

WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Wittering Parish Council
held on 5th September 2019 in Wittering Bowls' Club Pavilion

PRESENT

Richard Roffe (Chairman)
John Bradshaw
Gerry Crosbie
Julia Cunnington
Geoff Dunkley
Maxine Palmer
Roger Paul

IN ATTENDANCE

Wg Cdr M Boyle, RAF Wittering
Mark Davies, Community Devt Officer, RAF Wittering
Deirdre McCumiskey, Clerk to the Council
One Member of the Public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Simon Hurn and Jon Warters.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. POLICE MATTERS

i) **Report of Meeting with PS R Reay**

The report of the meeting with PS Reay had been circulated to the Parish Councillors. PS Reay has now been moved to another post and PCSO M Courtney-Hunt has 20 parishes to cover so it is unlikely that he is able to attend Parish Council Meetings on a regular basis. It was noted that speed checks had been undertaken in the village in the last couple of weeks.

4. **MINUTES** of the Annual General Meeting of Wittering Parish Council held on 6th June 2019 were reviewed, approved and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed by:- John Bradshaw **Seconded by:-** Geoff Dunkley

5. MATTERS ARISING

i) **Wittering A1 Flyover Campaign Group**

John Bradshaw reported that the promised meeting with the Minister of Transport has not yet taken place. He had met with the Minister of Defence but this was regarding the possibility of the Red Arrows being based at RAF Wittering when RAF Scampton closes in 2022. He will continue in his quest to meet with the Minister of Transport and will contact Shailesh Vara, MP to support him with this.

ii) **Parish Hall Kitchen Grant Application**

Gerry Crosbie confirmed that the Grant Application made to Mick George had been successful and the Parish Council has been awarded £14,000.00. A meeting to finalise the details and discuss the start date will take place on 11th September 2019 with a representative from QKS who have been awarded the contract. The Parish Council has paid the £1,561.00 Third Party Donation. Once the new kitchen is installed, the Booking

Terms of the Parish Hall will be reviewed and maybe a deposit system will be put in place to ensure the new kitchen is looked after by the hirers. It was noted that some tables and chairs have been stolen from the Parish Hall and 10 replacement tables and 20 replacement chairs have been purchased. The new tables and chairs have been security marked.

iii) **Parish Council Policies**

The Chairman reported that additional policies are currently being worked upon by the Parish Council's consultant and will be circulated once they have been completed.

iv) **Report on Wittering Flower Festival**

Geoff Dunkley confirmed that the Wittering Flower Festival had been a great success.

v) **Parking Issues outside All Saints' Church**

It was noted that the parking issues outside All Saints' Church had been resolved since the culprit has moved house.

vi) **Church Road Housing Development**

It was noted that there had been no further reports of issues at this development.

vii) **Proposed Scout Hut**

It was noted that there was no update on this issue.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

i) **Request from Thorpe Hall Hospice (Sue Ryder) to hold an event in conjunction with local Parish Councils**

It was agreed to contact Rachel Hancock, Community Fundraiser Trainee to ask for more details information about what is being proposed.

ii) **Thank you letter for donation to Wittering Flower Festival**

This was noted.

iii) **Thank you letter for donation to Wittering Bowls' Club 50 Years' Celebration**

This was noted.

iv) **E-mail from Robin Dunlop re Old Oundle Road, Wittering**

Robin Dunlop has offered, at his own expense, to take the bushes and trees away and re-shape the bank at the blind corner, exiting and entering Wittering from Old Oundle Road. The Parish Councillors were happy to accept this generous offer.

v) **E-mail from Robin Dunlop re Access to the Back Gardens of 28 and 29 Main Street Cottages, Wittering**

Robin Dunlop has requested historical information/evidence of access to the back gardens of 28 and 29 Main Street Cottages by past generations as Annington Homes are trying to deny this claim. The Chairman confirmed that he would be happy to provide this.

7. **FINANCE**

i) Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 31st August 2019 was reviewed and approved as presented.

Proposed by:- John Bradshaw **Seconded by:-** Geoff Dunkley

ii) **Annual Audit 2018-2019**

It was noted that the External Auditors have confirmed that are satisfied with the Annual Return and it will be signed off by an engagement lead.

iii) **Overpayment made by War Graves Commission towards cost of Maintaining the War Graves**

Roger Paull confirmed that he has inspected the War Graves and that they are now being maintained satisfactorily. After a discussion and a vote, it was agreed to pay back the overpayment of £1,834.00 immediately, rather than wait until a final demand is sent.

iv) **Parish Hall Roof Fund**

It was agreed to ring-fence a sum of money for the future replacement of the Parish Hall Roof and this will be kept in a separate bank account.

8. PUBLIC FORUM

David Standish-Leigh informed the Parish Council that he has taken over as Treasurer of the Wittering Sports & Social Club. He intends to attend future Parish Council Meetings to represent the Club and to keep the Parish Councillors informed of any changes within the Club. The Chairman will continue to look after the Club's building and confirmed that no work will be undertaken in the building without the consent of the Parish Council. It was noted that the Club is due to be decorated and refurbished and this will be included in the budget for 2020-2021.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i) **Action for Children Signage**

Mark Davies was informed that the land where Action for Children wanted to erect signage did not belong to the Parish Council so the Parish Council could not give permission for the signage.

ii) **Unoccupied Houses on Boxer Road**

Gerry Crosbie reported that the gates and garages belonging to the unoccupied houses on Boxer Road are unlocked which could give easy access to thieves/vandals. Mark Davies confirmed that the RAF will deal with this concern.

iii) **Young Voices' Concert**

Julia Cunnington and Maxine Palmer requested financial support from the Parish Council to fund the coaches for the Wittering Primary School children attending this event in Birmingham. They agreed to find out how many coaches will be needed for the children and to obtain a quotation from a local bus company. They were advised they could also apply for financial support from the Wittering Parish Room Fund for this event.

iv) **Harvest Supper**

Geoff Dunkley confirmed that the Harvest Supper will take place at 6.00 pm on 7th September 2019 in All Saints' Church. Tickets are available from the Phoenix Shop.

v) **RAF Report**

New Personnel

Introduce new Officer Commanding Support Wing – Wing Commander Maggie Boyle. Previously served here in the Personnel Management role and delighted to be back here. We also have a new Station Commander, Group Captain Jo Lincoln. She is new to RAF Wittering and will be touring the facilities we have during the next few weeks. The Station and Community spirit is exceptional, and we hope we can continue to build on the excellent relationship that the team here have already forged with you all.

Station Developments in Progress

Work is still ongoing to decide the best option for the future suitable basing of the units currently based at RAF Scampton. Three sites have currently been identified as potentially suitable future locations for the Red Arrows: RAF Wittering in Cambridgeshire, RAF Leeming in North Yorkshire and RAF Waddington in Lincolnshire. Any basing decision for the Red Arrows will depend on securing a suitable area of airspace in which they can conduct their aerobatic training. The RAF is in talks with the Civil Aviation Authority and any proposed course of action will follow standard airspace change processes, which includes public consultations currently being carried out at these locations. The proposal's progress through the process can be followed on the [Civil Aviation Authority's airspace change portal](https://airspacechange.caa.co.uk/PublicProposalArea?pid=105) at this link: <https://airspacechange.caa.co.uk/PublicProposalArea?pid=105>.

Supporting Our Community

Airplay Youth delivered a successful holiday provision for 8 to 17 years of age. Record number attending our 4-week programme for both service and civilian young people. Programme included trips to Battlefield Live, Twin Lakes, Wicksteed Park, Airfest Music residential, residential in London staying two nights on HMS Belfast, movie nights, arts and craft sessions and a joint party to celebrate centenary of the RAF Benevolent

Fund and our own Youth Drop In facility which has been open in the village for 15 years. Attendees at the Party included staff from the original first night, plus young people who are now adults. Station Commander Group Captain Jo Lincoln and other guests.

Over the summer holidays we also delivered Ben Club sessions, a club for 5 to 7 years of age, but numbers attending were low.

From September Airplay Youth Team will deliver 5 sessions across three nights, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Youth Club will move back to the Community Centre. Thanks for Wittering Primary School for helping us out for the whole year. Ben Club will also reopen from Monday and this club is open to everyone from this community. These are both funded by the RAF Benevolent Fund at a total cost of £24,000 per year and we are the only village in Peterborough delivering a youth service.

Relate-Cambridge continue to deliver children counselling sessions for 5 to 17 years of age. This includes any child who lives in Wittering both service and civilian families. Relate are working closely with our welfare team and our catchment schools to deliver this service. So far 19 children/young people have benefitted from this support across all three schools. Currently funding received from Armed Forces Covenant for £20,000. We are keen to continue this service and maybe trying to expand to other areas. This funding finishes in January 2020 and we are already exploring funding options to continue this service.

RAF Wittering and Head from Wittering Primary School are working in partnership to secure funding to ensure the Wittering Family Centre continues to be sustainable to Wittering community. We are investigating several funding stream options. RAF Wittering this week is submitting a funding application to Armed Forces Covenant within "Families in Stress" theme. This application is within the region of £90,000. We will discover whether we have been successful or not in February 2020.

Defence Infrastructure Organisation have completed the work within the two car parks in Parker Road. This car park can be used by both service and civilian community.

We are working in partnership with Peterborough City Council Early Years team to deliver childminding course in Wittering to service and civilian community members. Just waiting confirmation of a start date in September/October. Funding has already been secured via Armed Forces Covenant of £6,000. This will be a heavily subsidised course for all.

Citizen Advice Rutland, RAF Wittering Adviser will be delivering a weekly session at the CLC+ building every Thursday 9am to 10am. No appointment necessary, just walk in. Sessions funded by RAF Benevolent Fund and are available to all.

10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

11. **CLOSURE**

There being no further business to discuss, **the Chairman** closed the meeting at 8.50 pm

SIGNED

Chairman

DATE

28/11/19