

Wretton Parish Council
Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly
held on Monday 12th May 2025 at 7.30pm
At All Saints Church

1. **Present:** Cllrs Karen Smith, Debbie Lister, Martyn Cann, Peter Garnett, Holly Hogan
Clerk: Jo Lloyd
2. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Cllr Mick Peake
3. **To approve the minutes of the last Annual Parish Assembly held on 20th May 2024:** Approved and signed by the Vice Chair.
4. **Matters arising:** None.
5. **Receive a report from the Chair of the Parish Council:** A report was received from the outgoing Chair, Gabby Atling.

As we reflect on the past year, I am pleased to report that it has been a year of community spirit, perseverance, and progress—despite some of the challenges we’ve faced along the way.

One of the highlights of last year was undoubtedly the 80th Anniversary D-Day event held on the village green in June. It was a truly special occasion that brought the community together in remembrance and celebration. It was heartwarming to see so many residents come along to support the event. A big thank you to everyone who helped make it such a success.

In July, parishioners came together once again to raise funds for a “Tommy” silhouette, which now stands proudly in the churchyard as a poignant tribute. This act of collective generosity is a wonderful reflection of our village spirit.

Also in July, we saw the successful rollout of the second round of the Household Support Fund, through which supermarket vouchers were distributed. This provided vital assistance to many families in the village during a difficult time. We are grateful to those who helped make this possible.

Following a resident's report about overgrown byways, we took action by contacting the appropriate authorities. Thanks to their cooperation—and to two villagers who generously gave their time to help clear the areas—these paths are now much improved and more accessible for everyone.

The paperbank by the bus stop continues to be a valuable source of income for the Parish Council. We’d like to encourage everyone to keep using it—your recycling efforts really do make a difference. In fact, the most recent funds were used to purchase spare defibrillator pads, ensuring that this lifesaving equipment remains ready for use.

Of course, not everything is smooth sailing. Like all Parish Councils, we are sometimes at the mercy of higher authorities. One ongoing frustration is the delay in the finalisation of the playground lease. Until this is resolved, we are unable to apply for funding to make the much-needed improvements to this well-used facility. Rest assured, we are pushing for progress and will keep you updated.

Cllr Karen Smith has been focused on making sure the proposed Traffic Regulation Order—aimed at reducing the speed limit on Low Road from 40mph to 30mph—is delivered as expected. This change is

an important step toward improving safety along Low Road, and we've worked hard to ensure the final TRO takes our feedback into account.

Meanwhile, Cllr Debbie Lister has been instrumental in sourcing realistic and competitive quotations for a new grass-cutting contractor. The contractor has recently started work, and already the village green spaces are looking much better.

The Parish Council would like to say a big thank you to Si Hilton for taking on the responsibility of the defibrillator and SAM signs. This is an important job that helps keep the village safe and running smoothly. His contribution is a great example of community spirit in Wretton.

Finally, we are delighted to welcome our new Parish Clerk, Jo Lloyd. We wish her every success in her new role and look forward to working together in service of the community.

Thank you all for your continued support. It is your involvement and goodwill that makes our village such a special place to live.

6. Receive reports from clubs and organisations in the village: Report received from the Parochial Church Council, All Saints Church

The church building remains in good condition and the main concern of the Parochial Church Council this year has been going into interregnum as Rev Ian has headed off to new pastures, leaving us without a priest in charge. Rev Joan has now retired as Rural Dean as well. We are forever in their debt for their hard work and all that they have managed in preparation for this time.

Coffee mornings remain successful, with a regular group attending for fellowship – gracious thanks to Kathleen and Helaine for their help in organising the events and to the friends who attend.

The Church was supported in its fundraising Strawberry Tea in July, the Harvest Festival in September and the St Francis Pet Service in October. We held an All Saints service in November (instead of All Souls) and there was a Crib & Carol service as well as a Christmas Morning service.

The quinquennial inspection was carried out in September 2024, highlighting several priority requirements (a few which were easily completed) which total around £2000.

We send Mr Wyatt and Mr Markwell our sincere thanks, as ever, for unlocking and locking the church building every day and for all that they quietly do to support us. We're very grateful to everyone in our community who assists and offer special Thanks to the Parish Council who arrange for the churchyard to be mown.

Anita and Elaine
Churchwarden and deputy

7. Receive comments from those in attendance: None.

Meeting ended at 7.45pm

Minutes prepared by Jo Lloyd
Parish Clerk
clerk.wrettonpc@gmail.com