

Wyton on the Hill Parish Council

Parish Clerk – Ms Nykki Webber, 2 Anderson Drive, St Ives, Cambs. PE27 6AF
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A meeting of Wyton on the Hill Parish Council was held on Tuesday 13th January 2026 at 7.00pm at: Wyton on the Hill Primary School. Wyton on the Hill. Cambs.

Present: Councillor Mark Looker (Chair), Councillor Rebecca Waclawyj, Councillor David Keane, Councillor Lucy Pammenter and Councillor Martin Gill.

In Attendance: Ms. N. Webber (Clerk), Tony Savage (Caretaker) and Gill Angel (MOD).

MINUTES

326-01/26 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

327-01/26 To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Apologies have been received from Councillor Bladen as she is working.

Councillor Waclawyj proposed acceptance of these apologies, and this was seconded by Councillor Pammenter.

Apologies have been received from Councillor Saddler as he is on annual leave.

Councillor Looker proposed acceptance of these apologies, and this was seconded by Councillor Keane.

328-01/26 To receive declarations of interest.

Members are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Wyton on the Hill Parish Council Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011. There were no declarations of interest.

329-01/26 To receive and approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th December 2025.

The minutes of the meeting of Wyton on the Hill Parish Council held on 9th December 2025 had been circulated in advance following their informal approval by the Chairman. Councillor Gill proposed acceptance of the minutes and Councillor Pammenter seconded the proposal. All in favour, resolve to do so. The Chairman signed the minutes.

320-01/26 Public participation.

To allow up to 10 minutes (2 minutes per person) for any members of the public and councillors declaring the existence and nature of a prejudicial interest to address the meeting in relation to the business on this agenda. No MOP was in attendance.

321-01/26 Matters arising or carried forward from the previous meeting:

- SID Update and purchase of post – there is still no date for installation despite the clerk chasing. The clerk will send yet another email and copy in Councillor Keane.
- HDC Possible cancellation of election – the forms will be online soon.
- Election 2026 – HDC have a meeting on 14th January 2026 regarding whether the May elections will take place.
- Residents Company update (Preim) – the chair has engaged with the new stakeholders.
- Pre Renewal Questionnaire for Insurance – the clerk read out the renewal to the councillors and all was fine apart from the clerk is to ask if there is separate cover for cyber terrorism?
- Santa Letters/Christmas lights – 29 letters were received to Santa and all were replied to.

322-01/26 To discuss any updates for events and activities on Station.

Gill Angel attended the meeting. There was not much to report as they have not been back to work for long since the Christmas break. The youthclub are now back in their building. There is a meeting on Thursday 15th January with the police and Councillor Looker.

323-01/26 To receive an update from the Estate Caretaker.

Tony Savage attended the meeting and reported that the bins around the mound are getting full very quickly but the rest of the estate is not too bad at the moment.

324-01/26 To receive an update from the local District Councillor/s on matters at HDC.

Councillor Keane reported the following:

Feasibility of Holding Council Election May 2026

In December, the Secretary of State wrote to several councils, including Huntingdonshire District Council, inviting them to state whether they wished to request postponement of the May 2026 District Council elections considering local government reorganisation. This was not a direction to cancel elections, but an invitation to express a view where councils believed postponement might release capacity to support the reorganisation process.

Prior to Christmas, I wrote to parish councils setting out my position that elections should proceed as scheduled unless there is clear, published, and compelling evidence that they cannot be delivered safely or lawfully. The election date has been known since May 2022 and the prospect of reorganisation since December 2024, and at that stage no such evidence had been presented.

In response to the Secretary of State's letter, District Council officers prepared a detailed report assessing the feasibility of holding elections alongside reorganisation. This report will be considered at a special meeting of the District Council on 14 January. The officers' professional conclusion is that the Council can deliver both processes concurrently. The report finds that capacity pressures are limited and manageable, that elections and reorganisation are largely handled by separate teams, that postponing elections would not materially accelerate reorganisation, and that there are no significant legal, financial, or operational barriers to holding elections as scheduled.

Following the publication of that report, I have shared it with parish councils so they can see the evidence for themselves and form their own informed view. The issue raises a wider principle about democratic accountability during periods of change. In my view, elections are not an optional administrative exercise but a fundamental part of local democracy, and any departure from the scheduled timetable should be justified by clear and robust evidence. Based on the information currently available, I do not believe that threshold has been met.

HDC Council Meetings:

December 3rd One Leisure Advisory Group Meeting

I attended the One Leisure Advisory Group (OLAG) meeting, which received a comprehensive service update covering strategic direction, staff engagement, capital projects, and business planning.

The meeting reviewed progress on actions arising from the Independent Review (July 2025). Key actions include the commissioning of an independent review of One Leisure's readiness for Local Government Reorganisation and the wider leisure market across Cambridgeshire, with findings due by March 2026. All outstanding feasibility studies are progressing to RIBA Stage 1, with completion targeted for March 2026.

A significant focus was the proposed Huntingdon Sport & Health Hub, including completion of RIBA Stage 2 approval and ongoing discussions with NHS/ICB partners, with Heads of Terms targeted for March 2026. Updates were also provided on the mobilisation and phased re-opening of Sawtry Leisure Centre, including plans for reopening the swimming pool in Spring 2026. Decarbonisation planning is being embedded alongside major capital projects.

I sent letter in support of CIL funding for Local Clubs that are part of the project in conjunction with my joint ward member Cllr. Dew.

Full Council 17th December

I attended the full council, and I raised a formal question at HDC Council on behalf of a resident regarding the Council's Tree Strategy and its impact on very elderly and vulnerable residents. The question highlighted cases where residents are unable, due to age or capacity, to commission the technical evidence currently required. The Portfolio Holder indicated they are looking at amending the policy to better address these circumstances.

I will keep you updated as this progresses. The rest of the meeting focused on a small number of statutory and governance items.

Council approved the adoption of a new Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003, covering the period from January 2026 to January 2031. This followed public consultation and Licensing Committee scrutiny and ensures the Council can continue to make licensing decisions lawfully and consistently across the district.

Council also agreed to continue with the existing Council Tax Support Scheme for 2026/27 without change. The scheme remains targeted at supporting working-age residents on low incomes, with protections for vulnerable households, carers and families, and reflects the Council’s stated priority of supporting residents and preventing hardship.

Members considered a report on the implementation of a 20p increase in off-street parking charges, which had already been built into the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. This item followed the introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement earlier in 2025 and left operational decisions to Cabinet.

Council approved the outcome of a Community Governance Review relating to the parish boundary between Glatton and Conington. Following a valid petition and consultation, it was agreed that the proposed boundary change would better reflect community identity and support effective local governance. A Reorganisation of Community Governance Order will now be drafted, with the revised boundaries expected to come into effect at the May 2026 parish elections.

Finally, Council received and noted the Treasury Management mid-year performance report for 2025/26, which confirmed that the Council remains within its prudential limits and continues to prioritise security and liquidity in its borrowing and investment decisions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y2DwTNXQKHk>

Make January Happen

The District Council is running a “Make January Happen” initiative at the start of 2026, aimed at encouraging residents to get out locally and make use of what is available in their communities. The campaign highlights everyday opportunities close to home, such as local cafés, walking routes, community events and independent shops. A calendar of suggested activities is being used to provide ideas and prompt participation throughout the month.

<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/news/make-january-happen/>

Garden Waste Subscription

Subscriptions for the Garden Waste Collection Service will open in December 2025 for the 2026–2027 service year, running from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027. The annual cost is £57.50 for one bin, with additional bins charged at £30 each (up to three extra). Residents paying by card will need to renew when subscriptions open, while Direct Debit subscriptions will renew automatically. Residents are encouraged to renew early to ensure uninterrupted collections from April 2026.

<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins-waste/garden-waste-subscription-service/>

325-01/26 Notification of planning items:

There were no notifications of planning.

326-01/26 Finance

326-01/26.2 To approve accounts for payment: 9th December 2025

Date	Ref. No.	Payee	Description	Amount
13/01/26	117102081	HMRC	PAYE (Month 09)	£181.27
13/01/26	275691520	Mr A Savage	Caretaker Services (Dec 2025)	£271.32
13/01/26	275691520	Mr A Savage	Caretaker mileage expenses – Dec 2025	£9.00
13/01/26	207778937	Ms N Webber	Parish Clerk/RFO Services. 30 hours, Dec 2025	£402.20
13/01/26	207778937	Ms N Webber	Working from home allowance and expenses Dec 25	£
13/01/26	293383526	Enviroplantcare	Maintenance of the front of the estate – Dec 2025	£110.00
13/01/26	361971206	CCC	December Stay and Play	£135.00
13/01/26	378110899	Viking Direct	Caretaker Consumables	£71.74
13/01/26	81150386	H&W PC	Waste Disposal Jan – Dec 2025	£462.94
13/01/26	-	Ms N Webber	Argos – Purchase of storage box for Christmas decs.	£18.40

327-01/26 Finance

327-01/26.1 To approve accounts to be paid on 13th January 2026
The Chair approved and signed the invoices.
Balance on accounts:
Current: £7,872.59
Instant: £40,514.50
Payments to go out of current account: £1,693.87

327-01/26.2 To note any income received: £242.87 interest

327-01/26.3 To authorise bank reconciliations dated 13th January 2026
The Chair approved and signed the bank reconciliations for the above.

328-01/26 Personnel matters

328-01/26.1 To receive an update from Ms Webber (Clerk).
The clerk would like to send condolences on behalf of the council to the family of David McCandles of Roadwatch who recently passed away.
The precept form has been sent back (314-12/25). Councillor Saddlers details have been registered with HDC. The councillors who attended the training reported that it went well, they enjoyed it and learnt a lot. The clerk has spoken to HDC regarding paying back the CIL money and they have agreed that as we are still waiting on Highways to action the poles we can keep the money for another year. The clerk made an error in her wages in October (238-10/25) and overpaid £73.10 – this was taken on this months wages. An email about the local plan was sent to HDC (312-12/25)

The stay and play figures for December were:

Date	Adults	Children	Total
3/12/25	12	15	27
10/12/25	6	8	14
17/12/25	9	12	21
Total	27	35	62

329-01/26 Correspondence and Communications

An email has been received from CAPALC regarding a clerks drop in session on Wednesday 14th Jan 26.
An email has been received from CAPALC regarding a quote on the internal audit
An email has been received from CAPALC advertising their new website.
An email has been received from the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding a survey on police funding for 2026/27
An email has been received from the new chairman of Wyton Residents Association.

330-01/26 To receive verbal reports from Parish Councillors on matters arising.

No decisions can be made under this item.
Councillor Waclawyj mentioned that she still had sugar and sticks for the candy floss machine that was purchased a few years ago. Councillor Pammenter said she would speak to the school to see if they would like them before they go out of date. A MOP has questioned whether we have grit boxes – as a Parish Council we would be liable for these and do not have the manpower to look after them so we do not have them. The light on the bus stop on our side of the road is very dark – the clerk will contact stagecoach/highways to see if they can change this.

341-01/26 Matters for future consideration.

No decisions can be made under this item.
After the meeting with the police the chair would like to try and set up a monthly bobby and a brew meeting for all parishioners.

332-01/26 Date of next meeting: Tuesday 10th February 2026

Close of meeting 20.26