



Wisbech St Mary Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on Monday 11th May 2026 at 6:30pm
Wisbech St Mary Community Centre

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	Present
Gavin Booth	Parish Councillor	Present
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: Cllr Diane Cutler

1. (a)	<p>Election of the Chairman and Vice – Chairman For Council to elect a Chairman & Vice - Chairman for the municipal year 2026-2027 Cllr Allen nominated Cllr Fryett for the office of Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Weldon. In the absence of any further nominations, Cllr Fryett accepted the position and was UNANIMOUSLY elected. Cllr Mann nominated Cllr Culyer for the office of Vice-Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Humphrey. In the absence of any further nominations, Cllr Culyer accepted the position and was UNANIMOUSLY elected.</p>
(b)	<p>To receive elected Chairman & Vice – Chairman Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Cllr Fryett read and signed the declaration of office for Chairman. Countersigned by the Proper Officer/Clerk. Cllr Culyer read and signed the declaration of office for Vice-Chairman. Countersigned by the Proper Officer/Clerk.</p>
2.	<p>Open Forum None</p>
3.	<p>Apologies for Absence Apologies received from Councillor M Humphrey and Councillor S Fisher</p>
4.	<p>Dispensations & Declarations of Interest Cllr Weldon declared an interest in 10.9 c Cllr Allen declared an interest in 10.9 b</p>
5.	<p>Minutes Councillors unanimously RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20th April 2026 as a true and accurate record. Approved minutes signed by Cllr Fryett.</p>
6. 6.1	<p>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes Cllrs thanked the clerk for her well written letter relating to a planning application discussed at the last meeting.</p>

7.	<p>Reports From District & County Councillors Cllr Booth shared that Fenland District Councils annual meeting is on the 18th May 2026. He also advised Cllrs that we expected a way forward with the Local Government Reorganisation in July. Finally, it was noted that there may be a By-election in due course.</p>																																																		
<p>8. 8.1.</p> <p>8.2.</p>	<p>8. Parish Property and Highways Matters</p> <p>Any Parish Property issues to be raised by Councillors. Cllr Mann noted the sign at WSM had been twisted. Cllr Weldon noted that adverts had been stuck to planters, with the clerk adding this had also happened at the noticeboard. Cllrs requested the clerk to contact ADC to ask them to topsoil and seed around the pond. Cllr Allen advised there was an overgrown hedge in the car park in Guyhirn, it was decided that Cllr Allen and Cllr Britain would cut this back.</p> <p>Any Highways issues to be raised by Councillors. It was noted the pothole in Gull Drove had been report several times but had not et been addressed.</p> <p>It was noted that there was no update on work for Silvers Lane.</p> <p>A member of the public arrived at 18:43. Cllr Fryett invited the member of the public to speak under public participation. The member of the public asked Cllrs for their input on a future planning application. He provided Cllrs with a document outlining his plans. He advised he would like to take the views of the local council into consideration when putting in his application. Cllrs advised there would be unable to provide this without seeing the planning application details in full. The member of the public left the meeting at 18:55</p>																																																		
9. (a)	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>To Note Correspondence Received from Resident Relating to Gull Road and Decide Way Forward. Cllrs discussed correspondence received from a member of the public. It was decided the clerk should respond to his points via email.</p>																																																		
10. 10.1	<p>Finance Matters</p> <p>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 £16,804.78.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="252 1355 1544 1975"> <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>£1970.84</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>£662.28</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>£69.26</td> <td>LG Act 1972 S112</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10.1 (e)</td> <td>SSE Energy</td> <td>Street Light Electricity (Direct Debit)</td> <td>£529.48</td> <td>Parish Councils Act 1957 S3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10.1 (f)</td> <td>Tamar IT</td> <td>Tamar IT – Microsoft 365 (Direct Debit)</td> <td>£14.83</td> <td>LG Act 1972 S111</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10.1 (g)</td> <td>A & R Groundskeeping</td> <td>1 Month Provision of Tender 1</td> <td>£400.00</td> <td>Highways Act 1980 S96</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10.1 (h)</td> <td>A & R Groundskeeping</td> <td>1 Month Provision of Tender 2</td> <td>£250.00</td> <td>Open Spaces Act 1906 S9-10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10.1 (i)</td> <td>A & R Groundskeeping</td> <td>1 Month Provision of Tender 3</td> <td>£362.00</td> <td>Parish Council Act 1957 S1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Minute Ref	TO WHOM	DETAILS	AMOUNT	STATUTORY POWER	10.1 (a)	Clerk	Clerk Salary	£1970.84	LG Act 1972 S112	10.1 (b)	HMRC	Clerk HMRC Tax and NI	£662.28	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	£69.26	LG Act 1972 S112	10.1 (e)	SSE Energy	Street Light Electricity (Direct Debit)	£529.48	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	£400.00	Highways Act 1980 S96	10.1 (h)	A & R Groundskeeping	1 Month Provision of Tender 2	£250.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 S9-10	10.1 (i)	A & R Groundskeeping	1 Month Provision of Tender 3	£362.00	Parish Council Act 1957 S1
Minute Ref	TO WHOM	DETAILS	AMOUNT	STATUTORY POWER																																															
10.1 (a)	Clerk	Clerk Salary	£1970.84	LG Act 1972 S112																																															
10.1 (b)	HMRC	Clerk HMRC Tax and NI	£662.28	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	£69.26	LG Act 1972 S112																																															
10.1 (e)	SSE Energy	Street Light Electricity (Direct Debit)	£529.48	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	£400.00	Highways Act 1980 S96																																															
10.1 (h)	A & R Groundskeeping	1 Month Provision of Tender 2	£250.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 S9-10																																															
10.1 (i)	A & R Groundskeeping	1 Month Provision of Tender 3	£362.00	Parish Council Act 1957 S1																																															

10.1 (j)	Thorney Toll Village Hall	Hall Hire April	£40.00	LG Act 1972 S134
10.1 (k)	ElanCity	MVAS x 4	£10977.60	LG and Rating Act 1997 S30
10.1 (l)	Stress Free Print	Newsletter	£714.31	LG Act 1972 S112 (1)
10.1 (m)	Murrow Book Café	Grant	£500.00	LG Act 1972 S137
10.1 (n)	Murrow Street Pride	Grant	£150.00	LG Act 1972 S137
	TOTAL		£16,804.78	

- 10.2 **To receive the end of year Finance & Budget Report 2025/26.**
The clerk circulated the bank reconciliation prior to the meeting – no queries raised. The current account had £13,200.20, the CCLA account had £125,000 and the Barclays savings account had £60,341.61 as of the 31st March 2026. Cllrs UNANIMOUSLY approved the Finance and Budget report.
- 10.3 **To receive the Internal Audit Report to 31 March 2026 and reappointment of Internal Auditors**
The clerk circulated the internal audit report to councillors prior to the meeting. The report noted no issues.

The Parish Council agreed to the reappointment of Auditing Solutions for the Internal Audit 2026/27.
- 10.4 **Approval of end of year accounts following the completion of Internal Audit**
The accounts were UNANIMOUSLY agreed by the Council and signed off by the Chairman.
- 10.5 **To complete and approve Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement 2025/2026**
Cllrs read the Governance Statements 1-8 and 10 in Section 1 – Page 4 of 6 of the AGAR, the Council responded YES to each statement. The Clerk and the Chair duly signed the statement.
- 10.6 **To approve the completed Section 2 Accounting Statements for 2025/2026**
Cllrs read and the clerk explained the figures in the Accounting Statements 2025/26 in Section 2 – The Chair signed to approve the Accounting Statements.
- 10.7 **To Agree Notice of Public Rights Dates**
Cllrs UNANIMOUSLY approved the proposed Public Rights Dates of Thursday 4th June 2026 to Wednesday 15th July 2026.
- 10.8 **To Approve Standing Orders**
The clerk presented the Standing Orders to council with no amendments. Cllrs UNANIMOSULY approved the Standing Orders.
- 10.9 **To Approve Financial Regulations**
The clerk noted one proposed change to the Financial regulations, increasing the revenue expenditure in 4.5 to £2,000. Cllrs rejected this proposal and UNANIMOSULY approved the Financial Regulation’s with the £1,000 expenditure limit in 4.5.
- 10.10 **To Receive Grant Requests and Decide Way Forward.**
(a) Wisbech St Mary Community Centre
Cllrs discussed this application and noted this was a retrospective application and so could not be approved as the grant policy states we do not consider retrospective applications. It was noted that Wisbech St Mary Community Centre intended to apply again to the council later this year for an additional grant towards this year’s grass cut. Cllrs decided they would be happy to approve a grant for this year’s grass cut and advised the clerk to contact them to explain this and if they were happy, Cllrs would approve this grant of £5000 for the current year.

	<p>Proposed: Cllr Booth Seconded: Cllr Blackmore (b) Guyhirn Playing Field Association Grant request received for £750 towards the event being held in Guyhirn in July. Proposed: Cllr Booth Seconded: Cllr Culyer Cllrs UNANIMOUSLY agreed to award this grant. (c) Thorney Toll Village Hall Grant request received for £1500 for maintenance and upkeep of the village hall. Proposed: Cllr Blackmore Seconded: Cllr Mann Cllrs UNANIMOUSLY agreed to award this grant.</p>
11. (a)	<p>11. MEMBERS AND CHAIRMANS ALLOWANCE For Councillors to consider and approve Members Allowance for the coming year. Under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (SI 2003 No 1021) it was proposed by Cllr Booth, seconded by Cllr Allen and UNANIMOUSLY agreed by Council for elected members to receive an allowance of £300 in 2026/27. This was agreed to be paid in 4 equal payments, quarterly. For Councillors to consider and approve Chairmans Allowance for the coming year. Under the Local Government Act 1972 ss 15 (5), this was proposed by Cllr Scrimshaw, seconded by Cllr Booth and UNANIMOUSLY agreed by Council for the Chairman to receive an allowance of £600 in 2026/27. This will be made at £50 per quarter until the final quarter of the year where the balance remaining will be paid.</p>
12. 12.1.	<p>Wisbech St Mary For Councillors to Confirm Transfer of Wisbech St Mary Churchyard to Fenland District Council The clerk circulated a copy of the draft letter she intended to send to the district council. Cllr UNANIMOUSLY resolved to transfer Wisbech St Mary Churchyard to Fenland District Council. Cllr Fryett noted he had had a complaint from a member of the public relating to the overgrown trees</p>
13 13.1.	<p>Planters To Decide Way Forward With Plant Supplier Cllr Humphrey updated Cllrs that plants had been provided by Volmary. They have offered to provide the plants for the planters going forward free of charge on the agreement that we don't charge them advertising on their planter of £50.00 each year and also have a freestanding plaque placed on the planter opposite Play2Day advising that they are the parish plant supplier. Cllrs RESOLVED to accept this kind offer. It was agreed Cllr Humphrey would contact them to find out what they would like written on the sign.</p>
14. (a)	<p>Guyhirn War Memorial To Review Proposed Location of the War Memorial and Decide Way Forward Cllr Fryett updated Cllrs that himself, the clerk and Swann Edwards met in Guyhirn to discuss the plan for the war memorial. He explained that the planning permission approval site is slightly further to the bench than had been marked out. Cllrs did not wish to submit a new planning application and so agreed that it should be sited in line with the planning permission.</p>
15 (a).	<p>Future Agenda Items: Planters Grant policy Dog Bin – Gull Drove</p>
16.	<p>Date Of the Next Meeting Next Parish Council meeting to be held Monday 8th June 2026 at 6:30pm in Guyhirn Community Room</p>

Meeting closed at 8:05 pm Total number of pages 4.