

Friends of the Manor
Tuesday 11th November 2025
General Meeting Minutes

The Meeting opened at 6.50pm

1. **Welcome** – The Chairman make opening welcoming remarks

Members present - Robin Sutton - RS Chairman Neighbourhood Watch and Dog Walkers, Robert Windle -RW Vice Chairman Whittlesey Sports Association, Julie Windle - JW Minute Secretary, Robert Boddington - RB, Rosemary Marson (Rose M), Roy Bridson (R Brid)-RB Angling Trust & Small Fry Fishing Club, Cllr Roy Gerstner. Geoff Howes - GH Manor Field Park Run / Thorney Running Club, Alan Bessant -AB Whittlesey Rifle Club, Peter Bibb (PB) Whittlesey Cricket Club / Tennis Club, Shona Kitchener, (SK) Cllr Steve Count (SC) Cllr Barry Wainwright (BW) Julie Shortland (JS) Joe Jennings (WEFA), Andy Stimson (AS) Jonathan Stimson (JS), Roger Brown (RB), Karen Trickey (KT)

Chairman's welcome - RS welcomed everyone.

Apologies - Mel Chamberlain Whittlesey Warriors Netball Club, Richard Marson Small Fry Fishing Club RM

Minutes of the previous meeting 16th of September 2025.

Correction E Darling should be E Dorling.

The balance of accounts needs to be corrected to £769 not £969. Pounds.

GH asked if the paddle courts were going to be indoors as they tend to be indoors.

Proposed to accept the minutes of the previous meeting KT seconded AS all agreed

Treasurers update

ED bank balance the same as before but bank charges will be introduced by the Metro Bank for the next 12 months.

SK asked what the money is used for. RW replied the money was ring fenced for the maintenance for the Fishing Platform, the money was acquired through grant money for the Platforms.

SK asked if we were being charged for the room hire from the Manor Centre RW replied no.

PB asked could monies be put into a higher interest account. ED to enquire. GH said could we use money for small projects such as seats and noticeboard.

The Manor Centre.

Councillor Steve count from Fenland District Council given an update about the current Manor building project. He's the cabinet member for bringing the project to fruition. He is not the Leisure Portfolio holder. This person is Cllr Sue Wallwork. Steve Count will email answers to questions if he cannot answer on the night. SC gave a brief history of the project. It's important that the project should bring more money through the door. Fenland District Council Cabinet m has met to decide arrangements last week and includes some changes, the Rifle range will be longer with a 10M range added, a commercial kitchen which is 2 1/4 bigger in size to the existing one. There will be an increased size of changing rooms in the middle of the building. The proposed costing of the project is £18 million. There will be a decision in June/July 2026 which will take place at Fenland District Council.

Individual changing cubicles are being proposed by Sport England. Regarding the question of the paddle courts being covered SC said they are being covered but will also find out to be hundred percent. RS said unisex changing rooms do have positive sides to them with the supervision of school children, and we need to move forward with the times. PB confirmed the paddle court will be covered and asked when is the project happening? When could shovels be in the ground?- Aug 2026, What things could derail the project SC said? Hopefully this will be kept on track.

SK asked if there are any more chances of public feedback, SC will always be happy to take suggestions and any email sent to him will be replied with the answers placed in the minutes.

AB asked if inflation will affect the £18 million? SC inflation costs have been built in. Total budget includes monies spent up to today. Turnaround will be relatively quick once the final decision is made. RG said it's the largest single capital project that Fenland have ever undertaken. RS asked about the skateboard area, SC said that the young users will have an input. RS invited SC to visit Phoenix Youth Club.

JJ spoke about the Whittlesey Emergency Food Aid (WEFA) in a passionate statement he said that the town needs it to continue and that they need to engage with FDC to ensure it continues- "Food Banks are here to stay". JJ asked for community support. RS to talk to JJ about a possible solution. BW said that WTC were not against the Food Bank.

KT "What is the difference between Wet and Dry Changing" SC to investigate. KT would like dogs to be able to enter the new café, RS supported this as there are many dog walkers. SC said it was an operational issue that Freedom Leisure would manage.

R Brid – Asked if the new P'boro Swimming funding will affect the project. - SC said no. Car Parking and access – It needs to be a two way system or a flow system, footpaths are included in the plans. BW said the entrance gates are historic and hopes they will not disappear. SC they will be kept.

A Stim asked about access to the Bowls Club. R. Bodd could there be a side entrance to the building for the Park Runners, SC said it has been considered but not a good idea, the public will still need to go through reception to go to the toilets. P Bibb There are toilets in the cricket pavilion during Park Run times.

RW at the Feb meeting he mentioned about utilising the electric pylons for extra field lighting, at first a positive reception but now negative. SC said that extra cabling will go in but not the lights that may be for a later project. RW said that it would be for the benefit of a number of users and possible future events.

RW asked if there was an underspend on the project if the remaining monies can be directed to the pathway. – SC -No as it would set a precedent, and other towns would not be happy.

RW The Inspire project was it divided between the other Fenland Towns ? SC No .

SC – The rebuild is going ahead because of the state of the existing facilities. Other Fenland project are on hold.

Events – The Big Bash 21st June 2026 , It's a Knockout 16th August 2026.

Unsocial Behaviour – RS mainly ok, issues report to the police 101, don't tackle them as they may be knife carrying. You can report online.

GH said that he has found Dog Mess on Park Run mornings. BW said that Whittlesey Town Council have agreed to have a dog poster campaign.

The Date of the next meeting – Tuesday 24th February 2026 6.30pm

Meeting closed 8.20pm