

TYDD ST GILES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Tydd St Giles Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Thursday 14th May 2026

Present - Cllr T Brown (Chairman), Cllr B Allen, Cllr M Carter, Cllr G Clifton, Cllr E Sharpe, Cllr S Clark (FDC), Cllr C Seaton (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk), 7 members of the public

001/26 Election of Chairman for the Municipal Year 2026/27

Cllr Brown was nominated by Cllr Clifton, seconded by Cllr Allen and duly elected. He signed his declaration of acceptance, witnessed by the Clerk.

002/26 Election of Vice Chairman for the Municipal Year 2026/27

Cllr Malin was nominated by Cllr Allen, seconded by Cllr Carter and duly elected. He will sign his declaration of acceptance before the next meeting.

003/26 Apologies for Absence

Cllr K Malin, Cllr B Barber (FDC)

004/26 Chairman's Announcements

None.

005/26 Public Forum

Mr Godfrey outlined his plans to convert the former Methodist Chapel in Hockland Road into a shared office space and café, with the possibility of evening use for small group activities. He invited residents to comment on the proposal and to contribute further ideas.

A resident advised the Council of the existence of a website in the name of Tydd St Giles Parish, containing information about the Parish Council and the village. The Chairman asked the resident to send a link for further investigation.

The Chairman clarified the status of the District Council's Brownfield Land Register mentioned at the previous meeting. Inclusion on the register does not have any bearing on future planning decisions.

006/26 Urgent Items

The Chairman.

007/26 Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

- a) Delegation to committees - Members resolved to maintain the status quo with the Planning Committee and the Land Committee.
- b) Members reviewed the terms of reference for the Planning Committee and the Land Committee. The Planning Committee will comprise all Members of the Council, with the Chairman and Vice Chairman holding those positions on the Committee. The Land Committee will comprise Cllrs Allen, Brown, Malin and Sharpe, with Cllr Malin in the Chair.
- c) Members reviewed the standing orders and financial regulations and resolved to readopt them.

- d) The Clerk advised members that the Council's insurance policy with Ansvar Insurance is due for renewal on 1 June.
- e) The Clerk reminded members that they hold subscriptions to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils, Cambridgeshire ACRE and the Campaign to Protect Rural England. Members resolved to continue all three subscriptions.
- f) The register of assets has been updated to include recent purchases and the total value of assets now stands at £416,297.
- g) Members resolved to meet on the second Thursday of alternate months, namely 9 July, 10 September, 12 November, 14 January 2027, 11 March and 13 May.

008/26 Membership of the Council

The Chairman informed Members that a vacancy had arisen following the resignation of Cllr Connell. He thanked Cllr Connell for her contribution to the work of the Council. No petition was submitted for a public election, so the Council will fill the vacancy by co-option at July's meeting.

009/26 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 12th March be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

010/26 Matters Arising

- a) Bus service - Locations of bus stopping points to be clarified. Timetables have been added to the noticeboards.
- b) Bird deflectors on overhead power lines - No progress.
- c) Former Village School - The Clerk has prepared a detailed report on the long history of indecision and prevarication regarding the site for submission to the District Council.
- d) Overgrown wasteland between Newgate Road and Field Avenue - No progress.
- e) Churchyard grass cutting - The green burial ground has been cut, but not the meadow.
- f) Creation of a wildlife area - The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk had a virtual meeting with a landowner who intends to create a wildlife area on a field fronting Church Lane. The owner has significant knowledge and experience of creating similar areas elsewhere. He is currently living overseas and at present, the role of the Parish Council is unclear. A further meeting will be arranged.

011/26 Police Matters

The Clerk reported that PC Ben Taylor has been appointed as the dedicated neighbourhood officer for Tydd St Giles. Several incidents of suspicious behaviour have been reported to the Police in recent weeks, including a white transit van in local villages overnight.

012/26 Fenland District Councillor Reports

Cllr Seaton advised Members that the Government's decision on the new local government structures is scheduled for July. He is discussing the recent bus pass poster requiring the use of a QR code with the Combined Authority bus team.

Cllr Clerk reported that Cllr Barber spoke at the Planning Appeal hearing relating to the Golf Club development. A decision is expected shortly.

The deadline for nominations for this year's Pride in Fenland awards is 1 June, with the ceremony taking place on 1 July.

013/26 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on meetings attended and correspondence received, including traffic orders for closures of Kirkgate from 14-18 May, Grangehill Road from 1 to 14 June, and Cross Drove and Hassock Hill Drove from 22 to 28 June. The County Council has launched its Close Pass campaign highlighting Highway Code rule 163, and details of the heating oil support scheme have now been published. Cambridgeshire ACRE has a talk on Cancer Awareness and Early Diagnosis.

014/26 Reports from Members

- a) Cllr Allen - Communications, Foul Anchor and Four Gotes - Cllr Allen reported that the new hedgerow at Foul Anchor has been planted.
- b) Cllr Carter - Community Centre and Play Equipment - Cllr Carter reported that the Community Centre now has a regular weekly booking every weekday night. The monthly Coffee Mornings are well supported and the Police will be attending this month. He expressed his thanks to Mr Proctor and Mr Gent for supplying and transporting the soil to level the field for the new children's play area. The area will be seeded when the weather permits. The Chairman also thanked Cllr Carter and Mr Hubbard for spreading and levelling the soil.
- c) Highways - No report. Cllr Sharpe has agreed to oversee highways for the Council. A meeting will be arranged with the Highway Maintenance Officer.
- 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 - Cllr Clifton reported that the contractor has made a good job of cutting the churchyard and the green burial ground. A second cut may be required in the autumn for the green burial ground. The inspection of the protected trees and clarification of public rights of way are ongoing. A decision needs to be made regarding the works to the ash trees adjacent to the new play area in the Recreation Ground.
- f) Street lights and parish assets - No report.

015/26 Member and Parishioner Issues

A local farm has agreed to host a corporate awayday for a large group of employees and is seeing ideas for small-scale projects with a countryside and nature conservation theme. Members suggested the possibility of planting and maintenance work in the churchyard.

016/26 Play Equipment

- a) Members reviewed the annual safety inspection report from RoSPA Playsafety Ltd. They noted the recommendation to replace the bearing on the seesaw and asked Cllr Carter to investigate this to clarify what is required.
- b) The Clerk advised Members that the District Council has launched a public consultation on the proposals for the play areas. Further details will be clarified once the consultation finishes on 1 June.

017/26 Community Centre

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.

018/26 Consultations

Members considered the District Council's consultation on the Wisbech Public Spaces Protection Order. They agreed to respond individually.

019/26 Annual Parish Meeting

The Clerk advised Members that it had not been possible to arrange guest speakers for this year's meeting. Village organisations will be invited to attend and to speak about their work as usual.

020/26 Highways

- a) The Clerk explained the forthcoming maintenance works. Hockland Road will be closed for surface dressing on 1 June, the pavements in High Broadgate will be sealed between 2 and 5 June, and Church Lane pavements between 13 and 17 July. Fibre optic cabling works will affect Cats Lane between 20 and 22 May, and Church Lane between 26 and 31 May.
- b) Community Speed Watch - the Chairman reported that the Speed Watch is up and running and more volunteers are welcome to join the group.

021/26 Planning

F/YR26/0303/F - Formation of new vehicular access to existing dwelling - Westlands, Cross Drove, Tydd St Giles

Members resolved to offer no objection.

Cllr Sharpe reported that the appeal hearing for the Tydd Golf expansion proposal was not well attended, with only a handful of people present. The process was very formal. The inspector went through every detail of the application and the reasons for refusal, seeking detailed clarification. A site visit was included in the day's proceedings.

022/26 Street Lights

The Clerk explained that the District Council's contractor had inspected the Council's lights and condemned nine of them as unsafe and in need of replacement at a cost of almost £10,000 including traffic lights. The Chairman suggested that a meeting be arranged with the District Council officers overseeing the maintenance of the lights. He asked the Clerk for a copy of all relevant contracts and reports. He also suggested a collective approach with other Councils experiencing the same issues.

023/26 Finance

- a) Members approved the internal accounts for the 2025/26 financial year for signature.
- b) Members approved the statement of reserves as at 31st March.
- c) Members reviewed and adopted the final budget for 2026/27 including the sums carried forward from 2025/26.
- d) Members reviewed the Council's fees and charges. The agricultural land is subject to Farm Business Tenancy agreements until October 2026. No increase was proposed for the garden allotments until occupancy increases. The Council has no other chargeable activities.
- e) Members reviewed the mandates for the Council's bank accounts. No changes were proposed.
- f) Members reviewed and approved the Governance and Management Risk Assessment. At the suggestion of the Internal Auditor, an additional column has been added to show residual risk. Members approved the revised document.
- g) Members considered and approved the Internal Audit Report. They agreed to adopt the following recommendations:-

- i) A residual risk column will be added to the Governance and Management Risk Assessment;
- ii) The fidelity insurance cover will be reviewed;
- iii) The annual budget will be published on the Council's website;
- iv) A reserves policy will be prepared and published; and
- v) An annual data review will be implemented.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for his management of the Council's finances and the positive outcome of the audit process.

- h) Members reviewed and approved each of the statements on the Annual Governance Statement 2025/26 and authorised the Chairman to sign it.
- i) Members reviewed and approved the Accounting Statements 2025/26 and authorised the Chairman to sign it.
- j) Members resolved that the period for the exercise of public rights be from Wednesday 3 June to Tuesday 14 July.
- k) The Clerk explained the internal audit process and expressed his satisfaction with the arrangements. Members resolved to reappoint Helen Symmons as Internal Auditor for 2026/27.
- l) Members considered the adoption of a Chairman's Allowance and/or Parish Basic Allowance, based on the recommendations of the Independent Review Panel. They resolved not to implement either allowance.
- m) Members noted the forthcoming renewal of the Council's insurance policy at the end of a three-year agreement. They resolved to review the policy. The Clerk will seek comparative quotes and Members agreed to accept the lowest appropriate renewal premium.
- n) The Clerk presented the financial statement as at the end of April showing income of £13,590.00, expenditure of £379.89, resulting in a surplus of £13,210.11 and funds held of £62,500.82.
- o) Members noted the following sums received since the last meeting:-

Barclays Bank (interest).....	£	74.35
R Bradley (land rent)	£	2,536.72
Fenland District Council (precept).....	£	13,440.00
J Ball (allotment rent)	£	50.00
T Marsh (allotment rent).....	£	100.00

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

Tesco (stamps)	£	13.92
NEST (pension contributions)	£	312.06
HMRC (national insurance).....	£	216.41

- q) Members approved the following payments:-

D Gibbs (salary April and May)	£	1,594.96
Npower Commercial Gas Ltd (electricity).....	£	94.86
Nurture Landscapes Ltd (grass cutting)	£	1,151.78
Fenland Leisure Products Ltd (play equipment parts)	£	36.00
Playsafety Ltd (play equipment inspection).....	£	123.60
C S Gent & Sons Ltd (tractor hire)	£	432.00

M J Carter (digger hire)	£	240.00
Helen Symmonds (audit fee)	£	269.00
CAS Insurance Services Ltd (insurance)	£	707.94
Cambridgeshire ACRE (subscription)	£	74.50

024/26 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Thursday 9th July at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

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