

TYDD ST GILES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Tydd St Giles Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Thursday 12th March 2026

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

Apologies for Absence - Cllr S Clark (FDC)

095/25 Chairman's Announcements

None.

096/25 Public Forum

In relation to the planning appeal for the Tydd Golf expansion, a resident asked whether comments submitted previously will be made available to the Inspector, or whether they should be resubmitted. The Clerk confirmed that the Inspector will receive all previous comments. He asked whether the Parish Council will submit further comments or speak at the appeal hearing. The Chairman expressed the view that the Council had nothing further to add.

It was also noted that the developed areas of the Golf Course feature on Fenland District Council's Brownfield Land Register. The significance of this is unclear.

A resident noted that the agenda for this meeting was not available on the website. The Clerk apologised for this oversight.

It was noted that the Council had agreed an increase of 5% in the Council Tax precept at January's meeting, but the increase is shown as 7.5% on the Council Tax bills now issued. The Chairman explained that the sum to be received by the Council is 5% higher than the previous year, but due to a decline in the number of properties paying the full Council Tax, the Band D equivalent shown on the bills is higher.

A resident reported that a vehicle had crashed into his fence causing significant damage and driven away. It is believed that the driver was intoxicated and concern was expressed about the level of drink-driving in the parish.

097/25 Urgent Items

The Chairman reported that the Chairman of the Brigstock and Wren's Charity had suggested that a bench be installed in memory of Ann Balls, who passed away recently. It is anticipated that the Charity will pay for the bench. Members agreed to proceed and asked the Clerk to contact the Clerk of the Charity to make the necessary arrangements.

098/25 Membership of the Council

The Chairman reminded Members that a vacancy had arisen following the resignation of Cllr Slade. No petition was submitted for a public election, so the Council must fill the vacancy by co-option.

The Chairman confirmed that only one expression of interest had been received in response to the advertisement of the vacancy. The co-option of Eric Sharpe was proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Malin and duly approved. Cllr Sharpe signed his declaration of acceptance, witnessed by the Clerk.

099/25 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 8th January be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

100/25 Matters Arising

- a) Bus service - There is a lack of clarity regarding where the buses stop in the village and no timetables are displayed. The Clerk will discuss this with the operator and the Combined Authority bus team.
- b) Community Gritting scheme - The Chairman reported that the gritting equipment and protective clothing had still not been delivered. The Chairman and Cllr Osborn have tried to contact Highways, but received no response.
- c) Bird deflectors on overhead power lines - No progress.
- d) Former Village School - No progress.
- e) Overgrown wasteland between Newgate Road and Field Avenue - No progress.
- f) Churchyard grass cutting - The meadow and green burial ground are due to be cut with the first scheduled cut of the churchyard.

101/25 Police Matters

The Chairman reported that PC Lovitt has been transferred to the March area and a new neighbourhood officer will be appointed in due course.

102/25 Cambridgeshire County Councillor Report

Cllr Osborn reported that the County Council is struggling to address the backlog of highway defects. Members are lobbying to stop the use of the dragon patchers and undertake proper repairs. He also asked to be informed of all urgent highway defect reports to enable him to lobby for repairs to be carried out promptly.

The Chairman reported that the County Council has agreed to adopt the street light on Hannath Road at the junction with Main Road, Tydd Gote.

103/25 Fenland District Councillor Reports

Cllr Seaton advised Members that the Combined Authority is currently auditing bus stops, shelters and signage. He will raise the issues in Tydd St Giles at the next meeting. Cllr Brown offered to add the bus timetables to the village notice boards. The District Council is reviewing the submissions from parishes for play equipment funding from the Government's Pride in Place Impact Fund and further information will be available soon.

Cllr Barber reported that the District Council is still considering its options under the local government reorganisation, but whichever option is finally adopted, there will be a reduction in local representation. A resident of Foul Anchor has reported that several street lights are not working. There is a hole in the pavement next to the new street light in Kirkgate. The Clerk noted that the power supply to this light has not been connected, so the hole will be filled in the next two weeks when the connection has been made. Finally, Cllr Barber reminded everyone that the Street Pride group will be litter picking again at the weekend and new volunteers are welcome to join them.

104/25 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on meetings attended and correspondence received, including a number of traffic orders for water main and fibre optic cabling works. Preparations for the surface dressing of Hockland Road will start shortly, with the final coating due to be applied in the

first week of June. Cats Lane will follow later in the summer. A new textile recycling bank has been delivered to the Community Centre following the Salvation Army's recent decision to withdraw its bank. Cambridgeshire ACRE's Village Halls Week, the annual celebration of the work of community buildings, takes place next week and Keep Britain Tidy's annual Great British Spring Clean continues until the end of the month. Norfolk County Council has announced overnight closures of the A17 and A47 at the Pullover Roundabout near King's Lynn for street light renewal.

105/25 Reports from Members

- a) Cllr Allen - Communications, Foul Anchor and Four Gotes - Cllr Allen asked the Clerk about the next steps for the Foul Anchor project. The additional hedge plants have arrived and will be planted shortly.
- b) Cllr Carter - Community Centre and Play Equipment - Cllr Carter reported that the interior repainting has been completed, a new blind has been fitted to the main window, the fire doors have been replaced, and the first grass cut of the season has taken place. Plans for the play equipment are now on hold pending the District Council's decision regarding funding.
- c) Cllr Connell - Highways - In Cllr Connell's absence, there was no report.
- d) Cllr Malin - Armed forces and flooding - Cllr Malin reported that the Armed Forces Breakfast Club on the last Saturday of every month at Bygones in Wisbech continues to increase in numbers.
- e) Cllr Clifton - Public rights of way, churchyard, trees - Cllr Clifton will continue to cut the active part of the churchyard for the Parochial Church Council. Wet weather has prevented further inspections of footpaths. The survey of protected trees will take place this spring.
- f) Street lights and parish assets - No report.

106/25 Member and Parishioner Issues

The Chairman reported that a landowner had contacted him recently to discuss the possibility of establishing a wildlife area in the village. The landowner is based in France, so Cllr Brown and the Clerk will arrange a Zoom meeting to discuss the matter in more detail.

107/25 Play Equipment

The Clerk advised Members that the proposed safety fence for the under 5s play area was included in the play equipment funding submission to the District Council.

108/25 Community Centre

- a) Fire doors have been replaced, as mentioned in Cllr Carter's report.
- b) National Lottery Awards for All application to repair and recoat the roof - the Clerk advised Members that he is still working to identify suitable contractors.

109/25 Consultations

Members considered the following consultations:-

- a) Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government consultation on the proposals for local government reorganisation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
- b) Fenland District Council Local Plan scoping consultation.

It was agreed that the Council should respond to the local government reorganisation consultation. Members considered the various options and expressed their concerns regarding

merging rural Fenland with urban Peterborough, an authority known to be in financial difficulty. They resolved to support Option 4, creating a rural Mid Cambridgeshire unitary authority, merging Fenland with East Cambridgeshire and parts of Huntingdonshire. The Clerk will respond on behalf of the Council.

Members discussed the Local Plan scoping consultation. The Chairman offered to complete this on behalf of the Council, but suggested that Members and residents might also respond individually.

110/25 Annual Parish Meeting

Members discussed potential guest speakers for this year's meeting. Cllr Clifton mentioned that he had attended a talk by David Reeve, the former royal protection police officer responsible for security at Sandringham. He offered to pursue this.

Village organisations will be invited to attend and to speak about their work.

111/25 Highways

- a) The Clerk reported no further progress on the 2025/26 Local Highway Improvements project to install a street light at the junction of Broad Drove East, Newgate Road and High Broadgate.
- 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 was submitted in January. A decision will be announced in October.
- c) Community Speed Watch - the Chairman reported that the Speed Watch is up and running and two sessions have taken place. Around eighty vehicles have been logged, of which only one was speeding. Cllr Clifton confirmed that he would like to join the group.
- d) County Council's 20mph scheme - Members discussed the potential to implement a scheme in the village, but agreed that this was not something they wished to pursue.

112/25 Planning

- a) F/YR26/0110/F - Erect a single-storey extension to rear and a porch to front to each of existing dwellings involving demolition of existing extensions - 5 and 6 Bedford Row, Foul Anchor

Members resolved to offer no objection.

- b) F/YR26/0149/F - Erect 1 dwelling involving formation of new access - Land North of Telephone Exchange, Main Road, Tydd Gote

Members resolved to offer no objection.

- c) F/YR26/0128/SCOP - Scoping Opinion - Installation of 49.9MW ground mounted solar photovoltaic panels with associated battery storage, substation and ancillary plant and infrastructure, and erection of security fencing and pole mounted CCTV cameras - Land at Treading Field, Treading Drain, Tydd St Giles

Members noted the application.

- d) F/YR22/0368/F - The siting of 48 x leisure holiday homes, erection of a bird hide, and formation of new lakes - Tydd St Giles Golf and Leisure Centre, Kirkgate, Tydd St Giles

Members noted the appeal hearing.

113/25 Policies and Procedures

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

- a) Equality and Diversity Policy
- b) Homeworking Policy
- c) Expenses Policy

Members considered the following policy and resolved to adopt it:-

- d) Website Accessibility Policy

114/25 Finance

a) The Clerk presented the financial statement as at the end of February showing income of £40,856.86, expenditure of £40,804.67, resulting in a surplus of £52.19 and funds held of £49,416.00.

b) Members noted the following sum received since the last meeting:-

HMRC (VAT refund)£ 2,195.97

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

NEST (pension contributions)£ 312.06
HMRC (tax and national insurance)£ 266.45
Emmerson Doors Ltd (fire doors).....£ 1,282.80

d) Members considered charitable donations under Section 137 of the Local Government Act. They resolved to contribute the following donations:-

Community First Responders£ 250.00
East Anglian Air Ambulance£ 100.00
Magpas Air Ambulance£ 100.00

e) Members approved the following payments:-

D Gibbs (salary February and March)£ 1,585.56
D Gibbs (expenses).....£ 341.08
Tydd St Giles CC&RG (hall hire)£ 100.00
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Association of Local Councils (subscription).....£ 538.12
CPRE (subscription)£ 36.00

f) The Chairman asked the Clerk to circulate a poll to determine an appropriate date for a meeting to consider the creation of a 3-year plan.

115/25 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was recorded as Thursday 7th May. This was incorrect. The correct date is Thursday 14th May at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm