

**DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 7 January 2026 at St. Peter's Church, Louth Road, South Somercotes**

**Present:**

<b>Chair</b>	Cllr Paul Rickett (appointed)
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	Cllr Edward Mossop (appointed) Cllr Stephen McMillan (appointed)

**Also Present:**

<b>Clerk</b>	Ms Binal Sawjani
<b>Members of Public</b>	11 members of the Public
<b>District/County</b>	Cllr Bayleigh Robinson
<b>Apologies</b>	Cllr Daniel McNally - accepted

**Item 0525/37 Welcome to the meeting:** Chair opened meeting at 19.01 and welcomed the public.

- Parishioner informed council about Billingsgate and we explained that <https://www.fixmystreet.com> is the best place to report
- Another parishioner explained about Saddleback Road as well as Ings Lane As the district councillor was present there was a discussion about the roads in the area
- Parishioner asked at all the signs that have been taken off the noticeboard be replaced
- The villagers organised a Christmas event which went very well and the parishioner wanted to thank the people involved.

Chair invited Cllr Robinson to speak:

- Reported on lanes and roads around the area and the public started to have an exchange with Cllr on state of roads he explained that there was a plan for various works and if you need to report <https://www.fixmystreet.com> is the best place to do this as it recorded and added to work schedule in 2026
- Cloddygate is closed and the signs have been taken away which has been reported to Highways. There was a discussion about the state of the road as it is collapsed with on both sides of the road.

Meeting started 19.20

**Item 0525/38 Apologies for absence:** Cllr McNally - accepted

Chair explained that Cllr Stephen McMillan has been appointed to the council as with Cllr McNally absence we would have been inquorate. Clerk confirmed the notice

**Item 0525/39 Co-option of new councillors** Cllr Densie Day, Cllr Susan Colebrook, Cllr Sarah Stepney and Cllr Anthony Baker have been coopted onto the council. All applications and paperwork has been received. Clerk will register with East Lindsey Council. New councillors joined the rest of the council.

**Item 0525/40 To receive declarations of interest in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and to consider any requests for dispensations:** None

**Item 0525/41 To approve the draft notes as minutes of the last meeting held on the 2 September 2025:** RESOLVED to adopt and sign the notes as accurate minutes, and they were dated and signed by the Chair.

**Item 0525/43 Training:** Training available to all Staff and elected Members and clerk recommends councillors to view training schedule. Training for council for the forthcoming year will be £144 which would be beneficial as we have a new complement of councillors. Proposed, seconded and RESOLVED. Clerk to arrange training for the new councillors as soon as possible. Two of the new councillors explained that they have no access to computer, tablet or laptop. Clerk explained that the training can be taken on a phone. However Cllr Baker was happy for the training to be taken at his home. Council thanks Cllr Baker.

**Item 0525/44 Parish Matters:**

- a) Insurance renewal – Renewal for 1 February at £277.00. This was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED. Clerk explained that this figure would alter once we agreed our precept.
- b) Precept Budget – much discussion around this. Clerk has produced the budget from the costs of the parish from the previous year which amounts to £ 8,925.34 Clerk recommends 5% increase as costs have increased across the board. Proposed £7,000 with no increase seconded and RESOLVED which means that for a band D home cost to the parishioner is £7.68 which equates to £1.92 per week.
- c) Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) – Clerk will start the audit process before the next meeting and will appoint an internal auditor. Proposed, seconded and RESOLVED
- d) LALC – Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils renewal – the renewal for membership of LALC is £101.82. Clerk recommendation is that we remain members and buy into the training scheme which has been covered in training point. Proposed, seconded and RESOLVED.
- e) Grass cutting Jubilee Field and graveyard new plan – Graveyard plan attached. Lengthy debate about the graveyard. Ask the contractor to take away the cut grass as some areas is on consecrated graves. Proposal is that we have areas that are left unmowed, provide the contractor with a list of instructions and propose a meeting for villagers to discuss all views. Meeting to be organised in March. New suppliers to be considered for next term 2026/27. Tenders need to be submitted for April meeting.
- f) Bank account authorisation – still outstanding defer to next meeting as we have new councillors – Cllr Baker remain as signatory and proposed that Cllr Colebrook would be our second signatory and take of the older councillors with the clerk with viewing access only. Seconded and RESOLVED
- g) Container in church – access has been given, nothing further to report.

**Item 0525/45 Correspondence:** To receive and dispose of correspondence received since the last meeting.

- Update from LALC webmaster council has 3 hours and 49 minutes remaining as website support. Clerk has taken over this work and does not envisage any expenditure in this area.
- Insurance renewal as discussed in parish matters a
- Correspondence regarding precept as discussed in parish matters b
- Microsoft office and cloud storage needs renewing on 19 January 2026. It has increased to £84.99. Clerk recommendation is to renew and share with sister council. Proposed, seconded and RESOLVED. Clerk to advise at the next meeting

**Item 0525/46 Date of next meeting:** 8 April 2026 at 7pm. Agreed future meeting dates Annual Parish Meeting 26 May and 7 October 2026

**Item 0525/47 Financial matters:**

- a. To note bank balances on bank statements as of January 2026 £8,529.89

20.16 Cllr Stepney left the meeting with no explanation.

- b. To note income: None
- c. To authorise the signing of orders for payment for previous months

Date	Payment To	Expenditure Details	Amount
Nov - Dec	Binal Sawjani	Salary to the PC	£ 528.00
01/12/2025	D. Hobson	Grass Cutting	£ 300.67

Meeting ended 20.22