

WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the 2017/2018 Parish Council
held at 7.30 pm on 18th January 2018 in the Wittering Bowls' Club Pavilion

PRESENT

Richard Roffe (Chairman)
John Bradshaw
Gerry Crosbie
Julia Cunnington
Richard Drain
Simon Hurn
Maxine Palmer
Roger Paull
Jon Wartors

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr M Davies, Community Devt Officer, RAF Wittering
WO N Paylor, Community Support Officer, RAF Wittering
Three Members of the Public
Deirdre McCumiskey, Clerk to the Council

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Geoff Dunkley, Sharon Polden and Wg Cdr M Ainsworth, OC Support Wing, RAF Wittering.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Simon Hurn declared an interest in his on-going work for the Parish Council.

3. POLICE MATTERS

There were no police representatives present.

4. MINUTES of the Third Meeting of the 2017/2018 Parish Council held on 19th October 2017 were reviewed, approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman

Proposed by:- Simon Hurn **Seconded by:-** Roger Paull

5. MATTERS ARISING

i) Wittering A1 Flyover Campaign Group

John Bradshaw gave an update. He had acquired a copy of the Highways Agency A1 Wittering Junction Improvements Preferred Route Statement which confirmed that the Preferred Route will be protected from development and a Scheme Plan will be issued to the local planning authorities. It will be submitted to the new Infrastructure Planning Commission which will consider such proposals. An environmental assessment report will be prepared. The Parish Councillors thanked John Bradshaw for his hard work in progressing the Wittering A1 Flyover and, in turn, John Bradshaw thanked John Holdich, Shailesh Vara MP, Peterborough City Council and RAF Wittering for their encouragement and support.

ii) **Planning Application 16/01361 Land to the south of Lawrence Road, Wittering**

Richard Drain confirmed that the above Planning Application was approved on 28th November 2017 to the disappointment of Wittering Action Group who had strongly campaigned against the development. The Planning Application was still subject to conditions that must be fulfilled before the houses are occupied. Cllr Chris Harper, Chairman of PCC's Planning Environment Protection Committee which passed the plans said that under the council's duties there was no reason to turn the plans down. He added that he will write to the Government and Highways England to ask for the speed limit to be reduced at the Wittering A1 junction over a 2-3 mile distance to 50 mph.

iii) **Defibrillator**

The Chairman reported that the Defibrillator has been installed on the wall of the Parish Hall and the code number to access the machine will be given by contacting the Ambulance Service. A Defibrillator Training DVD is available.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Chairman had received a request for Dog Foul Signs for the playing field from the Football Club. He proposed that these are purchased by the Parish Council, this was seconded by John Bradshaw and agreed by all present. Roger Paull agreed to obtain the signs which will be tied onto the wire fencing that borders Wittering Primary School and the playing field.

8. **FINANCE**

i) Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 31st December 2017 was reviewed and approved unanimously as presented.

Proposed by:- John Bradshaw **Seconded by:-** Simon Hurn

ii) Precept 2018 – 2019

After a short discussion about the predicted expenditure in the next financial year, it was agreed to set the Precept at £55,000 which is unchanged from the Precept 2017-2018.

9. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- Paul Campbell, a new resident, introduced himself. He has moved into The Rectory with his wife and two small children.
- A resident commented that 'No Entry' notices have been put up at the chicken farm at Thornhaugh and the gate is padlocked. It was noted that Thornhaugh Parish Council is not involved with this matter and it is being dealt with by the Footpath Committee.
- WO Neil Paylor, Community Support Officer, RAF Wittering introduced himself and explained his role which involves looking after MoD properties, RAF personnel and their families living in the village.
- Mark Davies, Community Devt Officer, TAF Wittering reported that he had successfully obtained a grant of £12,000 for the Family Centre. The Youth Club has re-opened after the Christmas Holidays and a new Youth Group for 5-8 year olds has opened. He is in the process of reviewing the playparks within the village. He stated that the Families Day will take place on 12th May 2018 and it is envisaged that village residents will be able to attend this year.

10. **ADJOURNEMENT**

i) **Repeater 40 mph signs on Old Oundle Road**

Liam Higgins, Thornhaugh Parish Council had requested that Wittering Parish Council contribute financially to 40 mph repeater signs to be erected on Old Oundle Road. Gerry Crosbie reported on his communication with Peter Tebb, Highways Division, Peterborough City Council. He had established that the Parish Council is not allowed to

erect 40 mph repeater signs as it is the responsibility of the Highways Division. It was agreed that the Clerk will draft a reply to Liam Higgins explaining this.

ii) **Rubbish within the Village**

The Parish Council had received a complaint about a large amount of rubbish between the swings and the old Substation off Burghley Avenue. It was also noted that there is some old wire fencing that needs to be removed before anyone is injured if they climb over it. WO Neil Paylor agreed to deal with these two concerns.

iii) **Hire Fees for Women of Wittering Community Group**

The Parish Councillors agreed to reduce the cost of hiring the Parish Hall for WoWCG to £7.50 per hour (which is a 50% reduction on the normal hiring fee) from 1st April 2018 as they wish to support all local groups/ organisations.

iv) **Wittering Primary School**

Maxine Palmer reported that Wittering Primary School has now converted to become a sponsored Academy as part of the Soke Education Trust.

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Fifth Meeting of the 2017/2018 Parish Council will take place at 7.30 pm on 22nd March 2018 in the Wittering Bowls' Club Pavilion.

12. **CLOSURE**

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 pm

SIGNED

Chairman

DATE

22/03/18