

Wimbotsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the above-named Parish held on Tuesday, 12th May 2026.

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. Welcome by the Chairman and apologies for absence

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on the 13th May 2025

Having been circulated previously, the minutes of the meeting held on the 13th May 2025 were approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

3. Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

4. Reports from Community Groups and Organisations

Reports received from Community Groups and Organisations (Appendix 1)

5. Chairman's Annual Report for 2025-26

The Chairman gave a verbal report (Appendix 2)

Meeting finished at 6.40pm

Chairman _____

Date _____

**WEST NORFOLK PRIORY GROUP**

FINCHAM | MARHAM | NORDELPH | RUNCTONHOLME |

SHOULDHAM | SHOULDHAMTHORPE | STOWBARDOLPH | STOWBRIDGE | TOTTENHILL |

WATLINGTON | WIMBOTSHAM | WORMEGAY

Vicar's Report 2025

My dear reader,

As we look back on 2025, we remain thankful to Almighty God for all His goodness towards our churches in West Norfolk. Our buildings are watertight and adequately insured, our treasuries are solvent and we paid our full Ministry Share for the year, we have served our parishioners through pastoral visitations, Home Communion, schools ministry, Residential Home ministry, engaging with RAF Marham and the different Parish Councils, and officiating at baptisms, weddings and funerals. We have also shared our income with the needy in our communities through local Foodbanks, King's Lynn Night Shelter and the Downham Swan Youth project.

In 2025, the attendance at our Sunday and midweek services was stable with some new faces beginning to appear especially on Sundays. Despite losing nearly fifty percent of our Sunday congregation since Covid (due to death, ill health or moving away), our attendances have recovered to pre-Covid levels and have grown modestly.

In 2026, we intend to continue doing what we already do well and to expand our ministry with children and young adults by organising more regular events for them. The aim is to build upon the good work that we are already doing through our Baptism and Wedding ministries. More information is available on our website.

With small rural congregations, church buildings are always a challenge. Our churches are seriously exploring different possibilities to make our buildings physically and financially sustainable. Ministering in a huge benefice continues to be a challenge and as our Lay Ministers reach a certain age, we are praying that Almighty God would graciously renew our Ministerial team as He renews our churches too.

TWELVE CHURCHES, ONE MISSION

With prayerful good wishes,

DK

The Revd Canon Dr David www.westnorfolkpriorygroup.co.uk; Tel:07596 707469 (9.30am to 12.30pm, Mon-Friday)

**Wimbotsham Parish Council
Chairmans Report
May 2026**

Looking back over the last 12 months, we have had lots of activity in Wimbotsham. Lots of events and a keen community spirit were felt throughout the year.

The Parish Council are still one member short, but we have had Jo Hartley join us this year, which has been a great addition to our team to keep the village in good order.

After some time of sorting out details and making sure that it is done right, the church is now under the work of being renovated. They seem to be progressing well and hopefully, on our next report, we will be close to being able to use the Church again.

The Village Hall is thriving and with the new additions to the Village Hall Committee and the drive from the existing members, the regular Bingo, Quiz night and various other events have brought more life and activity to the centre of the village, well done everyone!

Café Connect continues to be a roaring success, led by Anne and Jackie and is a real jewel in the crown of the village. Great work, everyone.

Village Newsletter, Carolyn continues her hard work on producing this throughout the year.

The Methodist Chapel has again been a great place for us to hold our Parish Council meetings and is a great space to use. Thank you for letting us use this space

The recreation ground has been busy as always. Recently, they have just had a spring clean and tidy up, ready for the equipment to be used in the summer. They are busy applying for funding, so hopefully, some of the broken equipment can be replaced and some new items for the children to play on. Other events organised by the recreation ground, putting up the Christmas Tree (thank you Chris Hartley for the lion share of work), the Carols around the Christmas tree, another great event which attracted over 100 people, easter egg hunt around the village, which was at capacity and very enjoyable, and the pop up cafes they put on throughout the year, really helps unite the village. The midsummer fayre is the big one to try and raise money to keep it going, so always good to see a positive turnout to the event, fingers crossed for good weather this year.

The Village Green is always busy and always looks great. This year, we have had the war memorial cleaned, tree guards fitted around the new oak trees, and we have had a new village sign. We designed and organised for our local blacksmith (Jonathan Horton / KH engineering) to make the sign, and it looks great. Thank you to all involved.

The village flag is something that stands proud in the village and not really something that we do much with. Stephen Hewitt has raised, lowered and replaced the flag since it was installed. Stephen has now moved to Downham Market and has passed on the baton. Thank you Stephen for all your contributions to the village over the years.

The village school and pub are always busy, and help contribute to the community feeling and again contribute with events throughout the year.

Footpaths and always something to work on, and with new Trod's and extra grass cutting, we are working hard to make sure there are pleasurable walks around the village.

Allotments, well kept and well run, a new chairman in place, and all looking good. Waiting for the allotments to be released on the new housing estate, as soon as we have them, we shall be advertising for new plot holders.

A great year and plenty to work on next year to replace notice boards, planters, etc., to enhance our beautiful village.

Thank you

Cllr Dean Chilvers