

TYDD ST GILES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Tydd St Giles Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Thursday 8th January 2026

Present - Cllr T Brown (Chairman), Cllr M Carter, Cllr G Clifton, Cllr A Osborn (CCC), Cllr C Seaton (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk), 8 members of the public

Apologies for Absence - Cllr B Allen, Cllr M Connell, Cllr K Malin, Cllr B Barber (FDC), Cllr S Clark (FDC)

075/25 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman reported the recent passing of Ann Balls, former member of the Parish Council and the Community Centre Management Committee. Members observed a minute's silence in her memory.

076/25 Public Forum

A resident expressed concern about an increase in traffic on Eaudyke Bank due to the ongoing road closures around the village and the danger to pedestrian and equestrian road users. The Chairman responded that it is unfortunate that two different utility companies are working in the village at the same time which raises questions about the coordination of these works. Cllr Osborn will raise the issue of coordination with officers at the County Council.

077/25 Urgent Items

None.

078/25 Confirmation of Minutes

- a) RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 13th November be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.
- b) RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 22nd December be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

079/25 Matters Arising

- a) Bus service - No progress.
- b) Community Gritting scheme - The Chairman reported that the gritting equipment and protective clothing had still not been delivered. Cllr Osborn offered to investigate.
- c) Community Speed Watch group - The equipment has been provided and the group is ready to start work.
- d) Bird deflectors on overhead power lines - No progress.
- e) Former Village School - The Clerk is preparing a report for submission to the District Council.
- f) Overgrown wasteland between Newgate Road and Field Avenue - No progress.
- g) Churchyard grass cutting - The contractor has provided two quotes, one for cutting now but leaving arisings and the other for cutting in March and removing arisings. Members resolved to accept the latter quote of £240.

- h) Street Pride planters - The Clerk reported that he had located 20 Street Pride planters around the village, the majority of which appear to be in good order.

080/25 Police Matters

The Chairman read a report from PC Lovitt. There has been another machinery theft in the village and suspicious activity involving a trailer. Residents are asked to report any suspicious vehicles or activity in the village and to look out for signs of hare coursing in the open countryside.

081/25 Cambridgeshire County Councillor Report

Cllr Osborn reported that CityFibre's cable installation includes Newton-in-the-Isle, but doesn't extend to Tydd St Giles. He has approached the company to request that Tydd St Giles be included. He also asked to be informed of all urgent highway defect reports to enable him to lobby for repairs to be carried out promptly.

082/25 Fenland District Councillor Reports

Cllr Seaton advised Members that the District Council had received £1.5 million from the Government's Pride in Place Impact Fund which will be used to improve children's play facilities. An audit of play areas is being carried out to identify areas of need and ensure a geographical spread of the funding. He invited the Council to submit an informal expression of interest.

083/25 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on correspondence received, including a number of traffic orders for water main and fibre optic cabling works. The County Council, District Council and Police and Crime Commissioner are consulting on budget plans for the forthcoming financial year. Pathfinder Clean Energy have appealed the refusal of planning permission for the Tydd Solar Farm and an appeal hearing is scheduled at The Boathouse, Wisbech, starting on 27th January. Fenland District Council will not be proceeding with the emerging Local Plan and will now start the process of formulating a new plan. Cambridgeshire ACRE have a workshop on Community Energy schemes on 3rd February.

084/25 Reports from Members

- a) Cllr Allen - Communications, Foul Anchor and Four Gotes - In Cllr Allen's absence, there was no report.
- b) Cllr Carter - Community Centre and Play Equipment - Cllr Carter reported that the Community Centre is currently being redecorated. The AGM of the Community Centre charity will take place on 22nd January. A new Thursday evening booking will start shortly, so the building will be in use every weekday evening. The Coffee Mornings are going well and the Police will attend the next event. The replacement fire door will be installed later in January.
- c) Cllr Connell - Highways - In Cllr Connell's absence, there was no report.
- d) Cllr Malin - Armed forces and flooding - In Cllr Malin's absence, there was no report.
- e) Cllr Clifton - Public rights of way, churchyard, trees - Churchyard grass cutting see 079/25(g) above.
- f) Clerk - Street lights and parish assets - The Clerk reported that he is still auditing the street lights to ascertain where work has been carried out and whether it was authorised. The Chairman noted that there is still no progress with the unadopted light at the junction

of Hannath Road and the A1101. He suggested a meeting be arranged with the relevant officers at the District and County Councils.

085/25 Member and Parishioner Issues

Foul Anchor Defibrillator - A resident reported that the defibrillator is showing a fault. The Clerk explained that the absence of a power supply to the phone box means that the cabinet heater does not protect the battery in extreme cold weather. Further investigation is required to clarify where and how the power supply was disconnected and to clarify options for reconnection.

086/25 Play Equipment

- a) The service and re-tensioning of the aerial cableway has been completed.
- b) Members previously agreed to install the fence around the under 5s play area by the end of December to enable a further application to be submitted to the Grange Windfarm Community Fund in January. Further investigation of the site has revealed an issue with uneven ground. It is now proposed that the ground be levelled to simplify the installation of the fence. This will require a quantity of fresh topsoil. No application will be submitted to the Grange Windfarm in January.

087/25 Community Centre

- a) Fire doors see 084/25(b) above.
- b) National Lottery Awards for All application to repair and recoat the roof - the Clerk advised Members that three quotes are needed to support the application, but it is proving difficult to identify suitable contractors.

088/25 Membership of the Council

The Chairman announced the recent resignation of Cllr Slade and thanked her for her contribution to the work of the Council. Members agreed to follow the Council's normal procedure for co-options and advertise the vacancy to invite applicants to submit a short written statement for consideration at the next meeting. A deadline of the end of February was agreed.

089/25 Consultations

Members considered the following budget consultations:-

- a) Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority draft budget 2026/27 and medium-term financial plan.
- b) Police & Crime Commissioner policing budget 2026-27.
- c) Fenland District Council draft business plan and budget 2026/27.

It was agreed that Members may respond individually if they so wish.

090/25 Annual Parish Meeting

Members discussed the date and format of this year's Annual Parish Meeting. The date was confirmed as Thursday 21st May and the format will be as in previous years, with village organisations invited to talk about their work. Suggestions for a guest speaker included the police and a local historian. Invitations will be issued nearer the time.

091/25 Highways

- a) The Clerk reported that he had met with the Project Officer responsible for the delivery of the 2025/26 Local Highway Improvements project to install a street light at the junction of Broad Drove East, Newgate Road and High Broadgate. It is hoped that the new light will be installed by late summer.
- b) The application to the Local Highway Improvements scheme for 2026/27 to install a new street light at the junction of Newgate Road and Church Lane will be submitted shortly.
- c) The Clerk reported that the County Council had invited local councils to submit projects under the Capitably Funded Highway Maintenance initiative. The window between the announcement of the scheme and the deadline for submission fell between Council meetings, so the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, submitted Middle Broad Drove and Newgate Road as two potential projects meeting the criteria.

092/25 Policies and Procedures

Members considered the following policies and procedures and resolved to readopt them:-

- a) Data Protection Policy
- b) Publication Scheme
- c) Code of Conduct
- d) Biodiversity Policy

093/25 Finance

- a) The Clerk presented the financial statement as at the end of December showing income of £38,660.89, expenditure of £36,316.63, resulting in a surplus of £2,344.26 and funds held of £51,708.07.
- b) Members noted the quarterly bank reconciliation for the period to the end of December.
- c) Members noted the following sums received since the last meeting:-

R Horspool (land rent)	£ 2,905.17
C Howlett (land rent)	£ 4,407.62
Barclays Bank (interest).....	£ 82.90

- d) Members ratified the following payments issued since the last meeting:-

NEST (pension contributions)	£ 312.06
Geosphere Ltd (licence)	£ 86.40

- e) Members approved the following payments:-

D Gibbs (salary December and January)	£ 1,585.76
Tydd St Giles CC&RG (hall hire)	£ 80.00
Newton Village Hall (hall hire)	£ 30.00
Fenland Leisure Products Ltd (cableway repair)	£ 766.32
Hamilton Treeworks (tree removal).....	£ 120.00

- f) Members considered potential projects for inclusion in the budget for 2026/27. They agreed the following sums:-

Play equipment (under 5's play and match funding)	£ 7,000.00
Community Centre (car park extension and replacement door)	£ 3,000.00
War memorials (cleaning and repairs).....	£ 3,000.00
Training.....	£ 500.00
Section 137 Grants.....	£ 250.00
	<u>£13,750.00</u>

- g) Members resolved to increase the precept by 5% to £26,880 and approved the budget.

094/25 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Thursday 12th March at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm