

WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Third Meeting of the 2017/2018 Parish Council
held at 7.30 pm on 19th October 2017 in the Wittering Bowls' Club Pavilion

PRESENT

Richard Roffe (Chairman)
John Bradshaw
Julia Cunnington
Geoff Dunkley
Simon Hurn
Roger Paull
Sharon Polden
Jon Warters

IN ATTENDANCE

Wg Cdr M Ainsworth, OC Support Wing
Four Members of the Public
Deirdre McCumiskey, Clerk to the Council

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Mark Davies, Community Devt Officer, 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 Second Meeting of the 2017/2018 Parish Council held on 27th July 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 a report of the meeting held on 1st August 2017. Peterborough City Council is supportive and has provided useful information. The next meeting will take place on 20th October 2017 and will be attended by himself, Geoff Dunkley, Cllr J Holdich, Cllr D Lamb and a representative from RAF Wittering.

ii) Peterborough Local Plan

The two proposed local housing development sites (Wansford/Thornhaugh and Wittering/Thornhaugh) included in the Draft Local Plan do not appear on the latest version of the Local Plan which can be accessed via <https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/council/planning-and-development/planning-policies/new-local-plan/>.

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

A decision on this Planning Application has been deferred to receive more information on the possible impact at the A1 junction (southbound into Wittering) from the 190 homes and more up-to-date traffic data.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no further correspondence received that had not already been circulated by e-mail.

There had been a request from the 2nd Wittering Scouts for the Parish Council to donate land to erect a Scout Hut in the village. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council is not allowed to donate land and, if any land is sold, it would have to be for the current market price which would be prohibitive for the 2nd Wittering Scouts. Although the Parish Councillors were sympathetic and supportive to the request, they are not able to help. It was suggested that maybe the 2nd Wittering Scouts approach the Church Wardens to ascertain whether they could use the All Saints' Church.

8. FINANCE

- i) Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 30th September 2017 was reviewed and approved unanimously as presented.

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

- ii) It was agreed to make a donation of £100 to RBL towards the purchase of a wreath and Simon Hurn will obtain a flag to be used at the Remembrance Sunday Service.
- iii) Wittering Primary School has requested financial support towards the cost of hiring two coaches to transport school pupils to a musical event in Birmingham in the New Year. It was agreed to make a donation of £1,000 but to ask if the school could perform a concert at the school for local residents in recognition of the donation.
- iv) Andrew Gardner has access to an old charity account whose funds he has kindly offered to put towards the cost of purchasing a Defibrillator. The cost of the Defibrillator and cabinet is £1,141.94 and therefore the Parish Council will have to make up the shortfall of £227.94. It was agreed to go ahead with this. The Defibrillator will be identical to the one sited by the Spar Shop by the RAF. The Defibrillator will be sited on the wall of the Parish Hall which is near to the bowls' ground and football ground.

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A Member of the Public raised the following issue :-

- The damaged garage door in Boxer Road. This is being dealt with by an insurance claim. The repair has been quoted for but there is no start date.

10. ADJOURNEMENT

Shrubbery and Trees in Maltby Close, Wittering

It was noted that unsightly self-seeded shrubbery and trees on the top of the roofs of the Service Families Accommodation in Maltby Close have now been dealt with.

Gate via the path by the Chicken Farm, Thornhaugh

The Clerk reported that Thornhaugh Parish Council has left it to the resident led Footpath Committee to apply for a Right of Way to be recorded on the Definitive Map.

Compliance Inspection by Anglian Water

The Chairman reported that Anglian Water has recently carried out a Compliance Inspection and the only work required to be undertaken is the installation of a new tap with a built in double check valve.

Allotments

Simon Hurn will trim back the trees at the allotments.

Report from Wg Cdr Ainsworth:-

Sub-letting of Service Families Accommodation. The MOD currently has a larger than normal number of void (empty) Service Family Accommodation (SFA) properties in the UK for a variety of reasons. As well as the normal management margin required to ensure properties are available for families, we have also retained properties to meet the future needs of Defence. However, empty properties do not generate any income, and instead draw revenue away that could otherwise be invested elsewhere in the estate - as empty properties need to be maintained and secured. We also continue to be liable for council tax charges and rent where we do not own the properties. As a result, a sub-letting project was initiated to identify suitable properties for short term sub-letting on the private market. The aim is to maximise revenue from rental receipts, protect the availability of homes for Service Families so they are not disadvantaged and provide flexibility to return homes back to MOD control if a requirement emerges. There are currently approximately 170 vacant SFA properties at Wittering and we have agreed to release up to 90 x 2 and 3-bedroom houses to be sub-let under this scheme. A small number of houses (approximately 12) on Phase One should be advertised by the letting agency, Orchard & Shipman on "Right Move" from late October/early November.

Defibrillator. We have installed a defibrillator at the Community Learning Centre+, this is available for the whole Wittering Community.

Changes at RAF Wittering's Gates. As a result of terrorist attacks in London, the RAF has reviewed its response to similar threats. At RAF Wittering the most visible difference will be the installation of security 'chicanes' at both station entrances. This is part of a nationwide response, there are no indications of specific threats to RAF Wittering or the local area.

Community Learning Centre+. Courses being offered:-

Basic First Aid - Free 2/11/17 11 to 1pm

Drawing & Painting - (5 sessions) starts 15/11/17 12 noon to 2pm

Stress Management - Free (2 sessions) starts 24/11/17 12 noon to 3pm

Christmas Crafts - Free (3 sessions) 28/11/17 10am to 2pm

We need a minimum of 6 people per course, leaflet have been delivered to households, this is open to everyone in the Wittering community.

Youth Drop In. Airplay Youth Work Team now fully recruited with 4 staff, first time at full capacity since September 16. As from Monday 30 October 2017, will run two sessions per week term time only -Monday Evening - a Youth Group just for year 7 (11/12 years of age) followed by Arts Project for all youths ages 11+ and Tuesday Evening - a Project Tuesday Youth Forum will meet, followed by Youth Drop In for 12+ (19.00 to 21.00). On Tuesday 17 October 2017, we had a record number of young people attend a session – 28 (a very busy night). Both service and civilian young people attended. Again, the sessions are open to all young people living in Wittering.

29 November 2017 - Pantomime Night. CS team working with Wittering Primary School to host the Annual Pantomime event, delivered by the "Panto Bus" funded by British Forces Foundation, open to anyone in the community, ticketed event due to limited numbers and when available can be booked and collected via school & Stn HIVE Information Officer. Timings yet to be confirmed. Event is free to attend, but will ask for a donation on the night to be split with British Forces Foundation and Wittering Primary School.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Fourth Meeting of the 2017/2018 Parish Council will take place at 7.30 pm on 18th January 2018 in the Wittering Bowls' Club Pavilion.

12. CLOSURE

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 pm

SIGNED _____
Chairman

DATE 18/01/18

CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

After the Members of the Public had departed, the parish Councilors discussed the four applications for the Parish Councillor Vacancy following the resignation of James Russell. As no election had been requested by 10 or more residents, the Parish Councillors were able to co-opt a Parish Councillor.

After a sort discussion, Sharon Polden proposed Gerry Crosbie, this was seconded by Roger Paull and agreed by all present.

It was agreed to ask Richard Drain and Maxine Palmer to join the Parish Council as co-opted members with No Voting Rights.