

Wimbotsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of the above-named Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th May 2026 at Wimbotsham Methodist Church

Parish Councillors: D Chilvers (Chairman), D Fendley, J Hartley, C Hitchens, S Mingay, A Smith
and J Squires
Parish Clerk: N Forrest
Public: None

1/26 Election of Chairman

Cllr Chilvers invited nominations for Chairman.

Cllr Hartley proposed Cllr Chilvers as Chairman, seconded by Cllr Mingay.

With no further nominations, it was unanimously agreed to elect Cllr Chilvers to serve as Chairman for the coming 12 months.

2/26 Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Chilvers and the Parish Clerk signed the Acceptance of Office.

3/26 Election of Vice-Chairman

Cllr Chilvers invited nominations for Vice-Chairman.

Cllr Fendley proposed Cllr Hitchens to be Vice-Chair seconded by Cllr Smith.

With no further nominations, it was unanimously agreed to elect Cllr Hitchens to serve as Vice-Chairman for the coming 12 months.

4/26 Apologies for absence

None received.

5/26 To receive Declarations of Interest

None received.

6/26 Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 22nd April 2025

Having been circulated previously, the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 22nd April 2025 were approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

7/26 To report progress on items not on the agenda from the last meeting (information only)

None to report.

8/26 Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

9/26 Reports

9.1 Norfolk County Council

No representative was present and no report was received.

9.2 Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

No representative was present and no report was received.

10/26 Late Items

There were no late items to discuss.

11/26 To receive Correspondence

Correspondence received and noted.

12/26 Reports

12.1 Village Hall

Cllr Fendley stated the hall was being well used and bingo was coming soon.

12.2 Recreation Ground

Cllr Mingay reported that the CiL funding application has been submitted and asked whether part of the village green could be cordoned off for motorcycle parking for the 2026 bike show.

Cllr advised that he would be resigning as Chair of the Recreation Committee during the coming year, and that a replacement Chair would therefore be sought

ACTION – It was agreed to allow additional parking on the village green, provided that the ground conditions are not wet.

12.3 Village Green

Cllr Hitchens stated the village green is in good condition.

12.4 Footpaths

Cllr Chilvers stated the footpaths are in good condition.

12.5 100 Acre Trust

Cllr Hitchens stated he will be attending the next meeting in July.

12.6 Allotments

A full report was received at the meeting held in April.

13/26 Appointed Representatives

32.1 Village Hall

It was unanimously agreed to appoint Cllr Fendley.

32.2 Recreation Ground

It was unanimously agreed to appoint Cllr Mingay.

32.3 Village Green

It was unanimously agreed to appoint Cllr Hitchins.

32.4 Footpaths

It was unanimously agreed to appoint Cllr Hartley.

32.5 100 Acre Trust

It was unanimously agreed to appoint Cllr Hitchens.

32.6 Allotments

It was unanimously agreed to appoint Cllr Squires.

14/26 Policies

14.1 Internal Control Statement

14.2 Biodiversity Policy

14.3 Assets Register

14.4 Information Data Protection Policy

ACTION: After a discussion, it was unanimously agreed to adopt all the policies

15/26 Planning Applications

15.1 Results on Applications

None received

15.2 Applications Received

25/01801/FM Full planning approval for the erection of 114 dwellings with associated open space and infrastructure with vehicular access proposed from Lynn Road and an emergency vehicular access to Cinnamon Road at Land South of 22 Bridle Lane, Downham Market, Norfolk

ACTION: We, Wimbotsham Parish Council, object to the above application on the grounds of highway safety, cumulative traffic impact, and the absence of adequate secured mitigation measures.

Whilst we recognise the need for appropriate housing growth, we do not consider that the local highway network — particularly Lynn Road (B1507) — is currently capable of safely accommodating the significant increase in vehicle movements arising from a development of this scale without substantial intervention.

The proposed development would generate considerable additional traffic along Lynn Road, which is already subject to increasing pressure from existing and approved residential development within Wimbotsham and the wider Downham Market area.

In our view, the current speed environment along Lynn Road is incompatible with the level of additional residential traffic proposed. Vehicle speeds on this route already present safety concerns for pedestrians, cyclists, residents accessing the highway, and other vulnerable road users. The cumulative effect of further development of traffic would materially worsen those conditions.

Under paragraph 115 of the National Planning Policy Framework (“NPPF”), development should only be refused on highway grounds where there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety, or where the residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe. Paragraph 116 further requires that safe and suitable access to the site can be achieved for all users.

We do not believe that the application sufficiently demonstrates compliance with those requirements. In particular, we are concerned that the application appears to rely upon future highway mitigation measures — including potential speed reduction measures and associated traffic calming — without those measures being fully secured, designed, funded, or implemented.

At present, there is insufficient certainty regarding:

- whether a reduced speed limit will be approved;
- what traffic calming or enforcement measures would accompany it;
- when such measures would be delivered; and
- whether they would adequately mitigate the safety impacts created by the development.

In the absence of secured mitigation, we do not consider that the Local Planning Authority can reasonably conclude that the proposal would operate safely or sustainably.

We further note that previous major housing proposals affecting Lynn Road have already identified highway matters as a significant planning consideration. The cumulative impact of successive developments along this corridor must be assessed realistically and not in isolation.

Planning Inspectors have consistently held that the assessment of “severe” impact under the NPPF is a matter of planning judgment based upon local circumstances and cumulative effects. In our view, the cumulative impact of this proposal, when considered alongside existing traffic conditions and development pressures, would result in an unacceptable impact upon highway safety.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Local Planning Authority to refuse the application unless and until robust and enforceable highway mitigation measures — including a reduced speed limit and associated infrastructure improvements — are fully secured and operational prior to occupation.

15.3 Information Received

None received.

16/26 Finance Matters

16.1 To add or remove signatories

ACTION: It was agreed to have Cllr Squires and Cllr Chilvers on the accounts.

16.5 To receive the end-of-year report from the Internal Control Officer

The report completed by Cllr Hitchens was received and noted.

16.6 Internal Audit Control Officer

ACTION: It was unanimously agreed to appoint Cllr Hitchens to be the Internal Control Officer.

16.7 To approve receipts from April 2026

ACTION: It was unanimously agreed to approve the accounts for April 2026.

16.8 To approve payments of accounts and Bank Reconciliation for May 2026

ACTION: It was unanimously agreed to approve the payments of accounts and Bank Reconciliation for May 2026.

17/26 It was agreed the next Ordinary Parish Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday, 23rd June 2026, at 7pm.

Meeting Closed 8.29pm

Chairman_____

Date_____

Accounts to 31 March 2026	IN (£)	OUT (£)	TOTAL (£)
Parish Business Saver Account 00971790			
Amount carried forward			<u>£54,277.79</u>
Wimbotsham Current Account		£4,719.60	
Interest			
Credited	£		
			Balance: <u>£49,558.19</u>

Parish Community Account 00971782			
Amount carried forward			<u>£1,957.88</u>
Amount credited			
BCKLWN Precept	£12,265.33		
Amount debited			
Npower		£246.46	
Norfolk Pension		£85.72	
Clerk Salary		£231.81	
Npower		£381.85	
Npower		£166.15	
K & M Lighting Service		£33.95	
Holly Landscapes		£327.79	
Holly Landscapes		£704.72	
Cloud Next		£119.98	
Village Hall (Café Connect)		£80	
BCKLWN (Dog Bins)		£1913.18	
Total		£4,291.61	<u>£9,931.61</u>
No outstanding payments			

Balance: £59,489.80

CIL:

Balance: £59,489.80

Chairman_____

Date

Bank Reconciliation 6th May 2026

Represented by bank statements as of 6th May 2026

Wimbotsham PC Community Account 00971782	£9,931.61
Wimbotsham PC Premium Account 00971790	£49,558.19
Wimbotsham PC Account	£0
	£59,489.80

May payments

Norfolk Pension	£77.73
Clerk Payment	£231.61
Norfolk ALC	£218.76
Environment Agency	£17.62
N Forrest (Norton Protection)	£84.99

Total £630.71