

Minutes for Whittlesey Festival Partner Group

25th August 2026

The Falcon Hotel, Whittlesey : 7.00 pm

Present: Jenny Parker, Dave Bailey, Marija Lysak, Carl Flippance, Averil Cosstick, Tina Overton, Peter Davies, Wally Newman, Roy Gerstner, Austin Kew, Robert Windle, Julie Windle, Paul Sansby, Jacque Baldry, Ed Forsyth, Nadine Hanlon, Marilyn Korneck, Min Mean, Keith Mutimer, Robert Boddington

Apologies: Pat Ash, Andrew Lashley, Kay Mayor, Norman Flatt

ITEM	CONTENT	ACTION
1 Welcome	- Jenny welcomed all to the meeting, apologies were noted. - Jenny explained this was the last Partner's prior to the actual festival being undertaken.	
2 Minutes of last meeting	Last Minutes: All accepted that these were a true and accurate record of the meeting. All therefore signed as such by Jenny.	
3 Treasurer's Report	- In the absence of Pat Ash, Jenny advised that we have £14,800 in the Whittlesey Festival, number one account and £500 in our reserve account - The invoice for Fenland will take the majority of those monies but we are in a much better financial position than we have ever been due to the hard work and effort of everyone involved. Jenny congratulated everyone. - Hopefully going forward into 2027 we should have a small pot of money left in the bank from these 'present pennies'. Further, we do not know what the financial assistance will be from the council/charities next year. - Robert W queried how many free rides will be available from our current fundraising. Carl confirmed that there are 6 free rides available this year and listed what they were to all present advising that the rides will be placed throughout the event. - Main stage is the only one that is left to sponsor. £25	
4 Individual Reports	Jenny - The quota for the market square is now full. - Crafting places are still available in Sadies (2) - Letters to the residents and business premises re the festival will be going out this week. - Advance warning of road closures will also shortly go out.	

	• All public houses are being requested to use plastic glasses should customers wish to go outside. • There are 130 classic cars entries for the day. Dave • A meeting has been held in Yaxley with the Young Technicians who have been given a layout of what is required for each stage. A risk assessment has been carried out on both sides. • Owen will be compere in the church • Mark will compere the outdoor marquee • Maria will compere the main stage • 2 acts have pulled out.....we have however managed to replace Dale Diamond with Brandon, a singer-songwriter who has similar skills. • The festival FaceBook page is playing a video every morning, at 8.30 am. Showing the 'next act'. • Sue Palmer, Churchwarden of St Mary's church is looking forward to the festival this year and has advised that the church service will start at 10.30 am. • We need to make sure that there are as few vehicles as possible on the grass, all vehicles MUST have the correct spreaders under their wheels. • We have one performer who is a wheelchair user. We have managed to get a ramp for him. • The model railway is being constructed to go into the library. • This week a full set of instructions will be sent to all acts from David and Isabel will also be sending out her instructions to relevant personnel. Carl/Averill • Started in March this year fundraising, initially with the target of £5000. That target then moved to £6000 and it is now £7000. • All invoices have gone out, programs have been delivered and monies are coming in. • The mayor will be informed of the procedure he needs to follow and a finale proposal has been created. • Arrangements for the buffet are on target, tables and chairs will be put out the evening before. • Carl and his father are arranging to collect the food. • Isabel is in the process of creating a food voucher for all those who are volunteers. • Heron have been met to discuss their food delivery times. • A full band complement has been arranged.	Carl Isabel
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	- Robert Windle commented that the booklet was well laid out with clear text and pictures; a new map, adverts and felt that congratulations to the team that created it were in order. Jenny advised that Andrew Lashley is the one 'working very hard behind the scenes' to create the 'new look'. - The flip book has not yet been sent to us, but it should have all changes included. Our FaceBook page does have these changes on it. MARIJA - Schools art exhibition. All primary entries are already in. Sir Harry Smith school will bring all theirs (possibly 200) when back at school - The display boards will be delivered to the library on the Tuesday and Marija will go in on the Thursday - Trophies and rosettes have been picked up today. - Marija thanked Robert and Roy for volunteering their services for this event. - The September input has been placed into the Whittlesey Mag and the ESP magazine. The ET will shortly be contacted as is Fenland Council who also produce a press release re the Whittlesey Festival. - Acts on the square. All have received performance times as well as technical requirements. - The Twirlettes will march along to the bands, rather than bring their own music. - Norman Flatt will give a list of who is attending to Jenny and Averill. - Nadine Hanlon and Roy Gerstner have kindly volunteered for the early car start at 9.30am, Nadine will then help with the parade. Peter Davies has volunteered for the 3.30 slot in the afternoon. - Early fly past – 12.17 pm – hopefully – the act on at the time will be briefed about it to the Battle of Britain theme tune. - This may well push back performance time but 'wriggle time' has been built in to the programme. - James Green, Marija and Jenny will judge the entries. JENNY - Kings Lynn Steam Punk are at another event, but two of the Peterborough Steam Punk group will be here for 10.00 with the intend to mingle for the day. - If they stay for the day, we will provide refreshments for them.	Norman Nadine/ Roy /Peter
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5 AOB	• Nadine: Last year we had some issues with youths. Will this be a possibility for this year? The issue was discussed and all advised that should the same issue arise this year, the Fenland Stewards will deal with this. • Dave – stated that there is currently an issue in Whittlesey which the police are investigating re a small group who are creating a disturbance. Jenny asked for all those who are stewarding to keep an eye out on the day. • Isabel will also raise this issue at the forthcoming Steward's Meeting • Roy G: Cars parking on the market place. Jenny advised we cannot legally stop cars parking but every house, flat, and business which will be affected by the street closure will receive a letter advising them of the requirements for cars re the festival. • Keith: We need more bins, Jenny advised that Isabel is aware of this. • Ed. Queried the date of 4th September and was advised this is a Steering Group meeting to iron out any last minute issues. • Jacque felt that Jenny has thanked everyone but we, the committees, should thank Jenny for all the work, time and effort she has put in. • From everyone, thank you for all you have done Jenny. • Wally: We (self/Marilyn/Paul) have come up with the amount of people required to provide a full pipe band. There will be approximately 30. A list of the tunes have been given to Averill. The finale is still being worked on. • Paul: Where will the band be forming up? Broad Street near Keshko car park. • Roy: Market Place - a number of vehicles are parking on it. It seems to be a grey area as to whose responsibility it is to police it. Highways, Police and Fenland have all denied it's their responsibility. • At present, there is a lot of traffic using the market place which should not be there. • There is also controversy as to where bollards and planters will be, this IS a Fenland issue. • Public toilets. Fenland is presently reviewing this since there is no statutory requirement to provide one. • A request for the disabled one to be unlocked so people can use it will be done through Isabel. • Robert W. There is a resident (known to the committee) who always wants access for his car on festival day. Robert advised that the letter to go out, needs to be put it into said residents metal bin, near his door.	
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	• Robert B. – will be in the library for the art competition, Robert's relief will be Roy G. • Robert W. If any big cones are needed to cone something off, Robert can lay his hands on 15, should they be needed. • Min – will be at the stewards meeting. • Averill – due to funding we cannot have a Big Band this year but Romford Band have contacted Averill to wish us well for the festival and asked that we bear them in mind for the 2027. • Jenny: asked all present, if they have any queries for the next Steering Group meeting, please get in touch with any member of the Steering Group, so they can be discussed at the meeting. • Nobody at the meeting had taken a Hi Viz jacket away from the festival last year. • Programmes. Another round of programme delivery has taken place, thanks to Dave, Jenny, Keith and Jacque. • Dave, Jacque and Ed volunteered to also help with more deliveries of the programmes, this will need to be co-ordinated with Carl. • Excess flags on sticks: These to be given back to Jenny please. • Keith: Kesh has an early morning delivery on the day of the festival, can someone check with the shop that their delivery will not be affected. (Jenny to phone Isabel on this). • Marija thought that the hot rod classic cars had a separate contact within Keshko.	Jenny
6	The next meeting will be the Stewards Meeting on the 10 th September, 7.00 pm at The Falcon.	
	There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:07hrs.	

FURTHER MEETING DATES

Steering Meetings 2026 All Fridays Falcon Hotel : 2.00 pm	Partner Meetings 2026 All Tuesdays Falcon Hotel : 7.00 pm
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4th September	
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Stewards Meeting – 10th September 2026 – Falcon Hotel 7.00 pm

Festival Day – 13th September 2026

De-brief meeting – 29th September 2026 – Falcon Hotel 7.00 pm

**AGM – 24th November 2026
Falcon Hotel – 7.00pm**

**Christmas Dinner – The Falcon Hotel –
7.00pm for 7.30 pm start
26th November 2026**

Signed: Dated:
Jenny Parker - Chair