

OLD WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Mr D Costura

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OLD WESTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON Tuesday 9th September 2025

Present Councillors: Mr D Costura (Chairman), Ms E McKenzie, Mr P Patrick
Ms E Penniall and Mr A Harding.
Clerk: Mrs S Fussell (Temporary clerk)
County/Disc: Cllr Ian Gardener.
Public: 1 member of the public was in attendance.

458 Chairman's welcome

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

459 To receive apologies and reasons for absence

- **Note resignation of the Clerk Lisa Hazel** – Noted.
Apologies were noted and approved from Mr T Fussell.

460 Councillors Declaration of interests in any item on the agenda.

Ms E McKenzie re the Christmas Tree

461 Public and press participation session with respect to items on the agenda

Fred Wing gave an update on recent successful events and thanked the council for their donation of £1,300 towards repairs. The roof has been repaired. New income streams are being implemented, including the pizza van on Thursday evenings, and an INPOST box for the village and local communities to be in place by October. The Village Hall committee is actively looking for more income streams and have improved the website to make booking and looking for information easier. Cllr Ian Gardener suggested that the Community Chest Fund could be approached for projects in the hall going forward. The Parish Council will also discuss engaging with the Village Hall Committee.

462 Communication from District and County Councillors

Welcome to Cllr Ian Gardener

Local Government Reorganisation

The County Council has launched an engagement survey open to residents, businesses, town and parish councils, other public sector bodies and the community and voluntary sector across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This builds upon an initial, shared engagement survey undertaken with the other 6 councils, the results of which will be shared later this week.

The purpose of this second phase engagement survey is to better inform the public and stakeholders and to help raise greater understanding about what Local Government Reorganisation means. This will also seek specific feedback

on 1 of the 3 currently preferred options being developed by councils, known as Option A.

Option A is currently the preferred Option of the County Council's Lib Dem Administration and the development of this is being led by this authority. The survey that will be launched also recognises that there are two other Options being developed, but specific views on these proposals are not being invited. Importantly, all three options being developed propose the replacement of the seven current councils with two new unitary councils covering the whole of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between them.

Option A specifically proposes creating two new unitaries, one geographically covering the North (built around the footprints of Huntingdonshire, Fenland and Peterborough City) and one covering the South (built around the footprints of East and South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City). In all three options being developed, the County Council would cease, and its functions and services would be disaggregated into the two new Councils.

It has been revealed that the Labour Government's Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government failed to undertake its own analysis of the financial implications of the ongoing local government reorganisation, relying instead on analysis by consultants PwC.

Fresh analysis of those figures shows that replacing the two-tier system with 58 new unitary councils with populations as low as 300,000 could end up costing 850 million over 5 years and deliver no long-term savings.

Highways

A New Highways reporting system to go live on 22nd September

The County Council will be transitioning from Insight to Aurora between Thursday 18 and Monday 22 September. To complete essential data migration activities, Insight, our current system, will be taken offline on Thursday 18 September. As a result, Report It will also be unavailable from this date, meaning customers will not be able to log issues or defects online during this period. We will be updating our website and sending out separate communications regarding this nearer the time.

Report It will be back online from Monday 22 September. The new system known as Aurora introduces several improvements that will enhance the customer experience

- Customer reports are automatically directed to the correct Officer or Team based on geospatial areas and case types, ensuring they are handled by the right person first time.

- All Highways Maintenance Officers are now equipped with tablets, allowing them to inspect defects, raise work orders, and update customers directly while on-site.

- New workflows automatically escalate reports that are not progressed within agreed service level timescales, helping to prevent delays and improve response times.
- Performance dashboards provide Officers and Managers with visibility of all reports in their area, along with upcoming tasks (e.g., scheduled inspections), ensuring no cases are overlooked.
- Officers can send updates directly from the system, meaning customers receive regular progress updates on their reports.
- Reports can be managed dynamically by officers whilst in the field, and customer reports can be loaded into inspection routes so they can be reviewed at the same time.

- The system will task officers with inspecting completed work and identifying any defects. If defects are identified these will be flagged to our contractor and corrected.

From the 1st September the Highways Maintenance Teams are being reorganised across Cambridgeshire. The new head of Highway Maintenance and Management will be Andrew Tatt, reporting to him will be an Area Manager North who will cover Hunts and Fenland. In Hunts there will be a Senior Highways Maintenance Officer, Richard Kingston, who will be Parishes first port of call for Highways issues. He will be assisted by 6 Highways Maintenance Officers who will cover Huntingdonshire.

There will also be a Structures Manager covering bridges etc and a Cyclical Maintenance Manager, who will oversee the Tree Officer, Drainage & Winter Maintenance Officer, Surfacing and pavements Officer and Green Infrastructure Manager, under whom will be the Rights of Way Officer.

Public Health

Free NHS health checks from Healthy You

Residents aged 40 to 74 in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough may be eligible for a free health **check**.

An NHS health check is a free check-up delivered by health professionals to help lower the risk of developing serious health conditions. They are designed to spot early signs of stroke, kidney disease, heart disease, type 2 diabetes and dementia. The health check takes around 20 to 30 minutes to complete.

You can get a health check at several different locations across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough this September and October - see the full list of locations on the Healthy You website. To book, call 0333 005 0093, text 'healthyu' to 60777, or complete the online form.

Foster Carers in Cambridgeshire

Thinking about fostering? Cambridgeshire is currently seeing a shortage of foster carers, and Cambridgeshire County Council is appealing for residents to come forward to help reduce the numbers of children waiting from homes.

Get in touch to find out more about becoming a foster carer - call 0800 052 0078 or visit the CCC website, Fostering and Adoption page. You can keep up to date with news and events on our Facebook and Instagram channels.

If you have any questions, please contact me via email :

ian.gardener@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

463 To approve the minutes of the Annual meeting held on 8th July 2025

Minutes were approved and signed.

464 To consider matters arising from the previous minutes

- LHI, (Local Highway's Initiative) A new bid date has been published for December. The Council agreed to leave this in place as the contract for the speed signs will need renewing and to consider an option for 20mph signs to be put up in the village.
- Policies: these are all available on the website.
- Xmas Tree: The budget is £350.00 and Ms McKenzie reported that she is waiting for a price which will also include the fee for installing the tree.
- Litter Pick: this will be on Sunday 5th October. Mr P Patrick will advertise the event and liaise with the Swan Pub.
- Remembrance Day Wreath: Mr T Fussell will order the wreath and will approached Mr L Roberts to be involved on the day.

465 Old Weston Village Hall

Please see updated information in section 461

466 Planning

The council agreed to rotate members to participate in the Brampton Cross working group.

The vegetation problems brought to the council by Ms McKenzie will need to be resubmitted as nothing has been done yet.

The road closure signs at the T junction of Catworth and Molesworth Roads are badly situated and need to be re sited for safer visibility.

Ms E McKenzie informed the council that some ponds are being dug to capture water so that Alconbury Brook won't flood.

467 Finance and Administration

- a. Paperwork handed to the Chair and the Current Account balance is £33,837.33
- b. None made
- c. Cancelled
- d. Paid
- e. Exempt certificate from PKF
- f. To action the removal of the Clerk as a Signatory by Ms E McKenzie, Mr T Fussell and Mr P Patrick.

- g. The council agreed to advertise for a new clerk and to contact Bythorn PC who are looking for one too.

468 Any other business for information only.

Please let the Chair know if any of the council wish to attend the Annual Civic Leaders Day on October 29th 2025.

469 Date of next meeting 2025 11th November.

2026 meetings: 13th January, 10th March, 12th May, 14th July, 15th September and 10th November.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm.