwellings on March Road. F/YR20/0234/O - is still pending decision, previous planning applications and an appeal were refused, eventually 7 dwellings were granted but this pending application is now for 16 dwellings behind 3a Bridge Lane. F/YR22/0332/F - recommended for refusal by the FDC planning officer but again granted by the Planning Committee for 4 dwellings on March Road. F/YR25/0058/O - recommended for refusal by FDC planning officer but granted by the Planning Committee for 9 dwellings behind 2b/2c Bridge Lane. F/YR25/0807/PIP - recommended for refusal by FDC planning officer but recently granted by Planning Committee for 7 dwellings behind 6 Bridge Lane. Development All of the above applications were strongly objected to by the local community, most of those who supported the above planning applications were outsiders, as are most of those supporting the present application. But the objections raised by local residents and the Parish Council should be considered of importance. It states in the Fenland Local Plan that Wimblington is a 'Growth Village', which has now exceeded its required development capacity and any, as stated by FDC Planning, further development should have the support of the local residents and Parish Council. These planning applications are creating an unattractive environment, which will be dominated by the use of cars, developing large executive house that are not within the village Design Code, they are not providing more flexibility on the unit mix of housing for market sale, they are not addressing local requirements, as stated in the village Housing Needs Assessment, for a mix of affordable homes. None of the developers are creating social and affordable housing which is needed here in the village. The infrastructure within the village settlement area is struggling to achieve a sustainable environment for the community. Flooding is becoming a common problem especially down Bridge Lane and further development will only increase this concern. Use This site, a large open green space, is set behind the linear line of dwellings along Bridge Lane, it is an open, natural habitat and highway for the local wildlife. It is a countryside barrier between the busy A141 and the village's lane and popular PROW off of Bridge Lane. b) Neighbourhood plan: Cllr Johnson said that the clerk had forwarded the final submission NHP, as received from our consultant, to Cllrs on 9.3.2026.	
059/26	Highway matters/Street lighting/Transport – 13	a) Street lights reported: Cllr Harding said that at Boots bridge the solar panel for a sign has been knocked down - report b) Footpaths and highways issues: Cllr Hennen said that at the bottom of the lane to his property there was a land rover discovery with the driver outside who then drove over the mound of earth to exit very quickly - he took the number and reported to the Police who were not interested, the vehicle is not taxed nor has an MOT. Details to be sent to clerk and Speed watch rep. Clerk subsequently re-sent information to our Neighbourhood Police Team. Cllr Campbell has made 10 pick up after your dog signs c) new MVAS placement and installation: CCC highways have approved the sites requested for the new MVAS and agreed that our street light contractor can install them, with the correct permit, this may cost an additional £480.00 if his current permit is not sufficient. Are Councillors happy to agree this extra cost if needed? After discussion resolved to approve the cost if needed. Proposed: Cllr Hennen. Seconded: Cllr. Dent. d) LHI bid 2026/27: Further to an email received from Charlotte's Way Road Safety, it seems that the reported figure of 20% contribution was not quite correct. Although CCC say that a minimum of 10% is required, the figures don't actually work out at a round 10 or 20%. Therefore the actual amount agreed at the February meeting of £5266.68 is incorrect and should be £5555.56. After discussion resolved to approve the additional £288.88. Proposed: Cllr. Hennen; Seconded: Cllr. Harding. Cllr Davis said that at the last meeting it was agreed to apply for the 20 mph . Since then a lady from Eastwood End has managed to arrange a visit from a highways officer who then said to her that Eastwood End should be 20mph. James Fuller has been collecting and collating evidence in favour of the village centre and Eastwood End application for 20mph. Several companies are in support. Cllr Davis has asked highways for confirmation about the 7.5 weight limit on the Southern access of Eastwood End.	PA PA PA PA

060/26	War Memorial playing field – 14	a) Moss removal: Further to a recent email received and suggestion on last year's RoSPA report, our grass cutting contractors have quoted £75.00 net per application to spray to kill the moss on the wet pour surface in the children's play area. Approved by the chairman. The chairman has been made aware of funding available towards play areas, she asked if Councillors would be in agreement to replacing the old toddlers swing unit and roundabout if funding can be accessed? All in favour by show of hands.	MD
061/26	Parkfield - 15	a) Shared Access - new telecoms mast: Further to emails received by the chair, clerk and Mrs Bellamy, Shared Access who installed the current mast are going to replace it with a taller one. It seems that they do not need planning permission to do this. The current mast is 15 meters tall, the new one will be 22.5 meters tall.	
062/26	Doddington Rd. Cemetery - 16	Grass cutting needed. And at WMPF	PA
063/26	Parish Hall - 17	a) Hall hire cancellation - deposit refunds. A recent cancellation has brought the refund of deposit to the attention of the booking clerk. He asks if there should be a cut off time at which point the deposit cannot be refunded. After discussion agreed that a deposit cannot be refunded if the cancellation is less than 30 days before the date of booking - unless there are extenuating circumstances. Proposed: Cllr. Johnson. Seconded: Cllr. Best.	PA
064/26	Burnthouse Wind Farm Community Fund - 18	3 applications have now been received - Wimblington Computer club and Wimblington Street Pride. Chairman and clerk have liaised and are happy to award £500 to each group. After discussion resolved to agree. Proposed: Cllr. Campbell. Seconded: Cllr. Johnson	PA
065/26	Correspondence /other business -19	A Stonea resident who lives next to the Golden Lion has offered to put information into the noticeboard at the pub, are Cllrs. agreeable? All in favour by show of hands Cllr Davis advised Cllrs that the final submission NHP has been received (forwarded to Cllrs on 9.3.2026). We need to convene a special meeting to approve the draft as waiting for the April meeting will add unnecessary time. Councillors indicated by show of hands who would be available for a meeting either next Monday 16th March at 17.00 or Wednesday 18th at 16.00, or Thursday 19th at 17.00. It was agreed that the Special meeting will be scheduled for Monday 16th March at 17.00 - Special agenda to be arranged on Wednesday	PA
066/26	Date of next meeting - 20	Next meeting: 18.30 on Tuesday 14th April 2026, followed at 19.15 by Volunteer evening. Meeting closed at: 20.15	

Appendix a *

	March 2026	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				