

Wisbech St Mary Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Assembly Meeting held at Wisbech St Mary Community Centre on Monday 12th May 2025 at 6:30pm.

1. Present:

Councillors – C Allen (Chairman), M Fryett (Vice Chairman), B Britain, S Mann, D Scrimshaw, J Humphrey, A Weldon, R Blackmore, G Booth, G Culyer & D Rowell.

FDC Councillors: G Booth – CCC Councillors: None present

Clerk to the Council: Lisa Delbecque

Members of the public - 0

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

2. Apologies: Cllr Cutler gave her apologies prior to the meeting and provided a written statement to be read in her absence.

3. Minutes of the Parish Assembly Meeting of 13th May 2024 held at Wisbech St. Mary Community Centre were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4 Chairman's Annual Report:

The Chairman delivered his yearly report.

Cllr Allen reported the council received the resignation from the previous clerk in June and so they began the recruitment process for a new clerk. The Chairman shared he felt the new clerk, Lisa, had settled in very well and felt she was very professional and had also begun her CiLCA training. The Chairman thanked Gavin, Gloria and David for helping him with the appointment.

The Chairman moved on the share that the parish ponds were still an ongoing project, and the war memorial relocation was also still ongoing, noting projects don't always a conclusion as quickly as we would like. He Chairman shared that remembrance Sunday was well supported in all our villages with Murrow going from strength to strength. Murrow street pride and speed watch continue to flourish, he thanked Diane Cutler and her team. He noted the planters looked lovely and we had a waiting list for more. We secured a grant from Wrydecroft for the dredging of Guyhirn pond with work due to take place from September. We were also successful with a grant from Fenland District Council (FDC) for Solar Panels at Guyhirn Community Room. Speed through the villages remains a top priority and although the speed calming measure at Wisbech St Mary and Guyhirn were not initially popular, now residents have got used to them public opinion has improved. The Chairman moved on to share the success of the new Parish newsletter, The Parish Post. He thanked the clerk for producing a quality magazine and for making it a successful venture, he also thanked everyone who helped distribute this. The Chairman thanked A&R Groundworks for doing a wonderful job of keeping our villages looking nice and tidy.

Finally, the chairman thanked County Councillors, Steve Count and Simon King and also our Fenland District Councillors, Diane Cutler and Gavin Booth for all their hard work. He also thanked the Parish Councillors for their hard work with a special thank you to Mark Fryett who has always been ready and willing to help whenever possible. Lastly, he thanked, Lisa, the clerk for all her hard work and shared he had enjoyed working with her.

5. John Bends Charity Accounts:

The Clerk referred to the accounts to the year-end 5th April 2025 as circulated. Income was £11,540.00 and expenditure was £9190.00, total cash balance at the Year End was £8797.60.

6. Poors Allotment Charity Accounts:

The Clerk referred to the accounts to the year-end 5th April 2024 as circulated. Income was £14,535.60 and expenditure was £17,108.40 total cash balance at the Year End was £21,133.42.

7. Francis Hardy Charity Accounts:

The Clerk referred to the accounts to the year-end 5th April 2025 as circulated. Income was £46,403.68 and expenditure was £17,434.64, total cash balance at the Year End was £28,969.04.

8. Parish Affairs: See Appendix A – This was read by the clerk.

With no further matters arising the Chairman declared the Parish Assembly Meeting closed at 18:40pm

Signed by Cllr Mark Fryett – Chairman

Appendix A:

WSM Parish Assembly on 12th May 2025

Parish Assembly is the ideal opportunity for me to thank the councillors for all the support and help the parish Council has given to the voluntary groups I work with. Although I'm not a resident of WSM parish much of my voluntary work takes place in its parish therefore I appreciate having an excellent working relationship with Lisa and I look forward to continuing to work with her both as a district councillor and in my volunteer roles.

Murrow Street Pride (MSP) has gone from strength to strength with a large volunteer base. Street Pride's work is ongoing, and most residents appreciate that the village is being cared for. We have raised sufficient funds to purchase our notice board and to raise the height of the planters. The projects will begin in June. The new working relationship with the Parish Council contractor for the War Memorial and the village sign site on Murrow Bank is working excellently. Rob is cutting the grass, MSP is disposing of the waste and tending to the planters and barrels at both sites.

Community Speed Watch (CSW) has had an active year but is on a break and will resume again in June. Roadside data is always available to help Parish Council with its LHI bids. We have kept our core team living in Murrow and Parson Drove who are covering the sessions in Gorefield, Guyhirn and WSM. However, we do need new volunteers from these three villages to join the scheme so Murrow and Parson Drove volunteers can do fewer sessions each month.

The Book Cafe held in Methodist Chapel continues twice weekly and is also on the 2nd Saturday each month to coincide with the Chapel sale. The meeting room had a revamp this year using Community grant funds.

Murrow Community Facilities Management Committee recently held its AGM. There are projects in the pipeline for both the village hall and the playing field.

Thank You.

Diane Cutler

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