

Fishtoft Parish Council

Minutes of Fishtoft Parish Council meeting held Monday 9th March 2026 at The Pavilion, Fishtoft Playing Fields, Fishtoft commencing at 7pm

PRESENT: Councillor Helen Crawford presiding as Chairperson
Councillors Geoff Day, Elizabeth Armstrong, Richard Lenton and Lucy Webb
Councillor Steve Appleyard (arrived 7.25pm)

LCC Cllr Alistair Arundell
BBC Cllrs David Scoot, Sarah Sharpe and Helen Staples
Fishtoft Parish Council Clerk – Sarah Knowles

PUBLIC FORUM

There were four members of the public in attendance of which the following questions/made short statements to the Parish Council:

- Statements and comments were made by both the applicant and a neighbour associated to planning application B/26/0102

LCC Cllr Arundell gave his report (**See Appendix C**).

BBC Cllrs Scoot and Staples gave their reports (**See Appendix D**).

BBC Cllr Sharpe had previously circulated her report (**See Appendix D**).

Apologies were received from Lincolnshire County Councillors French via Cllr Arundell but no report had been received to be relayed at the meeting.

The meeting opened at 7.19pm

1. Chairman's remarks

Cllr Crawford welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Cllr Day for chairing the previous meetings whilst she was away

2. Apologies for absence - *To receive and accept apologies where valid reasons for absence have been given to the Clerk prior to the meeting*

Prior to the start of the meeting no apologies had been received by the clerk.

3. Declarations of interest – *(if any) To receive declarations of interest under the Localism Act 2011 – being any pecuniary interest in agenda items not previously recorded on Members' Register of Interests*

Cllrs Armstrong and Lenton declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda Item 6f due to being neighbours of the applicant.

4. Notes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th January 2026 - *To resolve as a correct record and to authorise the Chairman to sign the official minutes*

It was proposed by Cllr Armstrong, seconded by Cllr Lenton and with no objections it was resolved to accept these notes as a true and accurate record.

Signed _____

Date _____

5. Finance

a) Payment of accounts to be approved

Payee	Reason for Payment	Amount	Payment method
Guardian Storage Ltd	PC Document Storage (Feb 2026)	£60.00	Online payment
Guardian Storage Ltd	PC Document Storage (Mar 2026)	£60.00	Online payment
TA Blackamore Ltd	Ground Maintenance (Jan 2026)	£1371.47	Online payment
TA Blackamore Ltd	Ground Maintenance (Feb 2026)	£1371.47	Online payment
Sibsey Parish Council	Reimbursement of Printer Ink	£49.31	Online payment
Fishtoft Playing Field and Pavillion Trust	Room Hire – January 2026	£40.00	Online payment
Elan City Ltd	Speed Indicator Signs	£7513.15	Online payment
S Knowles	Staff Costs	£481.29	Online payment

Following proposal by Cllr Armstong, seconded by Cllr Webb and with no objections it was resolved that these payments should be made.

b) Additional payments to be approved after setting of the agenda

Prior to the meeting no other payments had been received for approval.

c) Payments & receipts: since 12th January 2026: Appendix A

Since the 12th January 2026 two payments had been made relating to Bank charges and one payment relating to the Staff Costs. Two receipts of payments were received relating to Wayleave and Allotment fees.

d) Balance of Community Account as of 31st January 2026

All members had received a copy of the bank statement via email prior to the meeting of which showed that balance of the bank account as of 31st January 2026 was £17,172.67.

e) Balance of Community Account as of 28th February 2026

All members had received a copy of the bank statement via email prior to the meeting of which showed that balance of the bank account as of 28th February 2026 was £17,698.66.

f) Balance of Savings Account as of 31st January 2026

All members had received a copy of the bank statement via email prior to the meeting of which showed that balance of the bank account as of 31st January 2026 was £35,761.49.

g) Balance of Savings Account as of 28th February 2026

All members had received a copy of the bank statement via email prior to the meeting of which showed that balance of the bank account as of 28th February 2026 was £35,777.66.

h) Balance of 32-Day Notice Savings Account as at 31st January 2026

All members had received a copy of the bank statement via email prior to the meeting of which showed that balance of the bank account as of 31st January 2026 was £35,857.25.

Signed _____

Date _____

i) **Balance of 32-Day Notice Savings Account as at 28th February 2026**

All members had received a copy of the bank statement via email prior to the meeting of which showed that balance of the bank account as of 28th February 2026 was £35,908.19.

At 7.23pm it was resolved to bring forward Agenda Item 6f

6. **Planning matters**

f) **B/26/0102 - Proposed first floor extension and conversion of garage to form annexe at 14, Saxon Gardens, Fishtoft, Boston, PE21 0RS**

It was noted that one concern had been submitted to Boston Borough Council which proposed that the applicant may wish to revise the proposal.

Cllr Crawford asked the Parish Councillors if they had any questions to ask both the applicant and the objecting neighbours of which Cllr Day asked if they could outline the proposal and the objections associated with this planning application:

The applicant relayed synthetically to the environment to the existing property and the dwelling behind and to the side, planning submission via the architect. The reason for the application is in regards to the in-laws because of the agility and getting around their own house is becoming a bit of a challenge therefore the ground floor is proposed to be downstairs bedroom, hallway and bathroom with a kitchen upstairs. It has been designed with no windows overlooking the property of which their direct neighbours have no resistance to this application.

The resident who had objected to the planning application relayed that the scale and the footprint amounts to overdevelopment and out of keeping with the areas established character. In addition, the design does not integrate with the street scene and key environmental drainage information is missing. For these reasons I respectfully ask that the application be refused until these issues are properly addressed.

Cllr Crawford conveyed that when the Parish Council review planning applications it is their perspective that bungalows are not overlooked by larger houses of which there has to be a decent area between the two properties.

Concerned raised by the Parish Council was associated with loss of privacy. LCC Cllr Arundell explained that this would not be a consideration viewed by Planning however, overlooking or impact on residential amenity would.

Cllr Crawford asked for the Parish Councillors views on this application. It was therefore addressed to relay back that the Parish Council are aware of the immediate neighbours at no 8 are concerned about the impact that this building will have on them and would wish that this would be taken into consideration.

At 7.37pm it was resolved to bring forward Agenda Item 9e

Signed _____

Date _____

9. **Members reports and business**

e) **Rochford Tower Hall**

Rochford Tower Hall had to temporarily close due to structural concerns and because of ill health of the two committee members there is a predicament as unfortunately there is no access to the paperwork and financial records and in order to move forward there no-one to authorise any payments as the main factor is a structural engineer is required, but until what funds are known nothing can be officially arranged to ensure payment can be made.

Whilst the site is unused there are concerns the building is deteriorating and with no security system the premises have already been broken into as well as unauthorised people living there. In addition, the Tennis Courts are not fit to be used and as stipulated in the deeds so that the building can remain the courts cannot be removed from site.

There were discussions between members of the Parish Council, BBC Cllr Staples and trustee Paul Daubney on what was required in starting to rectify matters associated with the hall. It was considered that having a structural survey was the best first step so that as much information could be known on what would be required to get the building safe and secure but without the knowledge of finances and means of any fees being paid this may have to be underwriting of the Parish Council.

Cllr Crawford suggested to have a meeting with Rochford Tower Hall secretary Janice Vickers and any committee members to discuss the steps, find out what the financial circumstances are and how to obtain the money for any payments to be made. Cllr Lenton was asked to contact a structural engineer and find out when they would be available to assess the property and any costings involved.

At 7.58pm it was resolved to return to agenda order

6. **Planning matters** - Town and Country Planning Act 1990: *To consider and make observations on all planning applications received and to note planning approvals, refusals, enforcement complaints and appeal decisions advised by the Borough Council. To include applications received after this agenda has been posted and the day of the meeting*

a) **B/25/0322 - Construction of a composite wood effect garden room for Therapy Service use; counselling, support groups and counsellor CPD training, as well as Hospice staff training and team meetings. Use by 3rd party agencies will be by arrangement only at Butterfly Hospice, Rowan Way, Boston PE21 9DH**

There were no objections to this planning application.

b) **B/26/0070 - Proposed single storey rear extension, two storey rear extension, extension above existing garage and proposed front porch including alterations and change of external materials at 107, Pilleys Lane, Boston, PE21 9RA**

There were no objections to this planning application.

c) **B/26/0067 - Proposed extensions & alterations to form annexe and garaging at Pear Tree House, 163 Church Green Road, Fishtoft, Boston PE21 0RN**

There were no objections to this planning application.

Signed _____

Date _____

- d) **B/26/0085 - Erection of attached double garage at Marsh Farm Bungalow, Wythes Lane, Fishtoft, Boston PE21 0RG**
There were no objections to this planning application.
- e) **B/26/0072 - Proposed change of use from part existing dwelling from bed and breakfast to form single dwelling, studio and annexe at The Limes, Horncastle Road, Cowbridge, Boston PE22 7AY**
There were no objections to this planning application.
- f) **B/26/0102 - Proposed first floor extension and conversion of garage to form annexe at 14, Saxon Gardens, Fishtoft, Boston, PE21 0RS**
This agenda item was discussed earlier in the meeting.
- g) **Planning Reports and Information received including Planning Application decisions**
Full Planning Permission has been granted to the following:
- B/25/0462 – Application for the approval of Reserved Matters (Access, Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale) Following Outline Approval B/24/0509 (Outline planning permission for the construction of a 1 no. detached dwelling) at 49, Sibsey Road, Boston, PE21 9QY
 - B/25/0502 – Proposed extension to staff car park and associated extension works at Pilgrim Hospital, Sibsey Road, Boston, PE21 9QS

7. Highway - To consider and make observations associated with Highways matters that are not associated with Appendix B

- a) **A16 to Sibsey**
LCC Cllr Arundell relayed that Highways were waiting to review information as the FOI data that the Parish Council had received from the Police relating to incidents in the area contradicted LCC figures.
- b) **A52 Road Crossing**
LCC Cllr Arundell conveyed that this something at the present moment that LCC Highways are considering.
- c) **Scalp Road**
Freiston Parish Council had contacted the clerk in relation to their concerns regarding this agenda item. The clerk had replied to them informing them of the information that was known by Fishtoft Parish Council and their concerns. However, LCC Cllr Arundell informed that LCC Highways are not going to do anything associated with this area.
- d) **Church Green Road – Footpath required**
Cllr Arundell informed that new footpaths are not scheduled in the next financial year, however, if information could be sent to him in relation to where it is recommended to start and end, the application process could possibly be started so that this can then be reviewed in the future.

Signed _____

Date _____

e) **Heavy Traffic through the Village of Fishtoft**
Cllr Armstrong relayed that there are concerns relating to the amount of heavy traffic through the parish especially associated with HGVs who seem to use Fishtoft as a cut through to avoid using A52. The clerk was instructed to write to Metsa and George H Kime & Co and ask them to inform their drivers to refrain from using the centre of the village of Fishtoft.

f) **Interactive Speed Signs**
The signs have been delivered and following discussion the first sites were resolved on where to put them. These being Eastwood Road and Clampgate Road.

8. Members reports and business

a) **Fishtoft 400 Community Group- Any updates**

Cllr Armstrong relayed the following information:

- A grant has been submitted to aid with the costs of running the group
- Looking at submitting a grant to Fishtoft Eleemosynary for costs towards a day out for the group.
- They are struggling to hold the group at Fishtoft Playing Field & Pavilion, though their committee have offered to hold an extra morning session for free.

b) **Parish Council Website**
It was deemed the website was ok.

c) **Fishtoft Playing Field & Pavilion – Report from Cllr Lenton**
Cllr Lenton had previously circulated a report and additionally relayed that a proposal had been made to extend the Pavilion but the committee are not currently looking at doing this. Therefore, he conveyed that he would rather focus on getting Rochford Tower Hall refurbished and reopened.

d) **Update from Cllr Appleyard in regards to Noticeboard, Lectern and Bench**
The Men's Shed have been concentrating on a new unit and unfortunately held up by members of the group being ill but will be moving forward with these soon.

e) **Rochford Tower Hall**
This agenda item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

f) **Light outside Fishtoft Playing Field Pavilion – update**
Cllr Armstrong relayed that she still needs to look into this.

g) **Emergency Plan**
Adjoining Parish Council's Frithville with Westville and Sibsey are interested in talking with Fishtoft Parish Council in having a joint group of which a meeting will need to be arranged to discuss this matter.

Signed _____

Date _____

h) Gov.uk Domain and emails

Due to the requirement of Assertion 10 in the 2025/26 Annual Governance and Accountability Return gov.uk domain and emails are required by Parish Councils. The clerk circulated the information relating to this and following discussion and following proposal by Cllr Day, seconded by Cllr Crawford and with no objections it was resolved to go ahead with the new domain and email address.

i) Great British Spring Clean

BBC Cllr Sharpe is looking into doing Priory Road and BBC Cllr Staples is looking at doing Wainfleet Road therefore it was decided that the Parish Council would look at doing Fishtoft Road and Whitehouse Lane.

10. Correspondence received, Events & Reports - To discuss any correspondence received including after setting of agenda

The following correspondence has been received:

- National Highways & Transport (NHT) Survey – The deadline of this had passed before the meeting.
- Toot Lane Parking outside school – The Parish Council agreed with the proposal from Lincolnshire County Council

In addition, information relating to the Outer Dowsing scheme that was in association with the land owned by the Parish Council that was currently rented that the percentage scheme offered following compensation had been received of which the tenant was requesting 25%. Following discussion, it was proposed that only 10% be offered with rent deducted from fee or that no rent be paid whilst the work was in progress. A vote was taken of which 3 councillors were in favour of offering 10% with rent deducted and 3 councillors that no rent be paid whilst the work was in progress which resulted in a stalemate. As the Chairperson had the resolution vote it was decided to offer 10% with rent deducted.

Also, a resident of The Furrows had requested a Dog litter bin be sited in the area. As Boston Borough Council have a new policy now associated with Litter and Dog Bins this would need to be followed.

11. Fix My Street, Highways and Boston Borough Council - To receive any updates on reported issues Appendix B

There was nothing to report.

12. Dates for future confirmed meetings

Meeting date	Commencing	Location
Monday 13 th April 2026	7.00pm	Pavilion, Fishtoft Playing Fields
Monday 11 th May 2026	6:00pm Annual Parish and Annual Parish Council meeting	Pavilion, Fishtoft Playing Fields

The meeting closed at 8.54pm

Signed _____

Date _____

Appendix A

Item 5c on agenda

FISHTOFT PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD JANUARY 2026

Payments approved at 12th January 2026 meeting

Payee	Service	Amount
Guardian Storage Ltd	Storage of PC Documents (Jan 2026)	60.00
TA Blackamore Ltd	Ground Maintenance (Dec 2025)	1371.47
HMRC	PAYE Costs	182.15
LALC	Annual Subscription	1293.18
S Knowles	Staff Costs	359.87
TOTAL		3266.67

Payments made since 12th January 2026 meeting

Payee	Service	Amount
Lloyds	Bank Charges	4.25
S Knowles	Staff Costs	351.40
Lloyds	Bank Charges	4.25
TOTAL		359.90

Payments received since 12th January 2026 meeting

Payee	Service	Amount
National Grid	Wayleave	47.68
M Skipworth	Allotment Rent	833.96
TOTAL		881.64

Appendix B

Item 10 on agenda

FixMyStreet, LCC & BBC

No.	AREA	ISSUE	DATE	HOW	REF	OUTCOME
1	Tower/Priory/Eastwood	Archers Report				Waiting outcome
2	Sibsey Road	2 x Damaged pavement, trip hazard		FMS	404599	Informed work be done when funds available
3	Church Green Road	Footpath uneven and damaged		FMS	4153606	Proposal for works South Division – request update from LCC
4	Eastwood Road Footpath	Footpath uneven and damaged		FMS	4164960	As above
5	Freiston Road Footpath	Footpath uneven and damaged		FMS	4164961	As above
6	Church Green Road	Extension of path – Email	15/12/2021	LCC	4169782	Chase LCC for update
7	Scalp Road	Potholes	Sep-21	LCC		13/12/21 P.S. Unadopted – sponsors being looked for – Environment agency has patched

Appendix C

LCC Cllr Arundell

The following information was relayed:

- The new financial year's budget has been set of which in order to cut the County Council's borrowings. Of which there will be no monies will be allocated for any improvements to paths which had previously been assigned to a specific fund, which along with other funds are being scrapped and this money is then going to the Mayor of the Unitary Authority to try and get some major infrastructure work done i.e. a Bypass around Boston and a Double Carriageway to Peterborough. Therefore, this means only Highway maintenance will be done during the next Financial Year.
- Several buildings owned by LCC have been agreed to be sold.
- Various Libraries have been renewed which includes funds to relocate the one in Boston to new premises.
- Monies have been budgeted to repair Lincoln Castle

Appendix D

BBC Cllr Staples

The following was relayed:

- Boston Borough Council have set their budget for 2026/27 Financial Year of which results in an increase to a Band D property and estimate of £1.66.
- Progress has been made in regard to the Rosegarth project. The area of where the former Crown House stood will be a building which will be called Rosegarth View. This is going to be a mixed used space of retail outlets and temporary one-bedroom apartments. The Five Lamps are going to be renovated and will be sited within this development.
- In relation to myself as Portfolio Holder for Communities – A robust safeguard policy has been passed which works across the strategic alliance of the three authorities to further strengthen their bid to the Government for LGR.
- Lincs Digital are offering free pop in sessions to help people who are not happy in using the internet for doctor appointments or the bank.
- In association with Health and Wellbeing, there is a countrywide campaign for Ovarian Cancer to help with early diagnosis of which in Lincolnshire alone 475 ladies have been diagnosed
- Community Recognition Awards re: Local people who do some good within the Borough of Boston are acknowledged for their work within the community.
- Following the recent Community Governance review it was conveyed to Fishtoft Parish Councillor Lenton to relay to the Toot Lane Allotment Association to put in a bid to Boston Borough Council for transfer of ownership of the allotments so that they are secured or maybe for the Parish Council to consider this.
- Urge residents to fill in the

BBC Cllr Sharpe

Boston Borough Council Budget 2026/2027

Boston Borough Council has recently approved and passed a balanced budget for 2026/27, ensuring that essential services across the Borough can continue to be delivered without cuts. This is particularly positive given the challenging financial climate facing local authorities nationwide, including inflationary pressures and rising demand for services.

Despite significant financial pressures—particularly the increasing cost of the Internal Drainage Board levy, which now accounts for a substantial proportion of the Council's retained council tax income—the Council has worked hard to maintain a sustainable financial position and protect services that residents rely on. Work is continuing with the Special Interest Group to lobby government on a fairer funding solution for the IDB's.

Community Governance Review

Boston Borough Council is also continuing work on the Community Governance Review which is examining the possible creation of a Town or Parish Council.

The review process involves a consultation to determine whether a new town or parish council would provide stronger local representation and allow greater community involvement in local decision-making. If approved, a new council could potentially be established in time for elections in May 2027

The review has taken on greater significance in light of possible Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) which may see existing district councils—including Boston Borough Council—replaced by larger

authorities in the coming years. This council could help ensure Boston retains a strong local voice and representation at the community level.

The government consultation on the four proposals for Greater Lincolnshire in Local Government Reorganisation is also live.

To take part in the live consultations please visit the following links: -

For the formation of a Town Council: - <https://www.boston.gov.uk/CGR>

For Local Government Reorganisation:- <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-lincolnshire-north-lincolnshire-and-north-east-lincolnshire/proposals-for-local-government-reorganisation-in-lincolnshire-north-lincolnshire-and-north-east-lincolnshire>

Big Boston Clean-Up

The next Big Boston Clean-up will take place on Sunday 22nd March. Anyone wishing to take part would be very welcome, and every contribution—large or small—helps make a positive difference to our local environment.

Highways and Local Maintenance

I have recently reported a number of potholes in the village, and I am pleased to report that the majority of these have now been repaired.

In addition, following discussions with Cllr Arundell, I have received confirmation that the works to resurface Church Green Road and Fishtoft Road which should have taken place last year will now take place this year. This work will be undertaken by the original contractors who carried out the previous resurfacing works, which unfortunately did not meet the required standard. The remedial work will therefore be completed at the contractor's expense ensuring that the roads are brought up to the appropriate standard without additional cost to the taxpayer.

Supporting Local Community Groups

Helen, David and I were also pleased to support three local organisations through communities grant funding. Grants have been provided to:

St. Guthlac's Church
3rd Boston (Fishtoft) Scouts
The Playing Field Trust

Community Coffee Morning

Finally, our next coffee morning will take place on Saturday 4th April from 10am - 12pm at The Pavilion. Entrance is £3 for a cup of tea/coffee and a piece of cake. There will be a raffle and Easter themed games too. All proceeds will go to the Mayor's 5 local charities. Everyone is warmly welcome to attend, and we hope to see many of you there.

BBC Cllr Scoot

Cllr Scoot relayed that he had spoke with Witham Fourth Drainage Board following a report of a concerning piece of metal in the area of Willoughby Road near to the crossing