

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HOLYWELL-CUM-NEEDINGWORTH PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 4th NOVEMBER 2025 AT 7.00PM AT MILLFIELDS PAVILION**

PRESENT:

Cllr A Whyte (Chairman)
Cllr N Dyne
Cllr R Fountain
Cllr D Jackson
Cllr E MacPherson
Cllr S Mortlock
Cllr J Neish
Cllr C Norman
Cllr G Norman
Cllr C Pearce

IN ATTENDANCE:

Miss J Bowd (Parish Clerk)
Mrs A Jackson (Assistant to the Parish Clerk)
CCC Cllr A Bulat
HDC Cllr P Hodgson-Jones
There were no members of the public present.

The Chairman read out a statement regarding discussing Parish Council matters outside of the Council meetings via Whats App and social media, reminding Councillors of the Code of Conduct, Communications Policy and the Civility and Respect Pledge.

98. Apologies.

To receive and accept Apologies for Absence.

Cllr S Martin - personal
Cllr E McNeill - personal

99. Declarations of Interest.

To receive Declarations of Disclosable and/or Non-Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011 and the nature of those interests relating to any Agenda item.

Item 113 Cllr R Fountain – Pecuniary – Village Hall Trustee

100. Minutes.

To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th October 2025.

Resolved: That the minutes of the Meeting held on 7th October 2025 be signed as a true and correct record (Prop Cllr C Pearce, 2nd Cllr G Norman) 8 in favour, 2 abstentions

101. Public Forum.

To allow any member of the public to address the council on matters on the agenda.

Time Allowed 10 minutes.

None

102. Policing

102.1 Neighbourhood Policing Team – Any Issues and Concerns.

Cllr E MacPherson advised that the cancelled Coffee with a Cop is still being advertised on the ECops bulletin. The Clerk advised that this has been cancelled with the Officer.

103. District and County Councillor Reports.

To receive verbal reports from district and county councillors.

CCC Cllr A Bulat provided a written report. CCC A Bulat further reported:

- Local Government Reorganisation – CCC voted for Option A. CCC Cllr A Bulat and most of the opposition voted against option A – there was not enough information to make an informed decision and there was not a lot of local support for this option.

- A141 consultation – attended the event at the St Ives Corn Exchange – there was a lack of knowledge, and they ran out of literature. CCC Cllr A Bulat has passed on some leaflets and booklets to the Clerk. The next consultation event is on 13th November at the Burgess Hall, St Ives.

Cllr S Mortlock asked whether there would be a push for all of the sluice gates to be repaired. CCC Cllr A Bulat advised that the mayor has convened a meeting in December with the Environment Agency and other organisations to review the situation.

Cllr N Dyne queried how to reduce the speed limit on Overcote Lane as discussed at the last meeting.

CCC Cllr A Bulat advised that the next round of LHI Bids will be open later in November but can also investigate alternative routes to reduce the speed.

HDC Cllr P Hodgson- Jones reported:

- A141 – disappointed with the consultation event. This is a County lead scheme and some of the ideas being put forward around St Ives town unsure of what they are trying to achieve. There is a proposal to widen parts of Harrison Way. The bypass that was billed as the St Ives bypass which will be nowhere near St Ives, now going from Huntingdon to Wyton.
- Local Government Reorganisation – majority of Huntingdonshire County Councillors voted against Option A. HDC are proactively researching an alternative Option known as Option E which sees Huntingdonshire as a single Unitary Authority. Peterborough are looking at another option of splitting Huntingdonshire.

Cllr R Fountain queried whether consideration had been given to widen the road between Morrisons and Tesco roundabouts to increase the traffic flow.

HDC Cllr P Hodgson-Jones advised this was not in the consultation and that Cllr R Fountain should respond to the consultation.

Cllr N Dyne commented that a new river crossing is needed.

HDC Cllr J Neish advised a third river crossing was discussed six years ago and shelved due to cost.

HDC Cllr J Neish reported:

- He will attend the A141 consultation on 13th November 2025
- Local Plan Consultation is live.
- On the HDC website there is a business case for each of the LGR options.
- Sluice gates are there for navigation not for flood defence.

104 Committees.

104.1 To note the following draft minutes:

(i) Leisure Facilities 21st October 2025.

Noted

(ii) Planning & Finance 21st October 2025.

Noted

(iii) HR 21st October 2025.

Noted

105. Clerk's Report.

To receive written report.

4th November 2025

Meeting Dates: –

Full Council – 2nd December 2025

Budget meeting - 25th November 2025

Committees – 18th November 2025 Environment, Planning & Finance, Consultation.

Items to report.

- Remembrance Day Sunday 9th November 2025.
- Cllr D Jackson. Assistant to the Clerk and Clerk will be manning the road blocks. Chairman laying the wreath on behalf of PC.
- On Tuesday, 21 October, CCC Full Council approved Option A being sent to government as one of the options for Local Government Reorganisation. Clerk email the full press release 23/10/25
- Damaged road surface between the Needingworth roundabout and Morrisons.

Cllr Bulat raised this with highways, and the response is that the particular damaged section of the A1123 has already been referred to the Carriage Surface Treatment Team, who are currently considering the most appropriate interventions. Meanwhile, monthly safety inspections and reactive maintenance for any defects that meet the intervention level.

- 13/10/25 Clerk attended Fens reservoir consultation at Boxworth. Public consultation opens 15th October and runs until 10th December. The site will have an interactive map which will make it easier to see the planned route in more detail.
- MP Roundtable: The meeting will be held in the constituency on Friday 16th January 2026, with further details of the time and location to be confirmed in due course.
- Streetlight PC1 Meeting Lane – requires replacement lamp. Clerk has accepted quote of £253.00. Contractor still to carry out repair work. Residents on Meeting Lane are unhappy with the long delay.
- Clerk attended A141 traffic flow consultation on 23rd October. Meeting was well attended but staff were overwhelmed, and literature ran out. Feedback has been given to CCC. Cllr Bulat has agreed to bring literature to the PC for use at consultation on 18th November 2025.

106. Finance and Risk.

- 106.1 To approve payments made within Clerk delegated powers for period 8th October 2025 – 4th November 2025

Resolved: That the following payments made within Clerk delegated powers: UK Fire Protection Services Ltd, 6 monthly check MF, replacement fire extinguishers & fire blanket & 2 x call points, Inv. No. SI-183463 - £588.00 be approved. (Prop Cllr G Norman, 2nd Cllr C Norman) All in favour.

- 106.2 To approve accounts for payment on 6th November 2025.

Resolved: That the following payments: Green Room Gardens, Tree removal & Nissan Hut repairs, Inv. No. 2056 - £1172.40, Wicksteed, Play equipment, Inv. No. 829930 - £899.26, Core Synergy, Website fees, Inv. No. 17953 - £36.00, K & M Lighting Services, Supply & fit new lantern to PC1, Invoice No. 9635 - £276.00 & Britannia Fire & Security Ltd, install 2 x call points, Inv. No. 325067 - £474.17 totalling £2857.83 be approved. (Prop Cllr E MacPherson, 2nd Cllr C Pearce) All in favour.

- 106.3 To approve accounts for Payment made for the period 8th October 2025.- 4th November 2025.

Resolved: That the accounts for payment made for the period 8th October – 4th November 2025 totalling £15,511.58 be approved (Prop Cllr E MacPherson, 2nd Cllr C Norman) All in favour.

- 106.4 To note the budget report as at 27th October 2025

Noted

- 106.5 To note the bank reconciliation as 24th October 2025

Noted

- 106.6 To note the increase in subscription charges for Scribe w.e.f. 1st April 2026.

Noted

- 106.7 To consider quotes for annual inspection of Zip wire.

Resolved: That the quote from OLP totalling £685.44 inc. VAT be accepted. (Prop Cllr E MacPherson, 2nd Cllr S Mortlock) All in favour.

- 106.8 To approve accessibility evaluation of Parish Council website.

Clerk advised members that there will be Assertion 10 on the next AGAR which covers GDPR – Councillors will need to confirm they understand it and the Parish Council is compliant. One of the conditions is that the website is compliant with WCAG 2.2AA.

Resolved: That the quote from Core Synergy totalling £240 +VAT for the accessibility evaluation of the Parish Council website be approved. (Prop Cllr E MacPherson, 2nd Cllr C Pearce) All in favour.

- 106.9 To approve transfer of funds from Cambridge building society.

Resolved: That the transfer of funds from Cambridge Building Society to the current account be approved. (Prop Cllr J Neish, 2nd Cllr E MacPherson) All in favour.

106.10 To approve giving notice for transfer of funds from Redwood Bank to Co-Op bank accounts.

Resolved: That the notice for transfer of funds from Redwood Bank to Co-op bank accounts be approved. (Prop Cllr E MacPherson, 2nd Cllr C Pearce) All in favour.

106.11 To receive the email from solicitors regarding purchase of Woodland SE of Mill Way Needingworth.

Noted

107. Community Engagement.

107.1 To note the comments from Parish Council surgery 9th October 2025.

Noted

107.2 To consider report on 20mph survey and agree next actions.

Members discussed the results of the survey commenting that it shows a divided community. The information is noted and thanks given to the staff for their work on this project.

Resolved: That the results are inconclusive and therefore no change to be made at this time. (Prop Cllr J Neish, 2nd Cllr G Norman) All in favour.

108. Planning.

108.1 To consider the following application being **appealed**:

(i) Application ref: **24/02275/ful**

Land at junction of Harrison Way and Meadow Lane St Ives.

Development of use class C2 Residential accommodation with care comprising of apartments for people aged 65 and over, communal facilities, associated landscaping, car parking, services and access from meadow Lane.

No further comments made.

108.2 To note the following applications that have been **approved**:

(i) Application ref:25/00868/FUL Installation of a MUGA all weather pitch within the grounds of the school on the site of a former bungalow
Holywell C Of E Primary School Mill Way Needingworth St Ives PE27 4TF

Noted

109. Policy.

To review and adopt the following policy documents.

(i) Accessibility statement. (Website)

Resolved: That the Accessibility statement (Website) is adopted. (Prop Cllr C Pearce, 2nd Cllr J Neish) All in favour.

110. Correspondence.

To receive correspondence and agree **any actions**:

(i) To consider email regarding the state of the Ouse Valley Way between St.Ives and Holywell.

Resolved: That the Clerk write to thank the resident for their concern and advise that the Parish Council will pass the information on to the relevant authority. (Prop Cllr J Neish, 2nd Cllr C Pearce) All in favour.

- (ii) To note the upcoming Badger survey relating to the Fens Reservoir project.
Noted
- (iii) To note the Update from Cambridgeshire County Council: Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) - Phase 2 Engagement Headline Results Analysis.
Noted
- (iv) To consider the update on CCC nature recovery from the ground up project and agree actions.
Clerk advised members that there is a briefing session in November that will be included on the Environment agenda for consideration.
- (v) To 'note residents' comments on speeding traffic Overcote Lane
Noted
- (vi) To note feedback regarding Millfield's from Colts opposition.
Noted
- (vii) To note the community infrastructure levy (cil) funding: October 2025
Noted

111. Items to report

- Cllr E MacPherson requested that some reflective tape is put on the gate posts on the entrance to Overcote Lane car park.
- Clerk advised that she attended the Local Plan update meeting last night and Cllr N Dyne has requested the joining instructions for the online event on 11th November. If any other Councillor wishes to attend, please contact the Clerk for the joining instructions. The consultation starts tomorrow and lasts until 17th December. Giffords Farm will be considered as being in St Ives with St Ives being consulted. They will be marking the sites with white notices with pink and green text. Also under consideration is infill land between David Wilson Homes and the bypass. The Clerk handed out Local Plan leaflets to members.
- Cllr A Whyte reported that the fire hooks are back. He further advised that the Environment Agency has cut the flood bank between the Ferry Boat and the Pike & Eel.

112. To close the meeting to members of the public due to the confidential nature of the item to be discussed.

The Clerk advised that item 113 should be taken in closed session.

The Chairman challenged the lawfulness of closing the meeting for the next item

Resolved: That the remainder of the meeting remain open to the public due to there being no lawful reason to close the meeting. (Prop Cllr A Whyte, 2nd Cllr N Dyne) 3 in favour, 1 against, 6 abstentions.

113. To consider options for the future management of the village hall.

Cllr R Fountain advised members it should be all bar 2 trustees to resign on or by May 2026.

There is a requirement that 2 trustees remain to wind down the Trust should that be the option decided.

Cllr R Fountain left the meeting 8.09pm

A robust discussion took place regarding the situation the Trust is in including discussion of:

- Implications to the precept for running costs of the Village Hall
- Staff
- Refurbishment of the Village Hall
- Legal fees
- Impact on Council rates - Village Hall and Millfields will increase to circa £10k
- Councillor workload and time

There is a willingness to discuss further with the current trustees to find a way forward. The preferred option at the moment is to find new trustees to keep the Trust running. If however, the lease is surrendered, and the Village Hall reverts back to the Parish Council there will be cost

implications to continue operating the Village Hall and this will have a major impact on precept setting that is due in the next month.

Questions to raise with Cambs ACRE:

- Why not advertise the seriousness of needing new trustees? Can the Parish Council advertise the need for new trustees?
- What options are there to revert back to a Management Trust if move forward with Option 1 or 2?
- What is the Constitution of this Trust?
- How are trustees elected or not elected at an EGM or AGM?

Resolved: To form a working party consisting of: Cllr A Whyte, Cllr N Dyne, Cllr E MacPherson, Cllr S Mortlock, Cllr J Neish and co-option of Cllr C Pearce to meet with members of the VHT to look at options of running the Village Hall. (Prop Cllr E MacPherson, 2nd Cllr N Dyne) All in favour.

Terms of Reference:

- Research options for the future of the Village Hall
- Meet with members of the Village Hall Trust
- Report back to Full Council on 2nd December 2025

Clerk to write to the Village Hall Trust to advise them of the working party and for them to meet with some trustees on Tuesday 11th November, 7pm at Millfields. Clerk to write separate letters to individual trustees to invite them to the meeting – Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Trustee 1 who was not present at the original VHT meeting.

Being no further business the meeting closed 9.27pm

Chairman
Date