



Wisbech St Mary Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on Monday 20th April 2026 at 6:30pm
Thorney Toll Village Hall

ATTENDANCE

Mark Fryett - Chairman	Parish Councillor	Apologies
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	Present
Gavin Booth	Parish Councillor	Apologies
Angela Weldon	Parish Councillor	Present
Richard Blackmore	Parish Councillor	Present
Charles Allen	Parish Councillor	Present
David Rowell	Parish Councillor	Present
Lisa Delbecque	Parish Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer (RFO)	Present

Also present: Councillor Diane Cutler.

Members of the Public Present: 4

1.	<p>Cllr Culyer opened and Chaired the meeting in Cllr Fryett's absence.</p> <p>Open Forum. Members of the public came to speak on the planning application 6.1 b and 6.1 c. They expressed serious concerns regarding these applications and informed the council of the current issues with the site. They explained the planning enforcement issues, environmental concerns and the impact of the site on their daily lives. Cllr Culyer thanked them for their contribution.</p> <p>Cllr Culter then spoke to update Cllrs on the plans for armed forces day, which now will also include a fete. She then went onto shared updates on community speed watch noting that Murrow Bank has currently the worst for speeding.</p>
2.	<p>Apologies for Absence Apologies received from Cllr Mark Fryett, Cllr Gavin Booth. Apologies for absence accepted</p>
3.	<p>Dispensations & Declarations of Interest None</p>
4.	<p>Minutes Councillors unanimously RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2026 as a true and accurate record. Approved minutes signed by Cllr G Culyer.</p>
5.	<p>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes Flooding – No update at present Overhanging Tree – No update at present</p>

	iPads – Seem to be working at present.
6.	Planning
6.1	F/YR26/0157/F Installation of an InPost Locker (retrospective) at New Toll Service Station North Wisbech Road Thorney Toll Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4AT Cllrs Recommended: Approval. Cllrs noted this was retrospective and expressed concern but supported this application with CCTV/security being in place.
(a)	
(b)	F/YR26/0177/F Change of use of land for the siting of 2 x mobile homes at Land North Of HBH Foods Hooks Drove Murrow Cambridgeshire Cllrs Recommended: Refusal. Cllrs noted the wider ongoing issues with this site and had a lengthy discussion around their concerns. In conclusion the Parish Council strongly objects to this application on the following grounds: 1. Inappropriate Development in the Open Countryside / Loss of Green Space The site lies within open countryside where development should be strictly controlled. The introduction of residential mobile homes represents an unjustified and intrusive form of development that is wholly out of keeping with the rural character of the area. This proposal would result in the urbanisation of undeveloped green land and the permanent loss of open countryside. 2. Previous Refusal and Attempt to Circumvent Planning Control This application follows a previously refused proposal for similar development. The Parish Council is concerned that the applicant has sought to circumvent planning control by relocating the mobile homes within the same site and reapplying. This does not overcome the fundamental planning concerns previously identified and sets an undesirable precedent. 3. Unacceptable Impact on Residential Amenity The site's existing and associated activities have already generated significant concern from neighbouring residents, particularly in relation to odour and disturbance. The introduction of residential units in this location is likely to intensify these impacts and is therefore unacceptable. 4. Cesspit Location – Serious Amenity and Sanitation Concerns The Parish Council is particularly concerned about the siting of a cesspit in extremely close proximity to the neighbouring dwelling, specifically adjacent to a kitchen window. This raises serious issues in respect of odour, hygiene, and living conditions. The positioning of such waste infrastructure so close to a habitable room is wholly inappropriate, is causing significant distress, and represents a clear and unacceptable impact on residential amenity. This arrangement alone provides sufficient justification for refusal. 5. Environmental and Pollution Concerns There are serious concerns regarding environmental management at the site. Reports from residents include the presence of dyed liquid and sewage within the adjacent dyke, raising potential risks to water quality and the wider environment. These concerns indicate inadequate site controls, and further development would risk exacerbating environmental harm. 6. Flood Risk and Drainage The apparent discharge or presence of waste materials within nearby watercourses raises additional concerns regarding drainage and flood risk. The site does not appear suitable for residential use given the potential for contamination and lack of robust drainage arrangements. 7. Unsuitable Location for Residential Use The proposed siting of mobile homes within a site associated with commercial/industrial activity is inappropriate. The location is not considered suitable for residential occupation due to environmental, amenity, and land use conflicts. Additional Comments (Non-Planning but Material Considerations): The Parish Council also wishes to formally record significant concerns raised by residents regarding environmental health and food standards associated with the existing use of the site. While these matters may fall under separate regulatory regimes, they add to the overall concern regarding the suitability of this location for any form of residential development.
(c)	TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 APPEAL UNDER SECTION 195 F/YR25/0479/CERTLU Land North Of All Best Cuts Limited Hooks Drove Murrow

(d)	<p>Cambridgeshire. Certificate of Lawful Use (Existing): to seek confirmation of compliance of Condition 1 (commencement of works) of planning permission F/YR11/0592/EXTIME (Erection of 2 warehouse units) Cllrs Comments: Cllrs recommending Refusal. Cllrs noted seeing a digger onsite and believe work may have started. They noted the ongoing issues with this site and its activities. F/YR26/0219/RM Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline permission F/YR22/0493/O to erect 2 x dwellings involving the demolition of existing outbuildings at Land North And East Of Goosetree House Selwyn Corner Guyhirn Cambridgeshire Cllrs Recommended: Refusal. Cllrs said this would not be a suitable location for the intended properties and had highways concerns and felt the properties were too big for the site.</p>																									
7.	<p>Reports From District & County Councillors Cllr Cutler updated Cllrs on the Local Government Reorganisation stating FDC had chosen option D which had now been renamed option 4. She then shared that FDC would not be rolling out their food waste scheme until September 2026. Cllr Cutler advised Cllrs that the police community engagement would be available when advertised. Finally, she advised Cllrs that Murrow would be receiving a grant for some new play equipment and would provide more details in due course. One member of the public left the meeting at 19:06.</p>																									
8. 8.1 8.2 8.3	<p>8. Parish Property and Highways Matters 8.1 Any Parish Property Issues to be Raised by Councillors. None 8.2 Any Highways issues to be Raised by Councillors. Cllr Scrimshaw spoke to inform Cllrs that now Cants Drove repairs had been undertaken speeding is now a real issue. Cllrs noted the speed limit of 60 MPH on this road was inappropriate. Cllr Cutler agreed to write a letter regarding reducing this however felt this would need to come from the council via an LHI application. Cllr Humphrey expressed concerns with CCC recording data inaccurately. Cllr Cuyler advised we could do nothing except for keep reporting this. 8.3 To Discuss and Decide Way Forward with Defib at Wisbech St Mary Community Centre Maintenance The clerk advised Cllrs that Wisbech St Mary Community Centre had ordered and paid for replacement pads and battery for the defib at WSM Community Centre. The clerk advised that they then approached the council to reimburse the community centre as they advised they don't own the defib. According to parish council records WSMPC do not own the defib but did donate the cabinet to allow the defib to be accessible externally. Cllrs decided they should reply to the community centre stating they do not own this and could not reimburse them for this.</p>																									
9. 9.1	<p>9. Correspondence 9.1 Request for the Parish Council to Deliver a Magazine alongside The Parish Post Cllrs noted this correspondence and agreed they would not allow anything else to be delivered alongside the parish post. The clerk agreed to respond to the enquiry.</p>																									
10. 10.1	<p>Finance Matters 10.1 The payments list was circulated prior to the meeting and there were no objections raised, Cllrs noted the Clerks pay rise of 1 SCP for passing CiLCA. The payments schedule and original invoices was duly checked and signed by 2 Cllrs totalling £7,058.86.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="244 1675 1544 1995"> <thead> <tr> <th>Minute Ref</th> <th>TO WHOM</th> <th>DETAILS</th> <th>AMOUNT</th> <th>STATUTORY POWER</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>10.1 (a)</td> <td>Clerk</td> <td>Clerk Salary</td> <td>£1973.56</td> <td>LG Act 1972 S112</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10.1 (b)</td> <td>HMRC</td> <td>Clerk HMRC Tax and NI</td> <td>£662.08</td> <td>LG Act 1972 S112</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10.1 (c)</td> <td>Nest Pensions</td> <td>Nest Pensions – (Direct Debit)</td> <td>£164.18</td> <td>LG Act 1972 S112</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10.1 (d)</td> <td>Clerk</td> <td>Clerk Monthly Expenses</td> <td>£71.78</td> <td>LG Act 1972 S112</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Minute Ref	TO WHOM	DETAILS	AMOUNT	STATUTORY POWER	10.1 (a)	Clerk	Clerk Salary	£1973.56	LG Act 1972 S112	10.1 (b)	HMRC	Clerk HMRC Tax and NI	£662.08	LG Act 1972 S112	10.1 (c)	Nest Pensions	Nest Pensions – (Direct Debit)	£164.18	LG Act 1972 S112	10.1 (d)	Clerk	Clerk Monthly Expenses	£71.78	LG Act 1972 S112
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10.1 (e)	SSE Energy	Street Light Electricity (Direct Debit)	£567.22	Parish Councils Act 1957 S3
10.1 (f)	Tamar IT	Tamar IT – Microsoft 365 (Direct Debit)	£14.83	LG Act 1972 S111
10.1 (g)	A & R Groundskeeping	1 Month Provision of Tender 1	£280.00	Highways Act 1980 S96
10.1 (h)	A & R Groundskeeping	1 Month Provision of Tender 2	£125.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 S9-10
10.1 (i)	A & R Groundskeeping	1 Month Provision of Tender 3	£417.00	Parish Council Act 1957 S1
10.1 (j)	Zurich Insurance	Liability Insurance	£1583.80	LG Act 1972 S111
10.1 (k)	SLCC Membership & Qualification	SLCC Membership & (PIALC)	£218.00	LG Act 1972 S111
10.1 (l)	Wisbech Electrical Ltd	Streetlighting Repairs	£752.39	Parish Councils Act 1957 s3
10.1 (m)	AA Defibs	New Pads	£146.34	Public Health Act 1936 S234
10.1 (n)	Allen Agriculture	Grass Seed	£61.75	Local Government (Misc Prov) Act 1976 Section 19
10.1 (o)	North Level District IDB	Drainage Rates	£18.16	Local Government (Financial Provision) 1963 s.5
	TOTAL		£7,056.09	
	Internal Transfer to be undertaken from Barclays Current to Barclays Savings	£40,000		

To be ratified:

Minute Ref	TO WHOM	DETAILS	AMOUNT	STATUTORY POWER
10.1 (p)	Post Office / Clerk	Postage	£2.77	LG Act 1972 S112
		TOTAL	£2.77	

To Receive the Finance & Budget Report for 2025/26 to date.

10.2. The clerk confirmed the following balances were correct as of the 31/03/2026 and the bank reconciliation was approved. Barclays Current Account - £13,200.20, PSDF - £125,000 and Barclays Savings Account £60,341.61. The clerk confirmed the PSDF received interest of £ 397.46, and the COIF received £ 255.81 in interest in the previous month. Cllrs raised no questions.

To Note the Precept of £58,771.28 has been received

10.3. Cllrs noted this had been received.

To Consider the Following Grant Requests

- 10.4. (a) **Murrow Book Café**
Cllr Weldon Proposed £500.00 should be donated to Murrow Book Café which was Seconded by Cllr Allen
- (b) **Murrow Street Pride**
Cllr Scrimshaw Proposed WSMPC should donate £150.00 to Murrow Street Pride which was Seconded by Cllr Rowell.
- (c) **Citizens Advice Rural Cambs**
Cllrs request the clerk ask the Citizens Advice Rural Cambs to complete an application form which she agreed to do.

11. Wisbech St Mary Matters

11.1 To Receive an Update on Wisbech St Mary Churchyard Transfer

	The clerk confirmed the parish council now have ownership of the churchyard but that she has received no further correspondence or paperwork or correspondence regarding this from with either FDC or the PCC. The clerk agreed to write a letter to FDC to transfer ownership to them as soon as possible.
12.	Planters
12.1	To Decide Way Forward with Planters Cllr discussed the planters and decided who should be responsible for each. It was agreed that the planters in WSM at the school, pond, outside Volmary and Bunkers Hill needed some improvement, and councillors requested the clerk the request the handyman do this. It was noted the grass around this had not been cut and the clerk agreed to see who if A& R Groundworks are currently responsible for this area.
12.2	Murrow Street Pride Request - To allow MSP to take ownership of 3 planters in Murrow Cllrs UNANIMOUSLY agreed to sell the 3 planters in Murrow for £1. The clerk agreed to arrange this.
13.	Archiving
13.1	To Discuss Way Forward with Achieving Council Records. Cllr Culyer asked what the progress was with achieving records. The clerk agreed to progress this matter.
14.	HR Committee
14.1	To Consider a HR Committee and Decide Way Forward Cllrs briefly discussed this item but decided to defer this to a meeting in the future.
15.	Training and Development
15.1	To Consider the Clerk Undertaking The Principles of Internal Auditing Local Councils (PIALC) at a Cost of £140.00 + VAT. Cllr unanimously RESOLVED for the clerk to undertake this qualification
15.2.	To Consider Delegating Authority to Clerk, in Consultation with the Chairman, to Approve Training Expenditure up to the Agreed Training Budget. Cllr unanimously RESOLVED that the clerk In consultation with the chairman could approve training expenditure for both councillors and the clerk up to the agreed training budget each year, with reported expenditure to be noted at the next council meeting.
16.	To Consider Purchasing MVAS Devices
16.1.	To Review Quotes and Decide Way Forward. The clerk provided and circulated 3 quotes prior to the meeting. Cllrs discussed this and agreed that in order to make most efficient use of the grant monies it is more cost effective to proceed with Elan City and order 2 twin packs of devices. This did mean the council would need to contribute some funds towards this, but it was decided the council could benefit from having 4 additional signs to help combat speeding locally. The clerk agreed to place the order.
17.	Future Agenda Items: Planters Highways
18.	Date of the Next Meeting Next Parish Council meeting to be held on Monday 11 th May 2026 6:30pm immediately after the Parish assembly which will begin at 6:15pm – Wisbech St Mary Community Centre Cllrs confirmed the below proposed meeting dates and requested the clerk decide on locations for each meeting. Monday 8 th June 2026 6:30pm Monday 13 th July 2026 6:30pm Monday 14 th September 2026 6:30pm Monday 12 th October 2026 6:30pm Monday 9 th November 2026 6:30pm Monday 14 th December 2026 6:30pm Monday 11 th January 2027 6:30pm Monday 8 th February 2027 6:30pm Monday 8 th March 2027 6:30pm Monday 19 th April 2027 6:30pm

Meeting closed at 20:08 pm

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