

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINCHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 17 MARCH 2026 at 7.30 PM AT WINCHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present:

Parish Councillors: I Parr, D May, S Schmidt, V Hollis, R Casson and T Fearn

Unitary Councillor: L Gibbon

Parish Clerk: N Morris

Before the meeting, at 7.15pm, a public forum was open, but no residents contributed.

In the absence of Cllr Barker, Cllr Parr chaired the meeting as Vice Chair of the Parish Council.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Shirley and Barker

and from Unitary Councillors Wright

and Marshall and PCSO Wiggins

Resolved to accept the apologies

Proposed: Cllr Schmidt

Seconded: Cllr Hollis

2. Declarations of any

(a) disclosable pecuniary interests or

(b) other disclosable interests

As are required under Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

No applications were made

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 24 February 2026 were approved

Resolved that the Minutes for the meeting held on Tuesday 24 February 2026 be confirmed as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr Fearn

Seconded: Cllr Hollis

Guests

4. The Unitary Councillor had sent in a report, but made the following points:

- i. The Marbury Members have submitted comments on the draft development sites, specifically regarding the impact on greenbelt land and on what is meant by an area being “well-connected”. The Marbury Members have suggested that any new developments should be around towns where there are existing shops. This would be good for the local economy. The Local Plan should be in a final form for comment by the end of the year.*
- ii. CWaC intend to raise Council Tax by 4.99%. It would appear that the calculations done by central Government assume that all councils will raise their Council Tax by 4.99%. The amount coming from central Government for the next financial year will be lower than before. Around 73p in every pound CWaC spends will be directed to adult and children’s social care. There may be an over-spend for the financial year because the budget for 2026/27 includes assumptions that may prove invalid. The Marbury Members have requested that more money is spent on repairing potholes and gulleys.*
- iii. More money has been spent on roads in the Marbury Ward during the last financial year than in surrounding wards. The Marbury Members believe this is down to their persistence.*
- iv. Hignnet is a pipeline linking industrial works in Derbyshire with the coast. It is intended to allow CO2 to be buried safely beneath the seabed. The project encourages industries to convert to using hydrogen on the basis that it is a cleaner fuel. The infrastructure costs will be paid by central Government, not the industries.*
- v. There is no more information yet available on devolution.*
- vi. The Members’ Budgets will be available again in April for the 2026/27 financial year.*
- vii. Spacehive will be open again this year.*

The Chair of the meeting thanked Cllr Gibbons.

5. Planning

A APPLICATIONS

i. Site Address: 34 Shelley Avenue Wincham Northwich CW9 6PH

Proposal: Erection of a single storey front and side extension

Reference Number: 26/00619/FUL

Case Officer:

Parish: Wincham

<https://pa.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

Comments by:

1 April 2026

No comment.

B APPROVALS

None

C REFUSALS

None

D APPEALS

None

E ENFORCEMENT

None

G OTHER PLANNING MATTERS

- i. Site Address: Land At Pickmere Lane Wincham Northwich Proposal: New access, service road and landscaping

Reference Number: 25/01864/FUL

This response to an enquiry was received on 11/3/2026:

"It's a long story – but in summary, we are waiting for Cheshire East to determine their portion of the application before CW&C issue a decision.

This takes into account that CE are the lead decision maker in this particular case because the majority of the site falls within their boundary.

Just to be clear, anyone who has commented on the application will be notified when a decision has been issued."

The clerk informed Members:

"The land covered by the application that falls within Cheshire East is viewed as greenbelt; the land in Cheshire West (generally) is not.

Cheshire West and Chester Council are treating Cheshire East as the lead authority and will await their decision. When the CWaC officer last spoke to her equivalent in Cheshire East, they were mindful to reject the application on the grounds it was not appropriate for greenbelt. Were this to happen, CWaC would then also refuse the application on the same grounds. The applicant might then go to appeal, of course.

Should Cheshire East approve the application, then CWaC intend also to approve it. The planning officer has visited the site with Highways officers and Highways do not consider the effect of a new road entering Pickmere Lane at that point to constitute "severe adverse harm," which is the bar to justify a refusal. Highways recognise the potential dangers of vehicles entering and leaving the road and would be particularly concerned if it was an access road to a site for touring caravans, but feel that static caravans do not require moving or replacing sufficiently often to mean there would be severe adverse harm caused.

Highways have seen the extensive objections submitted both by Wincham Parish Council and by residents and the planning officer has forwarded to Highways the additional comments sent by Wincham Parish Council about the data generated from the Wincham mobile sign. She spoke to Highways after they had read the email and their view remained unchanged.

- ii. **Location:** Black Greyhound Hall Lane Wincham Northwich CW9 6DG

A response has been received from Planning Enforcement:

"Yes, I know about this and I am dealing with the matter. I reached out to the owners following the grant of planning permission to try and agree a timeframe for removing the wall however I have had no response to date. In view of this I have sent a report to my team leader to seek their authorisation on whether to proceed with issuing an Enforcement Notice.

I will keep you updated."

Decisions

6. Recommendations of the Grounds Maintenance Working Party (Report 7) were considered to:

- i. **Request a budget of £60.99 to buy snowdrops to plant under the new hedges**

Resolved to authorise a budget of £60.991 buy snowdrops to plant under the new hedges.

Proposed: Cllr Fearn
Seconded: Cllr Hollis

- ii. **Recommend approval of the quotation for repainting the MUGA lines by Leisure Services (Option 1 of the comparative quotations (Appendix H)) of £1200+VAT. (Power washing is not possible because there is no water supply)**

The clerk reported that a resident had expressed opposition to this proposal on the basis that the MUGA was only ever used for football, never basketball and also because of the cost.

Members observed that the Council had been seeking a contractor to undertake the work and had been considering this project for years. It is the duty of the Parish Council to keep its assets in a good state of repair.

Resolved to approve the quotation of £1200 + VAT by Leisure Services to repaint the lines in the MUGA

*Proposed: Cllr Fearn
Seconded: Cllr Casson*

- iii. **Recommend acceptance of Jason Eden's quotation of £1100 for cleaning the play equipment (Option 3 from the comparative quotations (Appendix I)) on the basis it is a competitive price from a small local business;**

Resolved to approve the quotation of £1100 by Jason Eden to clean the play equipment

*Proposed: Cllr May
Seconded: Cllr Casson*

- iv. **Request that, from 2027, the annual tree survey is requested every July, with quotations to be received by 1 September, so that the working party can make recommendations to the September Council meeting; works can then be carried out in a timely manner over winter, without a last minute rush.**

The clerk was asked to include an estimate for the annual tree survey in the July Parish Council meeting for 2026, with a view to having the survey completed in time for the September or October Parish Council meeting. This should allow time to obtain alternative quotes for the tree surgery arising from the annual survey.

7. Recommendations and requests of the from the Events Working Party were considered:

- i. **The Unsung and Young Heroes Event will be held on 13 June, requesting a budget of £450**

Resolved to approve a provisional budget for the Unsung and Young Heroes Event of £450

*Proposed: Cllr May
Seconded: Cllr Hollis*

- ii. **The biennial Front Garden Competition will be held between 18-26 July, requesting a budget of £150.**

Resolved to approve a provisional budget for the Front Garden Competition of £150

*Proposed: Cllr May
Seconded: Cllr Schmidt*

8. The current position of policing in the village and the email from the Northwich Inspector was discussed (Appendix E)

It was noted that Simon Donnelly is a new PCSO covering Wincham who will start on 1 April 2026. Cllr Fearn has met with him.

Cllr Fearn will arrange a meeting with both Simon Donnelly and PC Dan Vinton to discuss road safety.

9. i. **Retrospective authorisation for the clerk authorising the urgent purchase of a new vehicular bollard (Option 3 from the comparative quotations (Appendix F)) costing £274.53 exclusive of VAT, to replace the broken bollard at the Birch Grove entrance to Linnards Lane Playing Field was considered. This purchase is within those permitted in the Financial Regulations**

Resolved to give retrospective authorisation for the clerk authorising the urgent purchase of a new vehicular bollard (Option 3 from the comparative quotations (Appendix F)) costing £274.53 exclusive of VAT, to replace the broken bollard at the Birch Grove entrance to Linnards Lane Playing Field. This purchase is within those permitted in the Financial Regulations

Proposed: Cllr Casson

Seconded: Cllr Hollis

- ii. **Authorising the quotation from Jason Eden to remove the broken bollard and install the new bollard at a cost of £330 (Appendix L) was discussed**

Resolved to approve a quotation of £330 to remove the broken bollard and install the new bollard

Proposed: Cllr May

Seconded: Cllr Schmidt

- 10. The recommendation of the Linnards Lane Development Working Party to follow Jackie Weaver's advice to pay a project manager to negotiate the contract and then to oversee the works of a third party contractor hired to improve the paths was considered**

The ChALC advice was noted and the working party was asked to proceed with their deliberations as to how to continue with the project.

- 11. The National Association of Local Councils Guide to Accessibility for Council Websites was noted (Appendix D).**

Noted

- 12. The position with regards water pressure in Wincham was discussed and it was considered whether to authorise a flier to be sent out across Wincham, with information of the United Utilities' work planned over the summer**

A meeting is scheduled for 30 March with United Utilities and the organisers of the Cheshire Showground.

It is anticipated that the United Utilities' works will take 12 weeks and will stretch across the village. Work will start on 26 July 2026.

The Parish Council has an unused noticeboard on Linnards Lane, beside the pedestrian entrance to the School and this could be used to display information about the United Utilities' works, but it was noted that residents with queries should contact the Liaison Officer designated by United Utilities, not the Parish Council. Use of a QR code was discussed.

Emma Birch of United Utilities has agreed to write an article about the works planned for the Wincham Word.

Sending out a special flier was discussed.

Information could also be posted on a separate page on the Parish Council website, with a short note on the Home Page, too.

Resolved to authorise a budget of up to £200 to be available to fund, if deemed necessary, a flier to be sent out across Wincham, with information of the United Utilities' work planned over the summer

Proposed: Cllr Schmidt

Seconded: Cllr Fearn

- 13. Paying the clerk three hours' overtime to cover time spent at the Communications Working Party was considered**

Resolved to approve paying the clerk three hours' overtime to cover time spent at the Communications Working Party

Proposed: Cllr Schmidt

Seconded: Cllr Hollis

- 14. Members received an update on the parking concerns of residents using the Spar car park**

Twelve residents had contacted one of the Members with concerns about parking charge notices; the Manager of the Spar had had two residents acting aggressively towards her for the same reason. The charge notices had most probably been issued when residents had exited the car park by driving over the pavement and kerb, rather than leaving by the official exit, where the camera would have logged their departure.

All charge notices have now been cancelled and no more will be issued until bollards preventing exit other than through the designated route are in place.

Members discussed the appropriate role for the Parish Council in a dispute of this kind. The Member had provided residents with the details of whom to contact with their grievance.

4. Jason Eden – work on the parking bollard	£330.00	
3, Arthur Street, Lostock Gralam Northwich CW9 7PR		
5. HMS-NW Ltd. – first part of contract – (cancel previous cheque)	£590.00	
Suite 1 Armcon Business Park	VAT	£118.00 £708.00
London Road South Poynton SK121LQ		
6. Naomi Morris, Clerk:		
i. WFH allowance March @ £26/month	£26.00	
ii. salary for March 2026: 40 hours @ £15.08	£603.20	£629.20
iii. Reimbursement for:		
a) Employer's NI due from Council		£148.17
b) B&Q : paintbrush set	£7.00	
: Hammerite black	£41.81	
: Hammerite white	£42.49	£91.30
c) NextDay Paint: Brush cleaner	£6.88	
: Bio cloth wipes	£12.04	
: shipping	£3.99	£22.91
d) Barriers Direct: bollard	£274.53	
: VAT	£54.91	£329.44
e) Safety Signs and Stickers:		£31.80 £1252.82

TOTAL EXPENDITURE **£4534.22**

*Proposed: Cllr Hollis
Seconded: Cllr Schmidt*

ii. Current Net Balances were noted:	
Current Account as at 05.02.2026	£200.00
Business Reserve Account 1. as at 05.02.2026	£98,509.91
Business Reserve Account 2. as at 05.02.2026	£12,544.93

20. Reports

The following reports were noted and discussed.

i. From outside authorities:

- a) from PCSO Wiggins (Report 1);**
- b) from Marbury Ward Members (Report 8).**

i. To note reports from Working Parties:

- a) Road Safety Working Party (Report 2);**

The tripod holding the mobile interactive sign is damaged after falling over in the wind.

The data gathered by the sign should be released to residents, once it is in a presentable form.

Highways have refused to permit replacement signs directing HGVs to turn towards the Black Greyhound junction. This was the case even if the Parish Council funded the new signs. The Government encourages fewer signs on the highway.

- b) Communications Working Party (Report 3);**
- c) Memorial Gardens Working Party (Report 5);**
- d) Events Working Party (Report 6);**
- e) Grounds Maintenance Working Party (Report 7).**
 - ii. A report on Village Communication (Report 4)**
 - iii. Any reports of events attended by Councillors or the clerk in an official capacity: None**
 - iv. To note training attended by Councillors or the clerk:**
None

21. Correspondence

1. Three emails about parking fines.
2. Four emails from a resident questioning the expenditure priorities of the Council.
3. Two emails and two telephone calls from the company providing volunteers for village activities.
4. Telephone calls and emails relating to the defibrillator.
5. Emails relating to a bridge on Pickmere Lane and to the effects of closure of Pickmere Lane.
6. Email asking for a scooter run in the Linnards Lane Playing Field.
7. Three emails asking when Pickmere Lane will be fully open.
8. Emails about training.
9. Email request for the play area to be fenced to prevent dogs entering.
10. Email asking about the interactive speed sign data.
11. Two emails saying they were pleased the interactive sign is back in Chapel Street and facing up the road.
12. Email asking the dates of Wincham School holidays.
13. Email asking why electric scooters were not now allowed in the park.
14. Email asking about the planning application for a new access road onto Pickmere Lane.
15. Email complaining about mobile telephone signal.
16. Two emails asking when the climbing frame at Chapel Street would be replaced.
17. Email asking whether the devolution process will link Wincham and Pickmere under the same authority.
18. Email asking that the Appendix and Report letters/numbers be shown in the Parish Council meeting Minutes.
19. Email complaining the grass is a mess around the daffodils beside the school fence on Linnards Lane.
20. Email asking for the nearest Anglican church.
21. Email asking the salary to be a Wincham Parish Councillor.
22. Email from a resident about the change of the Roberts' Bakery Band to becoming the Witton Albion Band.
23. Email from a resident wondering if the interactive sign had been stolen.

22. Urgent Council Issues arising since Issue of Agenda were discussed

Members noted that vehicles are increasingly turning right from the A556 into Linnards Lane, which is dangerous. The incidence of this manoeuvre has increased since Pickmere Lane was closed because of the Waterless Bridge.

Tabley, Ashton by Budworth and Pickmere Parish Councils are meeting to discuss a joint approach to the continued closure of the Waterless Bridge and Wincham Parish Council will also attend the meeting.

23. Items for future agendas.

None

The meeting was declared closed at 10.15pm

AGENDA PART 2 The remainder of the agenda will be taken in closed session not open to the public or press and may relate to personnel matters.

*Naomi Morris
1.4.2026*