



Whiteparish Parish Council

MINUTES of the Meeting of Whiteparish Parish Council held on Tuesday 16th December 2025 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Centre, Whiteparish.

Present: Cllrs King (Chairman), Agate, Camley, Foote, Harris, Hayday and Snowdon.

In attendance: Bev Cornish (Locum Parish Clerk), Wiltshire Councillor Gregory Cooper, 5 members of the public.

Public question time

A member of the public who was representing the owner of Parkwater Farm gave a short summary and circulated slides on the proposed development ahead of the submission of a full planning application and a householder planning application.

Cllr King asked whether the applicant was aware that they had to apply for permission from the Secretary of State to provide access over common land. The applicant's representative responded by stating that they did not believe that the application reached the threshold for requiring to apply for such permission.

Cllr King thanked the representative for his briefing and said that the Council would comment on the proposals when the planning applications were received and under consultation.

Wiltshire Councillor Cooper gave a brief report advising:

- Wiltshire Council was continuing to run an overspend which was likely to be £10 million by financial year end.
- There would be a parking charges announcement in which the window for charges to be levied was to be extended to 12 hours each day.
- He was liaising with the Enforcement Officer following the recent planning application and matters raised by the Parish Council and would be requesting a meeting on site.
- An energy efficiency scam had been uncovered whereby residents had been contacted by a scammer claiming to be a Wiltshire Council officer who could conduct energy efficiencies surveys.

To receive and accept apologies for absence

267/25 Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Aldhouse, Palmer and Pavey due to personal commitments.

To receive any Declarations of Interest, and to decide upon any requests for Dispensations relating to matters on this agenda

268/25 Cllr King declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in Minute 283/25b.

Exclusion of the press and public. To agree any items to be dealt with after the public, including the press, have been excluded under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960

269/25 Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to discuss agenda item 24 - To receive an update on confidential staffing matters following the exclusion of the press and public.

To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th November 2025

270/25 Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th November 2025 and they were signed by the Chairman.

Planning and enforcement update

280/25 The Clerk had circulated the update prior to the meeting and there were no comments.

To consider and agree responses to planning applications received

281/25

- a. **PL/2025/08949 Dean Lodge, Miles Lane, Whiteparish** - Proposed Two Storey Extension to Rear of Property along with Alterations to Roof and Window over Landing:
Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to make No Comment on this application.
- b. **PL/2025/09498 Yaldons, The Street, Whiteparish** - T1 Common Hazel - Reduce back from neighbours side and repollard to old points. T2 European Lime - Remove lowest limb and reduce top leading limb by up to 3m and side limbs to suit:
Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to make No Comment on this application.

Finance update

To approve accounts for payment, to record the bank balances and to note the bank reconciliations to 30th November

282/25 Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to authorise payments totalling £2,086.88, approve the accounts and to note the bank reconciliations to 30th November.
Unity Trust Bank Current Account 09.12.25 £18,960.87
Unity Trust Bank Savings Account. 09.12.25 £80,100.37
Cambridge & Counties 2 Year Bond £21,020.00 maturity date 04.06.27
Cambridge & Counties 2 Year Bond £32,741.27 maturity date 19.06.26

Cllr King opened the meeting to enable the Treasurer for the Parochial Church Council to respond to questions on the grant applications.

The Treasurer advised that the Parish Council had been the first port of call for the Parochial Church Council regarding requests for grant funding for the repairs to the Church Wall. A brief discussion followed and suggestions were made that applications for grants should be submitted to the Whiteparish Memorial Trust and the Southern Wiltshire Area Board.

The Treasurer also advised that the grasscutting cost had been lower this year due to the exceptionally dry weather but did not anticipate that it would be as low in 2026/27. He asked the Parish Council not to consider a reduction in the budget for the coming year.

Grant applications

To consider two grant applications from the Parochial Church Council, All Saints Church, Whiteparish for:

283/25

- a. £656.75 towards the grass cutting of the churchyard:
Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the grant in full for the grasscutting of the churchyard.
- b. £12,916 towards the cost of repairing and rebuilding the Churchyard Wall.
Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the sum of £4,000 towards the repair and rebuilding of the Churchyard Wall.

Budget

To consider a recommendation from the Finance Committee to set the Budget for 2026/2027

284/25 Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to approve a Budget of £44,589.23 for the 2026/2027 financial year.

Financial Reserves Policy

To consider a recommendation from the Finance Committee to approve the revision to the Financial Reserves Policy for 2026/2027

285/25 Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the Financial Reserves with one change, that of increasing the Earmarked Reserve for Elections from £7.7k to £8k for the 2026/2027 financial year.

Precept

To consider a recommendation from the Finance Committee to set the Parish Precept for 2026/2027

286/25 Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to approve a Precept of £37,448.50 for the 2026/2027 financial year. With the Band D Tax Base being set at 723.20, the Band D rate for 2026/2027 will be £51.78, compared to £52.26 for 2025/2026. This is a small reduction of 0.92%.

Financial Regulations

To consider a recommendation from the Finance Committee to approve the Financial Regulations

287/25 Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the Financial Regulations unchanged.

Risk Assessment

To consider a recommendation from the Finance Committee to approve the Risk Assessment

288/25 Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the Risk Assessment unchanged.

Terms of Reference

To consider a recommendation from the Finance Committee to approve the Finance Committee Terms of Reference

288/25 Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the Finance Committee Terms of Reference unchanged.

Statement of Internal Control

To consider a recommendation from the Finance Committee to approve the Statement of Internal Control

288/25 Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the Statement of Internal Control unchanged.

Bank Mandate

To review and approve the Unity Trust Bank Mandate

289/25 Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the Bank Mandate unchanged with Cllrs Aldhouse, Camley, Hayday, King and Palmer remaining as signatories.

PO Box

To consider whether to continue with the Council's PO Box account.

290/25 Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the continuation of the Council's PO Box account at a cost of £445.80 per year.

CIL Monies

To consider how the CIL monies due to expire in April 2026 can be spent

291/25 Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to defer this item to the January meeting following a report from Cllr Foote that the Whiteparish Memorial Trust was awaiting a quote for the installation of new wet pour surfaces around play equipment in the recreation ground.

Minutes

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 1st

December 2025

292/25 Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st December.

Rights of Way and Common Land update

293/25 Cllr King reported that he had asked the Countryside Access Team for a meeting to discuss bridleway WHIT30 which was impassable with some of the vegetation being the responsibility of Wiltshire Council and some of the adjoining landowners. Wiltshire Councillor Cooper asked, and it was agreed, that he would attend the meeting with Cllr King.

Following a brief report from Cllr Camley expressing a willingness to conduct a review of the parish's footpaths, Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED that Cllrs Camley and Snowdon would conduct a review and provide a report on all footpaths, with issues being followed up with either landowners or the Countryside Access Team in due course. Cllr Foote said that he would be able to report any issues he found on his walks to Cllrs Camley and Snowdon.

Highway's update

294/25

- a. The Green/Green Close Area – To receive an update from the Chairman on the action promised by Inspector Tina Osborn of Wiltshire Police at the Southern Wiltshire Area Board:
The Chairman reported that Inspector Osborn advised that she would take immediate action to prevent vehicles from parking close to the junctions. Councillors reported that there were fewer cars parking close to the junctions and so some action appears to have been taken.
Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to monitor the parking and to continue to report cars which are causing a hazard when parked less than 10 metres from the junctions.
- b. LHIFIG Survey - To consider a response to a Wiltshire Council survey seeking the views of Town and Parish Councils on the effect the Local Highway and Footpath Improvement Groups have had on their community areas. The results of the survey will help guide the future direction of the Groups:
Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to delegate the response to the Locum Clerk advising that the key issue was the length of time it took to request a highway improvement and for Wiltshire Council's contact to complete its installation.
- c. Flower Tubs – To agree that quotes be obtained to replace the existing planters in the Village Triangle:
Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to purchase three new flower tubs with the limit of spend being set at £200.

It was noted that the layby near Richmond Farm had not been resurfaced as promised.

It was also noted that the large campervan was still parked across the bus stop which caused the school bus to park in the middle of the road and students having to walk in the road to disembark which was safety hazard. The Clerk agreed to notify Wiltshire Police.

295/25 Reports from representatives for information purposes only:

- **Memorial Trust** - Cllr Foote reported that the two Christmas themed events had been successful with the Winter ball raising £2k and the wreath making workshop raising £500.
- **Neighbourhood Tasking Group/Police** - Cllr Harris advised that there had not been a recent meeting with one hoping to be held in January. However, he had received a report of a car patrolling residential areas between 7 am and 11 pm with the driver and pedestrian leaving the car to survey properties and Wiltshire Police was asking councillors and residents to be alert to and report the car if it is seen.
Cllr Harris also advised that in order to have action taken on a matter it must be reported either on 101 or online. If the police do not receive any reports, they cannot act as they have no record of the issue.
- **Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group (LHFIG)** - Cllr Snowden reported that the recent meeting had been focussed on the parking restrictions request for St Thomas' Way and Pilgrims Way, Bishopdown Farm along with several street signs for parishes.
- **Southern Wiltshire Area Board** – Cllr King reported that the meeting had focussed on rights of way.

Correspondence/communications update

296/25 Councillors noted the correspondence circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting, including a prior notification application for Home Farm, Romsey Road, Whiteparish for a steel framed agricultural building for use as machinery and hay/straw store which was received after the Agenda had been published.

The next scheduled Parish Council meeting is to be held on Tuesday 21st January 2026 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Centre, Whiteparish.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.07 pm

CONFIDENTIAL

Exclusion of the press and public.

To review confidential staffing matters.

297/25 Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to note the Chairman's update regarding the Clerk's absence on extended leave. More information may be available in late January 2026.