

During the past year, the Parish Council has met six times in Wittering Bowls' Club Pavilion.

Disappointingly, attendance at meetings by Police Representatives has been non-existent this year as the PCSOs have failed to attend any meeting. Thankfully the level of crime in the village is low.

Several members of the public attended meetings throughout the year and they are always very welcome. Various issues were brought to the Parish Council's attention which varied from dog fouling, overgrown footpaths and motorists parking vehicles dangerously.

Throughout the year, several planning applications were considered and approved.

The Wittering Parish Council Website (www.witteringparishcouncil.co.uk) has proved ideal for people to keep up with the Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings and for other matters that affect the village. The Website has been re-designed and is now easier to use and has a fresh, modern look.

Simon Hurn continues to keep the playing field and churchyard in a neat and tidy condition. The Commonwealth War Grave Commission has refunded the costs incurred by the Parish Council in maintaining the War Graves until the new maintenance contract started.

The Sports Pavilion and Bowls Club Pavilion are well used and much appreciated by residents and visiting football teams and bowls' teams alike. I would like to thank Jon Warters and Roger Paull for their commitment to the Wittering Harriers Junior Football Club. A Storage Shed has been purchased and is proving useful.

The Allotments provide a popular amenity in the village. The Allotments are all rented out and there is a small waiting list for people wanting to rent out an Allotment. I would like to thank Geoff Dunkley for his commitment to the Allotments.

The Parish Council's finances remain on a sound footing, the internal audit has been completed and suggestions from parishioners to improve or add anything to the village are always welcome.

The Parish Hall is hired out on a permanent basis on four evenings per week. In addition, it is hired out for wedding receptions, christening parties, children's parties and other social functions at the weekends. External timber repairs have been carried out and new entrance bollards have been purchased.

A Defibrillator has been purchased for Wittering Primary School.

A grant was made towards the cost of pupils and their parents of Wittering Primary School to attend the Young Voices Concert in Birmingham.

A grant was made towards the cost of taking members of the 2nd Wittering Scout Group to Hemel Hempstead Snow Zone.

Delaine took over the running of the village bus service which resulted in a reduction in the number of buses during the week and no bus service at the weekend.

John Bradshaw continues to be Chairman of the A1/Wittering Flyover Group. A meeting had taken place on 20th March 2019 with Shailesh Vara, MP, John Holdich, Leader of PCC, Diane Lane, Ward Councillor, representatives of the RAF, Geoff Dunkley and himself to progress the campaign. Everyone attending the meeting had been supportive. A business case has been drawn up and this will be taken to Mr C Grayling, Transport Minister in May 2019 and will outline reasons why the current gap in the central reservation should be replaced. These include the danger of the current junction, that many Wittering residents suffer from 'village isolation' because they are cut off from facilities such as doctors and dentists and that carbon emissions are increased because people have to drive north to Stamford in order to travel south from Wittering.

Wg Cdr M Ainsworth, Officer Commanding Support Wing, RAF Wittering has attended several Parish Council Meetings. Mr M Davies, Community Devt Officer, RAF Wittering has also attended the Parish Council Meetings and his commitment and involvement to working with the Parish Council and village residents has been much appreciated.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors for their interest and commitment to the village over the past year.

Richard Roffe
Chairman
May 2019