

WOODDITTON PARISH COUNCIL - MINUTES for 19th MARCH 2026 meeting

ATTENDANCE: D White (Chair), G Jefferson, T Webb, G Taylor, M Stellmacher, J Surrage, J Edge (CCC), A Sharp (ECDC), J Lay (ECDC), S Bonnett (ECDC), L Flintham (ECDC), S Hewitt (clerk), M & M Pinder (public) **APOLOGIES:** P Rybin

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (personal or prejudicial) - None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - Agreed and signed

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) presentation - S Bonnett and L Flintham from ECDC attended the meeting to brief councillors on CIL funding. They explained how monies are raised from new development in the District, with 15% of receipts being passed on to the parish council in which the development has taken place. They explained the requirement for parish councils to report annually on CIL monies held and to account for any spending. They clarified that monies must be spent on locally important infrastructure such as play spaces and other community facilities. Councillors thanked them for attending and answering questions.

PUBLIC FORUM: FOREST CITY - Mr and Mrs Pinder raised questions regarding the Forest City development which has been publicised recently and whose promoters have held some meetings locally. Matters raised were discussed with answers and information being offered by J Edge, A Sharp, G Taylor and D White. In summary, the scheme, while promoted widely on social media at the present time, would need Govt backing and its scale would require it to be an Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). The time frame and budgets outlined by the promoters are felt to be unrealistic at best and the infrastructure required would involve many different regulatory authorities. It was suggested that Cambridge is unlikely to accept a scheme to build a city of this size so close to itself and its current and proposed further development.

ANY MATTERS ARISING (District and County)

J Edge (CCC) spoke about Highways funding and the work being undertaken on road repairs - now 30 gangs mending our roads compared to 8 in January. G Taylor challenged that repairs will continue to be short-lived unless the issue of blocked drainage ditches is resolved to prevent water lying on roads weakening the structure. JE updated the meeting on rail improvements including an additional Mon-Fri morning and evening service on the Ipswich-Cambridge line starting in May. JE updated councillors on Local Government Reorganisation. CCC has submitted Option A (which Woodditton PC had voted for last year). Talked about the importance of residents engaging and submitting views. Public meetings being held in Stetchworth, Bottisham and Burwell. Publicised on Facebook and noticeboards in Woodditton parish.

A Sharp (ECDC) confirmed ECDC 0% increase in council tax for the 13th consecutive year. Planning: battery installation near Burwell has been refused but AS shared concern that proposed planning instructions being issued will make it harder for councils to object in future. Post Office at Ellesmere Centre update: trustees are considering it running as a community Post Office - taking legal advice. Bin at 6 Ditton Green: ECDC has agreed to install a dog waste bin like that beside the bus shelter on Vicarage Lane, to be emptied with that one. Councillors unanimously accepted.

J Lay (ECDC) said Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) in Newmarket experienced at 42% increase in clients in the first 11 months of 2025-26. 86 clients from Woodditton ward (not Woodditton parish).

PLAY AREA MATTERS - closure sign to be fixed to the small gate at Saxon Street playground. Mowing has started on playing fields. Inspection at Kings Drive playground raised some minor issues: D White to discuss with S Burley as part of his schedule for 2026-27. Peterhouse playing field: D White and A Sharp to investigate a longer lease from ECDC to make it feasible for WPC to invest CIL monies in an adult trim trail there.

HIGHWAYS ISSUES - D White and S Hewitt had met developers of new houses on Stetchworth Road and discussed drainage issues connected with ditch along site, also with lack of pavement on opposite side of road despite ECDC having done the groundwork and put in kerbstones. Clerk to pass contact details for developer to J Edge.

FOOTPATHS - no issues reported

QUOTATIONS FOR APPROVAL - CAPALC course £35; CAPALC affiliation £635.44; Fenland Leisure Products Ltd (Kings Drive safety inspection) £108; J Mills (noticeboard repairs) £465.

PLANNING MATTERS - no comments or objections to cases raised

EMAIL/DOMAIN - Clerk to request [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) domain and email at no charge through Parish Online following advice from clerks meeting to have a compliant email address as gmail is unacceptable.

PAYMENTS - ACRE membership £74.50; S Hewitt (clerk fee) £300; H Crozier £60; Arien Signs £136.80; CAPALC course £35; CAPALC affiliation £635.44; Fenland Leisure Products Ltd (Kings Drive safety inspection) £108; J Mills £60 (noticeboard repairs in Crockfords).

LATEST CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLICATIONS - none

ANY OTHER BUSINESS - WI Waste Management Meeting has been publicised on noticeboards for WI meeting - open to all parishioners.

NEXT MEETING - Thursday 16 April 2026.

Items for discussion to be with the Clerk 10 days prior to the meeting.