

FENSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes General Purposes

held at the Church Centre, Fenstanton

on Thursday 28th May 2026 at 19.00

Present: Cllr H Howatt, Cllr R McGee, Cllr K Mitchell and Cllr T Yates (Chair)
In attendance: No Clerks in Attendance. Cllr S King, observing, Members of public 2

Minutes

GP26/27-01 **To receive any apologies of absence and any declarations of interest.**
Comments and observations from members of the public (NB: comments should be relevant to items on this agenda only).
Apologies – Cllr M Hewitt and Cllr M Collison.

Declarations of interest- Cllr R McGee and Cllr K Mitchell Item - 14

Parishioner would like to comment on items 4, 12 and item 12.

Action Parishioner requested copy of the recording, check if this acceptable.

Cllr H Howatt arrived 19.13.

GP26/27-02 **To approve the minutes of the GP meeting held on Thursday 26th March 2026.**
Cllr R McGee Proposed. The minutes were a true record of the meeting held on 26th March 2026.
Cllr T Yates 2nd. All in favour. RESOLVED minutes approved.
All in favour. RESOLVED Minutes approved.

GP26/27-03 **Discuss and decide on action for Connington Road Drains following comments at AMP**-*SB*
Prolonged drainage issue, longstanding (7–8 years), with specific reference to mismanaged runoff due to estate construction, not just gully cleaning. No specific proposal; lack of clarity as to intended action—item deferred.
Actions -Cllr. Yates to follow up with County Councillor for history of gully cleaning and possible infrastructure solutions. Clarification to be sought from absentees for next meeting.

GP26/27-04 **Discuss and decide on follow up with formation of a flood group, following comments at AMP**-*SB*
Members agreed to expand the flood group into a wider resilience group, covering issues such as flooding, power outages and storm damage, in line with national and local approaches. Fion Marshall Roberts, HDC Resilience Officer, will be invited to the next meeting, and the importance of local knowledge and previous flood resilience work was highlighted. Parishioner noted that he was happy to support the Parish Council with the newly Formed Resilience group.
Action – Cllr K Mitchell and Cllr T Yates to invite Fion Marshall Roberts to next council meeting.

GP26/27-05 **Discuss and decide on action for blocked gulleys following comments at AMP**-*SB*
Deferred to next meeting.
Action - Clarification to be sought from absentees for next meeting.

GP26/27-06 **Discuss Dog Fouling Solution - Spring Offer Keep Britain tidy** -SB
Deferred to next meeting
Action - Clarification to be sought from absentees for next meeting.

GP26/27-07 **Discuss and decide on Close Pass Campaign.**-*SB*
Deferred to next meeting
Action - Clarification to be sought from absentees for next meeting.

GP26/27-08 **To agree planned works following tree survey recommendations.**-SB
Recent comprehensive report identifies urgent (red-listed) trees needing attention. Some trees in closed graveyard (conservation area, diocesan permissions required).
Cllr T yates Proposed Cllr M Hewitt contacts the Diocese of Ely sending the report and ask for permissions and proceed from there. **Cllr R McGee 2nd. All in favour RESOLVED to contact Diocese of Ely and obtain permissions.**
Action – Cllr Hewitt contacts Diocese of Ely and permissions obtained.

GP26/27-09 **Fly Tipping – Cambridge Road.-**SB
No location specified; physically checked by Councillors but nothing currently detected. HDC responsibility; generally, resolves fly tipping within 4-5 days.

GP26/27-10 **Hilton Road Entrance – SIGN** -SB
Issue speculated to be overgrown signage at entrance from Hilton; not confirmed.
Action request Handyman Chris to clear branches; clarification to be sought.

GP26/27-11 **Discuss and decide on amendment to Bronze Level Green Maintenance.**-*MC*
Deferred to next meeting.

GP26/27-12 **Decide whether to hire a garage or similar storage facility from Places for People or other provider at a maximum current cost of £63.57 + vat per month.-***RM*
Parishioner/ former Councillor noted that there had been previous discussions on additional storage requirements, particularly following the increase in equipment held for events. Clarification is needed regarding insurance cover for stored items, including equipment gifted to other groups, and concerns were raised over the potential cost of additional storage following earlier quote requests.
Cllr R McGee explained that the current Places for People garage facility is overcrowded, resulting in damage and poor accessibility. Security arrangements were discussed with members noting previous break-ins but acknowledging recent improvements, including new doors, locks and other deterrents. It was also confirmed that the Christmas Market equipment remains the property of the Parish Council and is available for hire by village community groups.
Cllr R McGee Proposed the Parish Council rents a further garage from Places for people as at a maximum cost of £63.57 + VAT subject to clarification from the insurance company and agreement from Places for people and extra security installed. **Cllr T Yates 2nd. All in favour.**
Actions - investigate insurance and follow up with Places for people.

GP26/27-13 **Discuss if Parish Council should cut the grass on the public land by the King William.-***MC*
Cllr R McGee Proposed the Parish Council asks Naturespace if they are willing to cut this and check if will there be an extra charge. **Cllr T Yates 2nd. All in favour. RESOLVED Arrange for Naturespace to cut the grass.**
Cllr T Yates Proposed Cllr R McGee also speak to Naturespace urgently about the grass cutting at the Turnpike bridge. **All in favour RESOLVED to arrange for Naturespace to cut grass at Turnpike bridge.**
Action – Cllr McGee to speak to Naturespace re cutting of the grass at the King William and at the Turnpike bridge.

GP26/27-14 **Decide on Date for moving from the Hub to Village hall.-***SB*
Deferred due to key personnel absence; target August for completion, but subject to utility connections.

GP26/27-15 **Decide on members of Tree Survey/Planting Group/Hampton committee-***Deferred from AGM*
Committee no longer active; work now rolled into General Purposes Committee responsibilities.

GP26/27-16 **Update on Old orchard -***HH*
Members discussed potential future uses for the site, including the creation of a community garden, which received support from allotment holders and was considered compatible with existing food-resilience initiatives. A pump track was suggested but was not supported due to the site's location, environmental value, and access constraints. Accessibility requirements, S106 obligations, and potential archaeological considerations were noted. Interim options such as rewilding, installing bird and bat boxes, and planting wildflowers or fruit trees were discussed, subject to compliance requirements. Potential funding sources included the Woodland Trust and landfill grant schemes. It was agreed that any future project would require a clear community plan, dedicated project lead, and consultation with residents, particularly those on the Kier estate and across the wider village.
Actions - Cllrs. Howatt & McGee to draft a letter/mailshot for Kier estate residents. Journal
After feedback, consider wider village consultation &site plan. Suggestion box at the village hall/Hub.
Explore opportunities for external funding. Nature Space to be contacted for habitat creation assistance.

GP26/27-17 **Agree on Costs of one-off confidential shredding and purchasing a confidential shredder.**-*TY*
GDPR compliance requires secure off-site shredding prior to office move; quote £50+VAT for up to 10 bags.

Office to purchase a new cross-cut shredder with discretionary spend set at up to £120 if required.
Cllr T Yates Proposed The Parish council agrees to the one-off shredding and purchase a confidential waste cross shredder at the Clerks discretion. **Cllr R McGee 2nd. All in favour. Arrange one off confidential waste removal and purchase confidential shredder.**

Action- Ali to arrange confidential shredding and purchase a shredder.

GP26/27-18 **To consider and decide future management arrangements for the allotments following the dissolution of the Glebe Allotment Steering Committee-***SB*

Resignations created uncertainty, but committee now restabilsed, seeking internal replacement for Chair/Secretary.

Cllr T Yates Proposed To allow allotment holders committee to self-manage and inform council upon resolution. **Cllr K Mitchell 2nd. All in favour. RESOLVED await Glebe allotments decision.**

GP26/27-19 **Discuss and decide that the Parish Council arranges to carry out an annual service on the outdoor gym, and to get quotes for the same to put to full council at the next council meeting.-***RM*

Cllr T Yates Proposed obtain at least two quotes for annual maintenance contract and take to next full Council meeting. Cllr K Mitchell 2nd. **All in favour RESOLVED to obtain two quotes and take to full Council.**

Action – Cllr R McGee to obtain 2 quotes for Gym equipment service.

GP26/27-20 **Decide whether to obtain quotes for floodlights and CCTV at the MUGA, and to apply for planning permission if required.-***RM*

Parishioner questioned the necessity, proportionality and ongoing cost of floodlights and CCTV at the MUGA. It was noted that CCTV would require clear evidence of crime or antisocial behaviour to justify installation, alongside consideration of privacy implications and associated costs. Members also noted the proposal originally arose from a request by the netball club for winter training floodlights in October 2025, which had previously been deferred due to workload. Further discussion highlighted that the MUGA is not Parish Council-owned and would require formal consent from Cambridgeshire County Council, alongside consideration of environmental and neighbouring impacts and evidence of wider community demand.

Cllr R McGee Proposed that the subject to approval, residents in immediate area are consulted and invite their opinion and a concurrent consultation around the village and gauge public support/opposition. Contact local police for incident log. **Cllr H Howatt 2nd. All in favour.**

Actions -Check with Cambridgeshire County Council for permission to install lighting/CCTV. Approach immediate local residents, the school (primary MUGA user), and the village more broadly to gauge support/opposition. Request police log of any antisocial incidents or crime in the MUGA area. Log all future incidents to help evidence any need.

Meeting closed 20.34

Signed Cllr T Yates (Chair) ……..