



**Wisbech St Mary Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**  
**Held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 6:30pm**  
**The Chequers Public House**

**ATTENDANCE**

Mark Fryett - Chairman	Parish Councillor	Present
Gloria Culyer - Vice Chairman	Parish Councillor	Present
John Humphrey	Parish Councillor	Present
Barry Britain	Parish Councillor	Present
Stephen Mann	Parish Councillor	Present
David Scrimshaw	Parish Councillor	Apologies
Gavin Booth	Parish Councillor	Present
Angela Weldon	Parish Councillor	Apologies
Richard Blackmore	Parish Councillor	Present
Charles Allen	Parish Councillor	Present
David Rowell	Parish Councillor	Apologies
Lisa Delbecque	Parish Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer (RFO)	Present

Also present: Councillor Diane Cutler.

Members of the Public Present: 0

<b>1.</b>	<b>Open Forum.</b> Cllr Cutler informed Cllrs that all planned Community Speed Watch (CSW) had been completed. Cllr Culter noted that in some areas CSW can also enforce speeding and that she would be exploring this further.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Apologies received from Cllr David Scrimshaw, Cllr Angela Weldon and Cllr David Rowell. Apologies for absence accepted
<b>3.</b>	<b>Dispensations &amp; Declarations of Interest</b> None
<b>4.</b>	<b>Minutes</b> Councillors unanimously RESOLVED to approve the minutes, and confidential minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 as a true and accurate record. Approved minutes signed by Cllr Fryett.
<b>5.</b>	<b>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</b> None
<b>6.</b>	<b>Planning</b>
6.1	<b>F/YR26/0111/F</b> - Formation of an access (retrospective) at Land South Of 143 Murrow Bank Murrow, Cambridgeshire Cllrs Recommended: Approval – Subject to Highways also giving approval.
(a)	
(b)	<b>F/YR26/0067/F</b> - Erect a single-storey rear extension at Honey Cottage 20 Back Road Murrow Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4JW Cllrs Recommended: Approval

(c)	<b>TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 APPEAL UNDER SECTION 78 - F/YR25/0837/F</b> - Convert existing barn to 1 x self-build/custom dwelling involving the demolition of existing shed and removal of steel container at Barn South East Of Blackgates Rummers Lane Wisbech St Mary Cambridgeshire Cllrs Recommended: Cllrs continued to support this application and recommended approval.			
7.	<b>Reports From District &amp; County Councillors</b> Cllr Booth highlighted at his most recent meeting on the 23/2/2026 it was decided FDC would not increase the council tax for 2026/27. Cllr Cutler and Cllr Booth also shared they had applied for funding for play equipment for Murrow and remained hopeful they would be successful with their application.			
8. 8.1	<b>8. Parish Property and Highways Matters</b> <b>Any Parish Property Issues to be Raised by Councillors.</b> Cllr Fryett expressed sincere thank to Cllr Britain for the considerable time and effort he has given over the years in caring for the parish planters and for his time delivering the parish post. It was noted that these tasks can be physically demanding, and the council have agreed to explore alternative arrangements for some of the planters. In addition, a current volunteer has agreed to extend her parish post delivery area. Cllr Britain will continue to care for 3 planters, and this was greatly appreciated by the council.  Cllr Fryett informed Cllrs that the defib in WSM - JS Holmes was recently used. This was one of the defibs previously spoken about, that we are unable to get replacement pad and batteries for. Cllr Fryett and the clerk decided to use their discretion and purchase a new defib before bringing this to a meeting on the basis this purchase had previously been agreed and because it is potentially life saving equipment. Cllrs supported this decision.  Cllr Fryett advised Cllrs that he had received a phone call regarding the rising water level at WSM Pond. Cllr Fryett told Cllrs that he had undertaken a site visit with the clerk and Cllr Rowell and they deemed no immediate action necessary . The residents have since updated Cllr Fryett that the water currently receding, and Cllrs agreed to monitor the situation and act immediately when required. Cllr Humphrey agreed to speak with the residents to further reassure them that the council will respond quickly if required.  Cllr Fryett asked Cllrs when D Rowell Contracting should begin this season’s grass cutting. Due to the time of year and the length of time between the March and April meeting Cllrs agreed this should be agreed between the clerk and Cllr Fryett between meetings but to commence no earlier than April.  8.2 <b>Any Highways issues to be Raised by Councillors.</b> Cllr Booth updated Cllrs on the overhanging tree he reported in September 2025. The response was that it did not meet the criteria to be cut back. The clerk agreed to report this again. Cllrs then discussed the flooding outside the Church is Murrow. The clerk agreed to report this to Cambridgeshire County Council.			
9. 9.1	<b>9. Correspondence</b> <b>To Note and Decide Way Forward for Correspondence Received Regarding Flag Flying for Armed Forces Day.</b> Cllrs confirmed the appropriate flag will be flown on the 21 <sup>st</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup> June to commemorate Armed Forces Day.			
9.2	<b>To Respond to Local Government Reorganisation Consultation.</b> Cllrs responded to the local government reorganisation consultation supporting the proposal option of Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council.			
10. 10.1	<b>Finance Matters</b> The payments list was circulated prior to the meeting and there were no objections raised. The payments schedule and original invoices was duly checked and signed by 2 Cllrs totalling £5,923.20.			
Minute Ref	TO WHOM	DETAILS	AMOUNT	STATUTORY POWER

10.1 (a)	Clerk	Clerk Salary	£1764.68	LG Act 1972 S112
10.1 (b)	HMRC	Clerk HMRC Tax and NI	£890.44	LG Act 1972 S112
10.1 (c)	Nest Pensions	Nest Pensions – (Direct Debit)	£159.04	LG Act 1972 S112
10.1 (d)	Clerk	Clerk Monthly Expenses	£68.36	LG Act 1972 S112
10.1 (e)	Cllr Fryett	Chairman Quarterly Allowance	£320.00	LG Act 1972 S15 (5)
10.1 (f)	Cllrs Allen, Blackmore, Britain, Fryett, Mann, Scrimshaw & Weldon	Councillor Quarterly Allowances (TOTAL)	£396.90	Local Authority (Members Allowances) (England) Regs 003 S25 (1b)
10.1 (g)	SSE Energy	Street Light Electricity (Direct Debit)	£712.61	Parish Councils Act 1957 S3
10.1 (h)	Tamar IT	Tamar IT – Microsoft 365 (Direct Debit)	£14.83	LG Act 1972 S111
10.1 (i)	ADC	Pond Project in Guyhirn including Ecology Survey	£17,073.60	Local Government Act 1972 S 111
10.1 (j)	A & R Groundskeeping	1 Month Provision of Tender 1	£100.00	Highways Act 1980 S96
10.1 (k)	A & R Groundskeeping	1 Month Provision of Tender 2	£0.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 S9-10
10.1 (l)	A & R Groundskeeping	1 Month Provision of Tender 3	£362.00	Parish Council Act 1957 S1
10.1 (m)	Wisbech Electrical Ltd	Streetlighting Repairs	£468.12	Parish Councils Act 1957 s3
10.1 (n)	Cambridgeshire ACRE	Membership Fee	£74.50	Local Government Act 1972 S111
10.1 (o)	AA Defibs	New Defibrillator	£1104.00	Public Health Act 1936 S234
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£23,509.08</b>	
	Internal Transfer to be undertaken from Barclays Saving to Barclays Current	£20,000		

To be ratified:

Minute Ref	TO WHOM	DETAILS	AMOUNT	STATUTORY POWER
10.1 (p)	Amazon/ Clerk	Printer Paper	£19.99	LG Act 1972 S112
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£19.99</b>	

- 10.2. **To Receive the Finance & Budget Report for 2025/26 to date.**  
The clerk confirmed the following balances were correct as of the 10/02/2026 and the bank reconciliation was approved. Barclays Current Account - £9,758.14, PSDF - £125,000 and Barclays Savings Account £80,138.74. The clerk confirmed the PSDF received interest of £360.91, and the COIF received £232.58 in interest in the previous month. Cllrs raised no questions.
- 10.3. **To Consider Applying for Cambridgeshire Community Foundation – Wrydecroft Grant Application**  
Cllrs discussed what would be most beneficial for the parish and decided to apply for new defibrillators to replace the ones that we are unable to get new pads and batteries for. The clerk agreed to complete this application prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> May deadline.
- 10.4. **To Note the Clerk has Completed a S126 VAT Claim for £2400.21.**  
Cllrs noted the S126 Claim had been made. The clerk confirmed this had been received into the bank on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

<b>11.</b>	<b>11. Training &amp; Development</b>
11.1	<b>To Note the Clerk has Obtained the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA)</b> Cllrs congratulated the clerk on successfully achieving the CiLCA Qualification and noted the significant work involved in completing this.
11.2.	<b>To Consider Approval for the Clerk to Join the SLCC Professional Development Scheme (PDS) at a cost of £50.00 per year.</b> The PDS scheme demonstrates the council is committed to the ongoing development of their clerk and formalises continuous professional development. It also includes a £20 voucher towards a training course, helpful bulletins, advice and support with continuous professional development. The council RESOLVED to join the scheme.
<b>12.</b>	<b>12. General Power of Competence</b>
12.1	<b>To Confirm the Council meets the Eligibility Criteria and Consider to Resolve that the Council Adopts the General Power of Competence under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.</b> The council confirmed they meet the criteria required under Section 8 the Localism Act 2011 and RESOLVED to adopt the General Power of Competence.
<b>13.</b>	<b>Wisbech St Mary Matters</b>
13.1	<b>To Receive an Update on Wisbech St Mary Churchyard Transfer</b> The clerk advised she has further chased the team at FDC to ascertain what they require from the Memorial Inspection. They have responded outlining what they inspection should include and also suggested the PCC should make repairs to the tombs if required or alternatively sign and undertaking to absolve WSMPC and FDC of the future costs that may arises to ensure these are kept to a safe and proper standard. The clerk has emailed the PCC requesting this and awaits their response. The clerk is also awaiting the insurance quotation to add this to the parish council policy on a temporary basis.
<b>14.</b>	<b>Guyhirn Matters</b>
14.1	<b>To Receive an Update and Decide Way Forward With Guyhirn War Memorial and To Consider Instructing an Architect to Draw up a Land Registry Compliant Plan.</b> Cllr Fryett, Cllr Rowell and the clerk met with the owners of the land behind the playing field in Guyhirn. They have an easement over land owned by WSMPC. The meeting was productive with the landowners stating they would not be prepared to cover the legal costs but were happy for the council to formalise the access route currently in place. After the meeting the landowner advised there would be no costs associated with this. The clerk informed the solicitors of what was agreed and they have requested a Land Registry compliant plan showing where the current right of way is. This needs to be undertaken by an architect. Cllrs felt the most appropriate company would be Swann Edwards as they assisted the council with the planning applications for this project and so already have a good background knowledge of the project. The clerk agreed to contact them to move this project forward.
<b>15.</b>	<b>15. Murrow Matters</b>
15.1.	<b>To Consider Adopting Streetlight in Murrow.</b> Cllrs discussed the streetlight at the Pigeons in Murrow. Cllr Fryett informed Cllrs they he has investigated this and has not been located on any council records. Cllr Booth said he believes this belongs to Clarion. The clerk agreed to report this to Clarion but monitor to ensure this is resolved.
<b>16.</b>	<b>iPads</b>
	<b>To Decide Way Forward With the iPads.</b> Cllrs discussed issues with the iPad's they are urgently experiencing. Cllr Booth suggested Cllrs coming to the next meeting 30 minutes early to allow the clerk to complete updates to the iPad's to see if this improves anything and then monitor the situation.
<b>17.</b>	<b>Future Agenda Items:</b> Planters, Archiving, HR Committee
<b>18.</b>	<b>Date of the Next Meeting</b> Next Parish Council meeting to be held on Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2026 6:30pm – Thorney Toll Village Hall

Meeting closed at 8:20pm

Total number of pages 4