

Wimbotsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of the above-named Parish Council held on Tuesday 22nd April 2025 at Wimbotsham Methodist Church

Parish Councillors: Cllr Dean Chilvers (Chairman), Cllr David Fendley, Cllr Chris Hitchens,
Cllr Anne Smith and Cllr Jackie Squires

Parish Clerk: N Forrest

Member of Public: None

1/25 To receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received in advance from Cllr Steve Mingay.

2/25 To receive Declarations of Interest

None received

3/25 Minutes of the ordinary 11th March 2024

Having been circulated previously, the minutes from 11th March 2025 were approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

4/25 To report progress on items not on the agenda from the last meeting (information only)

None to report.

5/25 Public Participation

No members of public present.

6/25 Reports

6.1 Norfolk County Council

Cllr Long reported that NCC has submitted its recommendations on devolution to central government and is now awaiting a response regarding the government's preferred course of action

6.2 Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

Cllr Rose and Cllr Spikings gave a full update at the previous meeting and they have no more updates.

7/25 To receive Correspondence

7.1 Complaints at Gullpit Drove

Concerns were raised about rubbish and abandoned car parts at Gullpit Drove.

ACTION: The Parish Clerk will take pictures of the area requiring attention and send them to BCKLWN to coordinate the clearing process.

7.2 AGE UK Norfolk

AGE UK Norfolk submitted a request for a donation to support the people of West Norfolk.

ACTION: It was unanimously agreed to contribute £100 to AGE UK Norfolk.

8/25 War Memorial Cleaning

The War Memorial cleaning will take place in June 2025, as the contractors require warmer weather and are unable to attend before VE Day. Cllr Chilvers will light the beacon, and the Clerk will contact the local pub to discuss arrangements.

9/25 Internal Audit

Three quotes were received to carry out the internal audit.

ACTION: It was unanimously agreed to accept the quote from LJ Internal Audit.

10/25 **Café Connect**

Councillors Squires and Smith reported that the Café is performing exceptionally well, generating more revenue than anticipated.

11/25 **Bulb Planting**

Cllr Hitchens requested that more bulbs be planted around the village and at the speed gates, as the bulbs from previous years have been disappointing.

ACTION: It was unanimously agreed to purchase additional bulbs for the village. The Parish Clerk will obtain quotes for the purchase.

12/25 **Insurance Policy**

Two quotes were received for the Parish Council Insurance.

ACTION: It was unanimously agreed to accept the quote from Gallagher Insurance.

13/25 **Tree works**

The Clerk will gather quotes for the works highlighted from the Tree Survey.

ACTION: Cllr Chilvers requested the skits of the trees be trimmed. The Clerk will obtain quotes for the work.

14/25 **Reports**

14.1 Village Hall

Cllr Fendley stated the village hall is working comfortably and events are going well including a wedding held in the hall. They will be hosting bingo and the auction is every other Sunday.

14.2 Recreation Ground

The mid-summer fair is in June and volunteers are welcome.

14.3 Village Green

Cllr Hitchens stated the village green is in good condition.

14.4 Footpaths

Cllr Chilvers stated that the footpaths are in good condition but the dykes are full around West Way.

14.5 100 Acre Trust

Nothing to report.

14.6 Allotments

Cllr Squires stated the allotments are in good condition and plot holders are preparing for spring.

15/25 **Planning Applications**

158.1 Results on Applications

None Received.

158.2 Applications Received

None received.

158.3 Information Received

None received.

16/25 **Finance Matters**

16.1 Bank Transfer of £15,000 to Council Business Account with the higher interest.

ACTION: It was unanimously agreed to transfer £15,000 into the Council Business Account with the higher interest

16.2 To receive receipts for March 2025

ACTION: It was unanimously agreed to accept the receipts from March 2025.

16.3 Approve payments of Accounts for April and May 2025

ACTION: It was unanimously agreed to approve the accounts for April and May 2025.

159.3 Approve Bank Reconciliation

ACTION: It was unanimously agreed to approve the Bank Reconciliation up to the agenda.

17/25 It was agreed the Annual Parish Council Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th May 2025, at 6.30pm.

Meeting Closed 8.12pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....

Accounts to 31 January 2025	IN (£)	OUT (£)	TOTAL (£)
<u>Parish Business Saver Account 00971790</u>			
Amount carried forward			£41,474.92
Wimbotsham Current Account			
Interest		£	
Balance			<u>£41,474.92</u>

Parish Community Account 00971782

Amount carried forward **£40,070.81**

Amount credited

Allotment Rent	£830.50
Electrical Safety Fund	£1000

Amount debited

ICO	£35
Allotment Stow Estate Trust	£830.50
Clerk Payment	£220.60
Pension	£83.18
NPower	£185.70
Holly Landscapes	£120
KLWN Dog Bins	£955.98
RBL Tommy Silhouette	£375
NCC	£21,858
K&M Lighting	£29.40

Total	£22,862.86	<u>£17,207.95</u>
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No outstanding payments

Balance: **£58,682.87**

CIL:

Balance: £58,682.87

Chairman _____

Date _____

Accounts to 28 February 2025

IN (£)

OUT (£)

TOTAL (£)

Parish Business Saver Account 00971790

Amount carried forward £41,474.92

Wimbotsham Current Account

Interest £

Balance **£41,474.92**

Parish Community Account 00971782

Amount carried forward **£17,207.95**

Amount credited

KLWN £158.65

Amount debited

Wimbotsham Village Hall £100

J Caley (Christmas Tree) £240

Npower £197.99

Clerk Payment £220.80

Pension £61.81

Designer Metal (Tree Guard) £528

Intermedical £192

K&M Lighting £29.40

Total £1,411.35 **£15,796.60**

No outstanding payments

Balance: **£57,271.52**

CIL:

Balance: **£57,271.52**

Chairman _____

Date _____

Bank Reconciliation 6 March 2025

Represented by bank statements as of 06 March 2025

Wimbotsham PC Community Account 00971782	£15,796.60
Wimbotsham PC Premium Account 00971790	£41,621.62
Wimbotsham PC Account	
	£57,418.22

March Payments

DC Electricals	£53.50
Norfolk Arborist	£462
Land Registry	£14
	£60
R Faulker (Mole Traps)	
	£589.50

Total	£57,271.92
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2025 BCKLWN Cllr's annual report for Parish AGMs within Upwell and Delph ward.

First I would like to outline the BC's current financial situation and am indebted to Michelle Drewery, the Assistant Director Resources/Section 151 Officer.

Key elements of the budget:

Turned projected £4m deficit into a balanced budget for 25/26 despite challenges (recognition that numerous councils are in financial difficulty and are struggling to balance their budgets).

1. No uplift from Government grants as part of funding settlement
2. Increase in NI threshold and % from 13.8% to 15% (government funding covers less than 40% of the cost)
3. Above inflation increases in internal Drainage Board levies
4. Other contractual costs will increase due to NI and other factors
5. Gov. confirmed they are changing how local Gov. is funded from 26/27 so we expect to see further reductions

Savings and Efficiency plan built into budget:

1. Fees and charges increase to bring in line with inflationary increase – but policy will now come in to force to contain increases in future years
2. Second Homes council tax premium comes into effect from 1st April
3. County deal for some second homes funding to be returned and ringfenced to homelessness and affordable homes
4. New grant to implement new legislation on waste services
5. Reduction in staffing costs through removal of vacant posts without impacting frontline services including restructure of senior managers
6. Alive West Norfolk brought inhouse to reduce costs
7. Transformation Programme will continue work to identify other savings and efficiencies to support beyond 25/26

The council remains committed to invest in West Norfolk through the capital programme and will continue to deliver the housing programme and ensure that its heritage and leisure assets are fit for the future. The above means that the council is in a strong position with sufficient reserves to support the financial strategy for the next 4 years.

The average Band D council tax will increase as follows:

BCKLWN from £148.37 to £152.87

Police and Crime Commissioner from £315.90 to £329.85

County Council from £1,672.11 to £1,755.63

The next issue to cover is the government white paper of 16th December 2024.

There will be no NCC election this year although the BC Leader, Alistair Beales has protested to the highest level as undemocratic. This is due to a Act in 2000 which enables this to take place overriding the 1972 Councils Act. It is unsure at the moment if the Unitary elections will take place in 2026/27 or 2028 which could mean an extra year for BCllrs. We may have more precise information as this progresses. However, the BC is concerned about the lack of local service, representation and any increased transport costs and the cost of a Mayor and how many Councils will there actually be. The gov. suggest a minimum of 500,000 residents but many existing Unitaries have less than 300,000.

I have already sent a BC news report in but what may not be within it is the proposed new Rural Prosperity grant that has of yet to go to Cabinet. Jacob Medlock is continuing with Insulation and other home grants but I find it sad that the homes with most need cannot apply because of Gov. restrictions but don't be put off. The Progressive groups' Alexandra Kemp has worked tirelessly to ensure the Ferry service in King's Lynn will reopen asap and the Heritage Carnegie Building (former Library owned by the NCC) will go to a local King's Lynn group to control.

Cllr's Community grants will resume in April and Your BCllrs each have £1k to spend on worthy local amenity groups and Village Halls. Your CCllr has £10k to spend. I would suggest no more than £300 per applicant for your BCllrs – this will depend on take-up.

There will be another CIL in July for August, the face maximum being again £50K, but more can be applied for although it will have to go to Cabinet for approval, usual terms apply. More than one application can be put in in any year.

The QEH is on track from their last report but the Gov. has mentioned having a group of 3 hospitals sharing services rather than all to have a full range which will mean more travel and could cause a 2 years delay.

Upwell and Outwell are starting a Youth Club for 8-16 years olds which will be held at the Royal British Legion on Wednesdays in Upwell. Sarah Fairbrother should be contacted for further information. This could be done via Upwell Parish Council or myself - details should be in next UPC News or website. Lakes End Village Hall and Three Holes would like to have some more volunteers if anyone would like to join them, either as a helper or Trustee.

The Borough Council announces publication of the Inspectors' Report on the West Norfolk Local Plan 2021-2040 on 21st February 2025. This marks the end of the Local Plan examination. This will enable the adoption of the plan at full Council scheduled for 27th March 2025.

Best regards to all, Colin

Cllr.colin.rose@west-norfolk.gov.uk

DL PG BCKLWN