

# WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Fifth Meeting of the 2018/2019 Parish Council  
held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019 in Wittering Bowls' Club Pavilion

## PRESENT

Richard Roffe (Chairman)  
Geoff Dunkley (Vice Chairman)  
John Bradshaw  
Gerry Crosbie  
Julia Cunnington  
Richard Drain  
Simon Hurn  
Maxine Palmer  
Roger Paull  
Jon Warters

## IN ATTENDANCE

Mark Davies, Community Devt Officer, RAF Wittering  
Diane Lamb, Ward Councillor  
Cllr N Boyce, Chairman of Castor Parish Council & Member of the PCC Parish Liaison Working Group  
Ms B Child, PCC Head of Housing, Prevention and Wellbeing, Home Service Delivery Team, Adult Services and Communities  
Four Members of the Public  
Deirdre McCumiskey, Clerk to the Council

Cllr Boyce, Member of PCC Parish Liaison Working Group, attended to explain his role. He stated that the Parish Council Liaison Group meets every two months and is a useful source of information for Parish Councils discussing topics such as GDPR, etc. He encouraged two-way liaison between Parish Councils and Peterborough City Council. He talked about the Way Wardens' Scheme which ensures that new residents in Ailsworth and Castor are given Welcome Packs listing services, clubs and organisations in the village and the Good Neighbour Scheme to help residents with small jobs/take them shopping, etc. He distributed the following papers:- Building Community Resilience; Castor Parish Council Communications and Community Engagement Strategy; Castor & Ailsworth Joint Community Action Plan and CAPALC Statutory Powers

Ms Child, Head of Housing, Prevention and Wellbeing, Home Service Delivery Team, Adult Services and Communities at PCC attended to explain her role which is to keep residents living independently in their own homes for as long as possible by identifying their needs before they reach a crisis point. Her department offer a wide range of services such as installing adaptations, providing a handyman service and undertaking OT Assessments. She confirmed that she would be willing to attend another meeting to explain more fully what is available to local residents.

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Wg Cdr M Ainsworth.

### 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 Fourth Meeting of the 2018/2019 Parish Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018 were reviewed, approved and signed by the Chairman.

**Proposed by:-** John Bradshaw

**Seconded by:-** Jon Warters

## 5. MATTERS ARISING

### i) **Wittering A1 Flyover Campaign Group**

John Bradshaw gave an update of the current situation. A meeting has been arranged for 05/02/19 with Shailesh Vara, MP, John Holdich, Leader of PCC, Diane Lane, Ward Councillor, representatives of the RAF and himself to progress the campaign.

### ii) **Delaine Bus Service 205**

The Chairman, Julia Cunnington, Gerry Crosbie and the Clerk had attended a meeting on 07/01/19 organised by Cllr N Boyce, Chairman of Castor Parish Council to discuss the Revised Delaine 205 Bus Service which has resulted in a two (rather than one) hourly service and no Saturday service. Representatives from Ailsworth, Castor, Wansford and Wittering Parish Councils, RAF Wittering, Cllr J Holdich, Cllr P Hiller, Mr A Delaine-Smith and Mr M Delaine-Smith had attended. The reason for the revisions is due to the two hourly and Saturday service not being commercially viable. The representatives of the Parish Councils present requested a price for a Saturday service to be funded from the Parish Precept 2019-20 – this would be £270 per day of operation and would be on a six-month trial. Cllr Boyce has been tasked to take the lead on this matter. The Parish Councillors agreed to approach Peterborough City Council for financial support requesting that Peterborough City Council funds half of the price, ie £135 and the four Parish Councils fund half the price, ie £135 (each Parish Council to fund a percentage of £135 proportionate to how many residents use the bus) for a trial period of six months. The Clerk will contact Cllr Holdich accordingly.

### iii) **War Graves in the Churchyard**

The War Graves have been tidied up and a new maintenance contract is now in place. The outstanding fees owed to the Parish Council have been applied for.

### iv) **Parish Hall Kitchen**

Gerry Crosbie offered to make an application to the Peterborough Communities Fund for the refurbishment of the Parish Hall Kitchen. Julia Cunnington will help him with this. Mark Davies stated that an application could also be made to the Armed Forces Community Covenant Scheme.

### v) **Parking on Church Road**

Maxine Palmer confirmed that a suggestion that parents could use the Parish Hall car-park when leaving and collecting pupils of Wittering Primary School instead of parking on Church Road had appeared in the School Newsletter. It was noted that a vehicle is parking outside the gate to All Saints' Church which meant difficulties with parking a hearse at a recent funeral

## 6. CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you letters had been received for funding the purchase of a Defibrillator and funding the cost of the coaches to the Young Voices Musical Event from Mr R Thrower, Head of Wittering Primary School.

The Chairman read out a letter from Mr D Standish-Leigh stating that he had seen a gritting lorry drive through the village at speed but without depositing any grit on 23/01/19. Mr Standish-Leigh has informed Amey.

A letter had been received from Mr J Hubbard offering to provide a free Sports' Holiday Club for children in Wittering based on a successful application to the Big Lottery Grant. Although the Parish Councillors were not interested in taking up this offer, Maxine Palmer will ask Wittering Primary School and Roger Paull will ask Wittering Football Club if they would be interested.

## 7. FINANCE

i) Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 was reviewed and approved as presented.  
**Proposed by:-** John Bradshaw                      **Seconded by:-** Geoff Dunkley

ii) Budget and Precept 2019-20

The Draft Budget which had already been circulated was discussed and it was agreed to set the Precept for 2019-20 at £55,000 which is no increase on the previous year.

iii) 2<sup>nd</sup> Wittering Scout Group Grant Request

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Wittering Scout Group had requested a grant of £1,540 (£35 per young person) towards the cost of taking the group to Hemel Hampstead Snow Zone. Simon Hurn proposed that a grant is made, this was seconded by Jon Warters and agreed by all present. It was agreed to set a Ring-Fenced Fund to make grants to local organisations at the next meeting.

## 8. **PUBLIC FORUM**

The Members of the Public present did not raise any issues.

## 9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### i) **Dog Park**

Roger Paull mentioned that a resident is looking for land for a 'dog park' (fenced area for dogs to play) on Facebook. A photo of the Village Sign is used and the comments appear as if they had been made by the Parish Council. This is not anything to do with the Parish Council.

### ii) **Closure of Old Oundle Road**

The Chairman had seen a Public Notice in the Peterborough Evening Telegraph stating that Old Oundle Road will be closed for repairs 9.30 am – 3.30 pm from 01/02/19 for 8 weeks. Disappointingly, the Parish Council has not been informed of this.

### iii) **Facebook Page**

Julia Cunnington would like to start a Parish Council Facebook Page. Maxine Palmer offered to help with this. Richard Drain will speak to Mr E Palmer, the Communications Officer at RAF Wittering for advice.

### iv) **LEAP (Local Energy Advice Partnership)**

Maxine Palmer explained that this free service can advise residents on the best ways of saving energy in their home.

### v) **Dog Fouling Notices**

Gerry Crosbie reported that the Dog Foul Signs have been removed. The Chairman explained that this is due to a child cutting his finger on one of the signs. Amey has agreed to put up new signs. The Parish Council is allowed to put up signs on the Street Lights' Poles

### vi) **Larkfleet Homes Development on Lawrence Road**

Geoff Dunkley reported that Larkfleet Homes are planning to start the development in the middle of the year

### vii) **Benches on the Playing Field**

Geoff Dunkley stated that the young people of the village have asked that some benches are installed on the Playing Field. This will be at no cost to the Parish Council.

### viii) **Allotment Mowers**

Geoff Dunkley will take the allotment mowers to be serviced.

### ix) **RAF Christmas Meal**

Geoff Dunkley thanked RAF Wittering for providing an enjoyable Christmas Meal for local residents.

### x) **RAF Wittering Report**

Mark Davies gave the following report:-

- New Playparks at Wittering - £196,640.80, work has started at Holt Close, old park removed and installation work starts this week. St George's Road Playpark work commences early February and all three parks will be completed by the Easter School Holidays for children and young people to use. Playpark have been funded by RAF Benevolent Fund and they confirmed this week, that this funding was their single largest funding grant approved across the RAF.
- Airplay Youth Work deliver 5 sessions per week across three nights. Monday, Tuesday & Thursday and this is open to any young person in the village both service and civilian. Also deliver a holiday programme each year which includes 4 weeks in the summer. Total number of sessions delivered in 2018 was 167 and the total number of attendees for those sessions was 1,823.
- Youth Drop In facility in St George's Road has been open for 15 years next month and we are planning a celebration/birthday event. We also deliver a Ben Club, a club for 5 to 7 years of age which is held each Monday term time at Spring Wittering Childcare Centre. These are both funded by RAF Benevolent Fund at a total cost of £24,000 per year and we are the only village in Peterborough with a youth service.

We have been successful in obtaining more funding for the Wittering community in the past few months:-

- Relate – Cambridge have secured £20,000 from the Armed Forces Community Covenant to deliver children counselling sessions for 5 to 17 years of age. This includes any child who lives in Wittering both from service and civilian families. Relate are working closely with our welfare team and our catchment schools to deliver this service.

- Wittering Family Centre secured funding of £13,642.00 from RAF Benevolent Fund to deliver sessions for parent and child, stay and play sessions, parenting education, baby yoga, baby massage, sensory toys and support for those families with a child with additional needs. These sessions are available to both service and civilian families.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Wittering Scout Group have secured funding of £4,495 from, the Armed Forces Community Covenant to purchase a trailer. This will support the work delivered by the Scouts for all of the community.
- RAF Wittering have been notified that we have secured funding of £160,000 to repair drainage and resurface two car parks in Parker Road. This car park can be used by both service and civilian community. Just waiting for start date.
- Community Learning Centre+ - now able to access wi-fi within the building at a cost of over £900 which covers the wi-fi for two years. This was funded by Armed Forces Community Covenant. It will give us the ability to offer a greater range of courses in 2019 and we have already started to plan those courses. In 2018 our Personal Learning Advisor organised in partnership with Peterborough Adult College a number of free and paid courses.
- 8 free Courses were offered and sadly 5 were cancelled due to lack of interest. However, Christmas Craft, Spring Flower Arranging and Family Craft was organised and had attendees.
- 3 paid courses, two were cancelled but the Prince2 was delivered and 8 attendees.

We have plans for 2019 within the Community Learning Centre+

- Makaton course started last week - 4 attendees.
- Skills for Work commences late January 2019 & Sugarcraft commences early March 2019.
- We have just submitted another application of £6,000 to the Armed Forces Community Covenant to deliver free Childminding Courses in Wittering to service and civilian community members. We await the outcome to see if we have been successful.
- Other ideas we are looking at include a Sensory room in the Old Police House and Phase Two for Wittering Playparks – Legg Road & Trim trail near Holt Close. Local young people would like to see more benches in the village, especially around the Parish field. We will share more details of their ideas at future Parish Council Meetings.

#### 10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Next Meeting of Wittering Parish Council will take place **at 7.30 pm on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019 in Wittering Bowls' Club Pavilion.**

#### 11. CLOSURE

There being no further business to discuss, **the Chairman** closed the meeting at 10.00 pm

SIGNED

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Chairman

DATE

28/03/19