

TINGEWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 25th MARCH 2026 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Cllr Hornsey (Chairman)
Cllr Newman
Cllr Maxwell
Cllr Pearson
Cllr Grant
Cllr Sullivan
Dawn Rogers (Parish Clerk)
Cllr Mahon (Buckinghamshire County Councillor)

IN ATTENDANCE: 1 Member of the public

37. Apologies

Cllr Rennie

38. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of Interest.

Open Forum – 1 member of the public was in attendance.

Discussion as to the Local Plan and the objections drafted. It was noted that the development of the sites (if approved) will be incremental over the next ten years. The process was set out along with the various consultation phases. The approved sites will be released and sent to government late 2027. It is likely to be early 2028 before the conclusion of process.

39. To approve minutes of the meeting held on 25.02.26

It was proposed that the minutes be approved as a true and accurate record.

Proposed: Cllr Maxwell Seconded: Cllr Pearson Approved

40. Matters arising for information and reports only

- **Item 25 Highways-** The clerk has written to BCC; however no response has been received. Cllr Mahon is meeting with Cllr Broom and will raise this.
- **Item 25-Footpaths-Gorrell Lane-**the work has been postponed to September 2026 due to nesting season.
- **Item 25-Pond-** the silhouettes have been removed for cleaning and will be replaced.
- **Item 25-Cemetery-** the memorial tablet had been placed in the wrong location; it has been relocated correctly.
- **Item 25-Insurance-**the insurer has confirmed that provided issues have been reported to BCC and if urgent intervention work is required Parish Councillors and volunteers would be able to undertake rectification work provided that the Parish Council is made aware of the

proposed work in advance and a suitable risk assessment is undertaken. It was agreed that any work to be undertaken will be reported to Cllr Newman who will also notify Cllr Pearson.

- **Item 26-Recreation Ground**-the hole by the pergola has been repaired.
- **Item 27-Parish Council Update**- the first update has been issued, and it was noted to be well received. It was agreed that the update will be issued periodically.
- **Item 32-Cemetery Bin**-considered below at item 47.
- **Item 33-Warning Sign on Water Stratford Road**- the clerk contacted Highways and was advised that there was no record of a sign having been in that specific location.

41. Buckinghamshire Councilors' Reports

Cllr Mahon provided an oral report.

- There is to be a restructuring of the Highways Team on 01.04.26. There will no longer be Local Area Technicians, they will be replaced by staff with more local knowledge and smaller areas to cover. Cllr Mahon will provide further information as it becomes available and will also advise when the Parish Council will have a briefing.
- The first consultation on Local Plan has concluded.
- Local Transport Plan Consultation closes on Monday 30.03.26
- BCC will be announcing support for assistance with heating costs for those using oil heating
- Helping Hands will be transferred to a Resilience Fund on 01.04.26. Cllr Mahon will provide the clerk with further information that she will circulate to the councillors and add to the website.
- There have been some pothole repairs in Tingewick today. It was noted that this is county-wide issue and funding is allocated between all wards.

Questions

- It was noted that we were invited to an online Community Connections Local Plan Sites Engagement Exercise on 11.03.26 but it was cancelled. The clerk sent details of the meeting to Cllr Mahon and he will raise it with BCC and enquire why it was cancelled.
- Concern raised that BCC is not doing anything for the village and there is deep dissatisfaction with the service being provided to the village. We wrote to Thomas Broom expressing this, but no response has been received. Cllr Mahon is meeting with him and the clerk will send our letter to be raised.
- No response has been received to a request to BCC regarding the policy that if one installment payment of council tax or business rates is missed the full balance becomes payable immediately. This causes significant distress and hardship for those already suffering financial difficulty. Cllr Mahon is raising this as a motion to full council on 15.04.26 and will report back. Cllr Mahon will send a video to the clerk of the discussion.
- Cllr Mahon notes that the weekly roadworks update predominantly consists of works south of the county.

42. Planning

a. Buckinghamshire Council Local Plan –Cllr Hornsey has submitted the Parish Council's response to the three proposed sites in the village setting out why they have previously been considered unsuitable for development and objections to their inclusion in the Local Plan as sites available for development.

43. Accounts

See Appendix for details of transactions requiring approval and Budget report.

The following items were also approved.

Ref	Supplier	Description	Total Cost
BP632	Reimbursement Cllr Hornsey	Purchase of gravel for cemetery	£221.28
BP633	Reimbursement Cllr Hornsey	Purchase of gravel for cemetery	£264.00
BP634	Reimbursement Cllr Hornsey	PIR Lights for Cemetery Chapel	£44.16

a. It was proposed that the Transactions be paid.

Proposed: Cllr Newman Seconded: Cllr Pearson Approved

b. It was proposed that the Budget Report be accepted.

Proposed: Cllr Newman Seconded: Cllr Pearson Approved

Internal Auditor

It was agreed that Brian Fludgate be again appointed as the Parish Council's Internal Auditor.

Proposed: Cllr Newman Seconded: Cllr Pearson Approved

44. Renewal of Street Lighting Electricity Supply

The street lighting electricity contract with Engie has expired but due to the crisis in the Middle East Engie had put a hold on offering new prices prior to the expiry of the contract. We therefore were forced to wait until the market opened again and default to out of contract rates.

The previous contracts total estimated annual cost was £10,045.

Engie provided a quotation, as set out below, with a total estimated contract price of £12,587. The rise being partly due to an increase in unit cost but more significantly in the daily standing charge rate.

The Clerk sought the assistance of Utility Aid which is a specialist energy broker that helps charities and not for profit organisations manage and reduce their utility costs.

Utility Aid were able to source a contract for one year from Ecotricity at a total annual estimated contract cost of £11,334.19, significantly cheaper.

Two and three year contracts we offered. It was agreed that as the total contract price will be based on the energy costs as the moment, which are inflated due to the situation in the Middle East, that a one year contract is preferred to allow the markets to settle, and the contract will be reviewed again in a year.

ENGIE 1 Year Fixed Contract 26/27

Standing Charge £6.33 per day
Day Rate 37.2 pence per day
 32.6 pence per day

TOTAL COST £12,587 per year

Utility Aid – 1 Year Fixed Contract 26/27

Standing Charge £1.16 per day
Day Rate 33.9 pence per day
Night Rate 33.9 pence per day

TOTAL COST £11,334.19 year

Contract

It was proposed that the Parish Council enter into a contract with Ecotricity via Utility aid for a one year period.

Proposed: Cllr Hornsey Seconded: Cllr Pearson Approved

Direct Debit

It was proposed that the Clerk be authorised to set up a direct debit to allow the contract cost to be paid monthly via direct debit from the Parish Council's Unity bank account.

Proposed: Cllr Hornsey Seconded: Cllr Pearson Approved

45. Purchase of Dog Wate Bin (LittleTingewick) from Finmere Parish Council

It had been agreed that the dog bin at Little Tingewick would be purchased by Finmere Parish Council and Tingewick would add it to their maintenance schedule with BCC as the bin is in Tingewick Parish but nearer to Finmere and predominantly used by their residents.

It was proposed that the bin be purchased from Finmere Parish Council for a nominal sum of £1.00 and added to Tingewick's asset register.

Proposed: Cllr. Maxwell Seconded: Cllr Sullivan Agreed

46. Councilors Reports and Items for Future Agenda

Lighting – Cllr Hornsey

All in order.

Defibrillator – Cllr Sullivan

All in order. Cllr Sullivan is registering with Webnos

A new battery will be required in June.

Action: Clerk

Footways, Highways and Street Furniture-Cllr Maxwell

Cllr Maxwell has followed up on issues, and it is noted that they are being repaired incrementally. Concern raised that cyclists will suffer injury from unrepaired potholes now that the weather is improving.

As above, Cllr Mahon is pressing the issue for the village and Cllr Maxwell will continue to follow up the issues.

Footpaths (rural) – Cllr Newman

As below at Item 48.

Pond and Special Projects-Cllr Newman

- A request has been received to cut the hedge by the pond. It is noted that this is to the North of the property, is not obscuring light and does not pose a risk as such, at the moment the Parish Council is unable to assist at this time. **Action: Clerk**
- It is possible that there is a leak in the liner as the pond water level looks to be low, notwithstanding the recent rain. Environmental advice has been received, and it is noted that removing the silt would not pose a significant risk to workers. Should the pond dry out this summer it will be excavated for assessment of remedial work required.

Cemetery -Cllr Newman

The old graves in the Cemetery have now been cleared of vegetation and new shingle laid.

Thanks was extended to Mr Bannister for the work that he has undertaken on the old graves in the Cemetery.

Action: Clerk

Recreation Ground Grasscutting-Cllr Rennie

Nothing to report.

Devolved Powers Cllr Rennie

Village grass proposed cutting dates agreed as follows:

30.03.26

27.04.26

25.05.26

29.06.26

27.07.26

24.08.26

28.09.26

Recreation Ground Play Area- Cllr Grant

Work has started on the removal of the old equipment and the installation of the new equipment.

School Playground – Cllr Pearson

All inspected and in order save the climbing frame which requires a minor repair. Cllr Maxwell will undertake the repair.

Action: Cllr Maxwell

Recreation Ground -Cllr Hornsey

As below at Item 26

Insurance-Cllr Pearson

As above

47. Cemetery

- Grave Maintenance-the newer graves are not settling due to the composition of the soli to the rear of the cemetery. This is preventing the area from being maintained.
It was proposed that the relevant graves will be levelled at a cost of £65.00 per grave
Proposed: Cllr Newman Seconded: Cllr Hornsey Agreed
- Rules and Regulations- It was noted that unauthorised items are being placed on graves. It is understood that they are sentimental, but it prevents maintenance. It was agreed that there will be a regular removal of items which will be placed in the Chapel for a period for family to collect and if not collected to be disposed of. Cllr Newman will notify residents in the village update and it will also be added the website. **Action: Cllr Newman**
- Cllr Newman will review and update the current Cemetery rules which will be considered for adoption by the Parish Council at their next meeting. **Action: Cllr Newman**

- Benches – number and permissions. It is noted that there is a bench to the rear of the cemetery and a request for another two. In accordance with cemetery rules the permission of the Parish Council must be sought before such items are placed in the Cemetery.
- Notice Board – Cllr Newman will investigate costs. **Action: Cllr Newman**
- Bin by compost site – it was agreed that the bin stored in the Chapel will be placed by the compost site.

48. Footpaths

Cllr Newman presented her report.

- Deadman’s Walk-has been made safe
- Gorrell Lane Footpath – After a review of the area and work to be undertaken it was advised that the work should be postponed until after nesting season. The work has been rescheduled and will take place on 16th and 17th September 2026.
- Maytree-closed off.
- Church Street-actioned.

49. Recreation Ground

- a. Play Equipment – Installation work commenced 24.03.26 and is expected to take three weeks.
- b. Car Park – Work has commenced but halted to allow play equipment to be installed without damaging the new car park.
- b. Rabbits Noted that there seem to be more this year and are causing a significant issue by digging holes. Cllr Maxwell will continue to infill holes.
- c. Vermin - It is suspected that there are rats at the ground that are eating electricity wire. Suitable repellent will be obtained and placed. **Action: Cllr Hornsey**
- d. S106 Money – The Clerk to ascertain how the remainder of s106 money may be used, in what timescale and whether it will revert to BCC if unused. **Action: Clerk**

50. Village Fete (20th June 2026)

Update received. The planning is going well; raffle prizes are being donated and there will be eighteen stalls. The HS2 engagement van will attend, and a raffle prize has been requested from them.

51. Parish Council Logo

This will be carried over to the next meeting.

52. Best Kept Village Competition 2026

Tingewick has entered the Morris Cup. A notice will be placed on the notice board.

The village contractor will be asked to spray weeds by pinch point. **Action: Cllr Newman**

The Spring flowers in planters will be changed to summer plants in due course.

Village Gates at west of village – The Local Area Technician has advised that there are scheduled but no date for the work has been received.

The pub garden will be cleared.

Various areas in the village to be cleared and tidied up.

53 Correspondence

- a. CPJ Field-Application for additional inscription on memorial tablet – Agreed
- b. Finmere Parish Council-Request for support to recruit councillors. Agreed.

54. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 22nd April 2026 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall, Tingewick.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Chairman’s Signature..... Date