

**MINUTES OF LOLWORTH PARISH MEETING  
held in Robinson Hall**

**on Thursday 30 April 2026, at 8.00 pm.**

Chair: J. R. Short items 1 -3 only

Chair: A. Bavalia items 4- 17

Clerk: M. J. Duesbury

Also present: Revd. Geoff Dodgson, District Councillor Sue Ellington, plus 16 residents.

**1. Apologies:-** Ross Bowie, Janet Carter, Veronica and Alex Sutherland, Helen Daniel, Tanya Traves, Gill Coe, Will Jordan and County Councillor Edna Murphy.

**2. Welcome to Newcomers** - Roy Sourabh

**3. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair, Clerk and Internal Auditor**

Ash Bavalia, Stephanie Chamberlain, Margaret Duesbury and Michael Fisher were elected or re-elected respectively.

Proposed by John Short, seconded by Greg Veit and carried unanimously.

[At this point John Short stepped down and Ash Bavalia took the chair of the meeting]

**4. Proposed amendment to the minutes of 8 January 2026 Meeting –**

The chair read Greg Veit's proposal that the minutes of 8 January 2026 be amended:

From:- "Greg Veit stated that he would make an individual objection to the Tritax development as the proposed site affected a charity property (Sheddit). The Tritax development would back onto the charity's current workshop.

To:- "Greg Veit stated that whilst he personally would vote against the proposed Tritax development, the charity (Sheddit) of which he was a trustee supported the development as it may affect grants for which they would be eligible."

John Houlton suggested two further revisions to the 8 January Minutes: Firstly, the removal of an extra word -"plus" at the top of the minutes; Secondly the addition of two appendices to point 3 of these minutes. These appendices contain previously circulated documents regarding the A14 Logistic sites.

**5. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 11 December 2025 and the minutes of the Meeting held on 8 January 2026 subject to the above amendment.**

Adoption of both sets of minutes and the amendment was proposed by John Short, seconded by Peter Veit and agreed unanimously.

## **6. Matters arising.**

- a) Church Lane gatepost – this has now been replaced and the gate rehung.

## **7. Correspondence**

### **a) Robins Lane**

1 ] The cyclical gully cleansing programme was due to be carried out on 27th March - it was not.

The Clerk had emailed Nigel Smith and Neal Stevens asking for an explanation; no reply had been received until yesterday, when an email from the County Council arrived, from which it appears they have lost previously sent information including gully locations. The clerk will respond to this email.

2] Tarmac on the corner of the Green has been restored, and a couple of pot-holes repaired. Several have not been repaired and several are reforming.

It is probable that the County Council may never fix the blocked drains on Robins Lane, so we are likely to have a long term pot-hole problem as a result.

- b) **Childerley bridleway** - this now appeared to be clear.

### **c) A14 Logistics: Tritax meeting.**

This was held on 27-04-26 between the outgoing chair, the incoming chair and the clerk in the village hall.

Tritax indicated that they will lodging a planning application for the first phase of their proposed development which will occupy the Noon Folly Farm site only. The site will house five units with a total footprint of 85,000 sq. m. Their first occupier will be DPD. If permission is granted the first phase will take around 1-3 years to complete. The first phase will have minimal visual impact on Lolworth due to the position of the site around the A1307 and B1050 junction. A Public Exhibition will be held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 3.00pm – 7.30pm, The Unity Centre, Pathfinder Way, Northstowe, CB24 1FD.

The chair added that the village will be updated with more details of that meeting in the near future. He also added that the Boxworth A14 Logistics forum will continue to be the central point of representation for all four potential development sites.

## **8. Tree Officer's report [from Ross Bowie]**

“One of the trees on the village green died. It has been removed and a new cherry tree has been planted. The two other young cherry trees on the village green both survived the winter and look healthy. I'll keep an eye on all three of them during dry spells, but if anyone else notices they look thirsty please feel free to water them!”

The clerk previously reported that South Cambridgeshire District Council had offered a free blossom tree and plaque as part of a “Covid Day of Reflection”. The new cherry tree mentioned in Ross's report is this tree. It came with a plaque which Ross has not put up yet. Ross asks the meeting: “Would people be happy for me to put it up next to the tree, or would the village prefer just the tree alone, as some people may find reminders of Covid to be upsetting if they lost someone. “

A vote to put up the plaque was proposed by John Short and seconded by Peter Veit: votes for the plaque 12, votes against 2, abstentions 2.

## 9. **Planning Applications** - 26/00944/HFUL for Clare College Farmhouse

Demolition and re-construction of the Southern gable end of the main dwelling house and the construction of the replacement chimney to match the existing. Construction of a south facing first floor balcony on the new gable end. Erection of a single-storey ground floor extension.

Application Permitted.

## 10. **Town Acre Charity**

Will Jordan wrote a report:-

“The Charity is managed by three trustees Frances Downing, Will Jordan and Greg Veit. Currently there are 15 allotments rented to parishioners. The land used for recreational facilities and fruit trees is available for the use of all residents of Lolworth courtesy of the Parish Meeting. As we are coming into some nice weather then it would be lovely for the table tennis table to see some attention/cleaning so that it can be used once more. The communal fruit trees are pruned by volunteers, if anyone would like to help with this then please do get in touch.

## 11. **Financial Report**

The Financial Report (see 11.2 below) was presented by the Chair.

Lolworth Parish Meeting Financial Report 2025/26

Thanks as always to Michael Fisher for carrying out the audit without charge.

Apart from approving my report on the accounts for 2025/26 we also must approve the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements for 2025/26. In addition, the Meeting has to resolve to be an exempt authority for the purposes of what is called “the limited assurance review”. In other words, we will not need to incur the costs of having our accounts reviewed by outside accountants. We are exempt as long as neither our total income nor our total expenditure for the year exceeds £25,000 which clearly it does not.

### **Points of Note:**

#### **Income**

- Precept was as budgeted.
- The South Cambs grant of £401.28 to replace the basketball post was slightly higher than its cost of £393.88 as certain minor extra charges which had been budgeted for were not incurred.

#### **Expenditure**

- The grass cutting costs were in line with the forecast - 11 cuts at £162 per cut significantly below the budget of 16 cuts.
- Once again, the village incurred no charge for hedge trimming thanks to the generosity of Christian Pearson who cut the hedges without charge.
- The electricity for street lighting was in line with the forecast.
- The play bark charge was a little below the forecast as the Parish Meeting did not have to pay a delivery charge.
- The payment of £255 for the replacement of the Church Lane gate post was not in the budget but it was agreed at the previous Parish Meeting although the cost was a little higher than originally understood.

The result is that we have a surplus of income over expenditure of over £1,100 which has enabled us to reduce the Parish precept for 2026/27 to £4,000.

The Chair asked if there were any questions about this report.

Stephanie Chamberlain asked if the precept would go up if Michael Fisher did not audit the accounts free of charge in future. John Short then stated that Mr. Fisher had said he would continue to do the accounts free of charge as long as his health allowed. John Short also stated there is a contingency of £500 in the budget to cover this kind of eventuality. There were also several qualified accountants in the village and the hope was that one of them would volunteer.

Greg Veit asked if the size of the contingency should be increased, due to inflation, and the Chair replied that the amount would be reviewed and will be increased if necessary in the next budget.

The following documents were presented to the Meeting for approval:

- 11.1 The accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026 previously circulated (also see **Appendix 1**)
- 11.2 The Financial Report (points of note above)
- 11.3 The Certificate of Exemption from a limited assurance review for 2025/2026
- 11.4 The Annual Governance Statement for 2025/2026
- 11.5 The Accounting Statement for 2025/2026 in statutory form

11.1,11.2,11.3,11.4 and 11.5 were proposed by John Houlton, seconded by Stephanie Chamberlain and carried unanimously.

- 12.** The Chair asked residents to consider any proposals for expenditure to benefit the village which, if approved, could be included in the budget for 2027/28.

Similarly, he invited residents to consider anything that might benefit the village from grants or the Community Infrastructure Levy in connection with upcoming projects e.g. water pipeline and logistics parks.

Some discussion ensued with some ideas/examples mentioned:-

Swing seat for younger children in the village green play area; Solar panels for Robinson Hall; Tap for the allotments or rainwater storage facilities.

John Houlton asked if £250 could be added to the precept in November as a contribution to cutting the churchyard grass, which he had carried out voluntarily for many years. The legal position needed clarifying as it was not clear if the Parish Meeting can spend money on this. Geoff Dodgson was researching the point. Geoff Dodgson said £250 would be insufficient to fund this grass cutting at commercial rates.

A vote was taken as to whether the precept should support the cutting of the churchyard grass: result - 15 in favour, 1 abstention.

Ideas for expenditure were asked to be sent to the Clerk; the Clerk stated that while she was happy to apply for grants, the research on exact models/equipment to be bought should please be carried out by those making the suggestion.

### **13. All Saints Church**

The Revd. Geoff Dodgson reported that the Garden of Remembrance was now open and receiving new "residents" and looking lovely at present. He noted, that as stated on an April 22<sup>nd</sup> WhatsApp

message, that the Church needs more volunteers to help with a variety of tasks and roles. If interested, please contact Sue Houlton or Geoff himself.

May 17<sup>th</sup> will be the Rogation Ramble, which involves blessing the crops, walking from Lolworth to Bar Hill while looking at various gardens and orchards, departing at 3pm from Lolworth.

Geoff stated that the church was a cool environment in warm weather, and please use it!

#### **14. District Councillor's report -Appendix 2**

District Cllr. Sue Ellington's report had been pre-circulated.

Councillor Ellington spoke at the meeting remarking on the 4 day week, for 5 days' pay, which has been made permanent.

New building plans proposed an enormous building programme, but with possible lack of sufficient associated infrastructure.

Elections are coming up on 7 May the results of which will apply for only for 2 years because of the change to a Unitary Authority. The areas of the new authorities have not been decided; to be confirmed in July. Small villages will probably need supporting in future. The Government has proposed that a corporate development company will determine all major infrastructure projects in the region including large scale house building programmes which will be centrally managed. Planning of larger developments will not be decided locally.

Councillor Ellington stated she would not stand for election to the new Unitary Authority.

John Short said that Councillor Ellington had made a great contribution to the Lolworth community and asked that this be minuted. John and Sue Houlton associated themselves with this comment.

#### **15. County Councillor's report -Appendix 3**

County Cllr. Edna Murphy's report had been pre-circulated.

#### **16. Any other Business**

Peter Veit mentioned the poor state of the footpath to Bar Hill, and the dangerous nature of the Lolworth junction with the A1307. It was stated that although some improvement had been carried out on the Bar Hill footpath these improvements were not to the level the residents would like. Further improvements would be unlikely because the landowner would not allow a hard surface or drainage to be installed on his land. However, he had no objection to the County Council resurfacing the path with new planings at the Council's cost.

John Short stated that the A1307 junction was safe enough as long as drivers were sensible.

It was repeated that the village has no interest in a 20mph speed limit, (nor speed-bumps

Julian Turner, supported by John Short, stated that the village should keep up the pressure to improve the Robins Lane drains.

It was stated that further action will be implemented in the near future.

Stephanie Chamberlain asked if the dog-bin by the stables should be moved as it was not very visible and she suggested it be moved nearer to a nearby manhole cover.

Julian Turner stated that the presence of the two extra dog bins has made a big difference.

John Short suggested that perhaps removing the surrounding vegetation by the dog-bin would improve visibility.

The Chair gave a brief speech thanking John Short for his two terms as Chairman. To applause, John was presented with a pot of plants with a restaurant voucher enclosed within.

John Short thanked everyone for the gifts and said it had been an honour to serve the community and he was sure that Ash Bavalia would be an able successor.

**17. Date of the next meeting**

Thursday 26 November 2026 at 8.00pm.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.23 p.m.

Signed

Date

2026