

WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Wittering Parish Council held on 28th November 2019 in Wittering Bowls' Club Pavilion

PRESENT

Richard Roffe (Chairman)
Gerry Crosbie
Julia Cunnington
Geoff Dunkley
Simon Hurn
Maxine Palmer
Jon Warters

IN ATTENDANCE

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from John Bradshaw, Roger Paull and Diane Lamb.

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. Maxine Palmer reported that three cars had been broken into at Grange Farm recently. Residents are reminded to be vigilant at all times.

4. MINUTES of the Meeting of Wittering Parish Council held on 5th September 2019 were reviewed, approved and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed by:- Jon Warters

Seconded by:- Maxine Palmer

5. MATTERS ARISING

i) **Wittering A1 Flyover Campaign Group**

John Bradshaw had sent a report confirming that the Parish Council has been offered a meeting with the Transport Minister on 8th March 2020. Two earlier appointments had been cancelled as the Transport Minister had moved to a different post and the General Election had been announced.

ii) **Parish Hall Kitchen Grant Application**

Gerry Crosbie confirmed that the refurbishment of the Parish Hall Kitchen has been completed except for the fitting of a circuit breaker next week. Thanks were expressed to Gerry Crosbie for all his hard work in obtaining the grant and supervising the refurbishment.

iii) **Young Voices' Concert & DARE – Wittering Primary School**

A letter had been received from Corinna Selby, KS2 Co-Ordinator for financial support for the cost of two coaches for pupils and staff to attend the Young Voices' Concert in Birmingham in January 2020. There will also be a cost of £500 for additional staff to comply with safeguarding regulations. A letter had been received from Rhys Thrower, Headteacher for financial support for Year 6 pupils to take part in an education programme called DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education). After discussion, Simon Hurn proposed a donation of £3,000 is given to Wittering Primary School for these two events; this was seconded by Julia

Cunnington and passed by a vote with four Parish Councillors in favour and three Parish Councillors abstaining.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

There had been no further correspondence received that had not already been circulated.

7. FINANCE

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

Proposed by:- Jon Warters **Seconded by:-** Geoff Dunkley

ii) **Wittering Parish Hall Roof Fund**

It was agreed to ring-fence £25,000 for the future replacement of the Parish Hall Roof and this will be kept in a separate bank account. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Hall had been built in 1963 and was therefore now sixty-six years old, although it is currently in good repair. It was noted that the Parish Hall will need to be replaced using modern building materials in the future.

iii) **Budget and Precept 2020-2021**

The Chairman and the Clerk have had initial discussions regarding the Budget and Precept 2020-2021 and it is likely that the Precept will either remain the same or be reduced slightly but this will be agreed and finalised at the January Parish Council Meeting.

iv) **Community Infrastructure Levy Fund**

It was noted that the Parish Council has been allocated £5,906.96 to spend "to support the development of the area". It was agreed to keep this as a separate fund in the accounts.

8. PUBLIC FORUM

David Standish-Leigh, Treasurer of Wittering Sports & Social Club reported on recent meetings with the Police Licensing Officer and the Peterborough City Council Licensing Officer. He explained that currently the patio area and the Parish Hall are not covered by the Club's Licence. After discussion, it was agreed to allow the Sports & Social Club to apply for a Licence for the patio but not for the Parish Hall. A Temporary Events Notice will have to be applied for the Parish Hall (should the hirer wish to allow alcoholic drinks purchased from the Sports & Social Club to be consumed in the Parish Hall)

Maureen Dewhurst had expressed her concerns when Robin Dunlop began the planned work removing the bushes and trees and re-shaping the bank at the blind corner, exiting and entering Wittering from Old Oundle Road. The work has been temporarily stopped but it is hoped that it will re-commence shortly once Robin Dunlop has spoken to Maureen Dewhurst.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i) **Representative on the Wittering Parish Room Fund**

Geoff Dunkley agreed to replace the Chairman as the Representative on the Wittering Parish Room Fund.

ii) **Fence Posts/Fencing on the Playing Field**

There had been a concern about a car being driven on the playing field but this is no longer an issue. It was agreed that it would be too impractical to insert fence posts or erect fencing on the playing field.

iii) **205 Bus Route/Bus Survey**

It was noted that the 205 Bus Route will end on 20th December 2019 as the bus company states that it is suffering from "heavy operating losses" on the route due to a shortage of passengers. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority has launched a public survey on bus services and a leaflet about the survey has been distributed to every household in the village. Thanks were expressed to Julia Cunnington for organising this.

iv) BT Kiosk

It was agreed not to adopt the two redundant BT Kiosks in the village as they cannot be put to any useful purpose. BT will therefore remove the BT Kiosks.

v) Fund-Raising Event for the Royal British Legion

Marie Dunkley had sent her thanks for the use of the Parish Hall for a fund-raising event on 10th November 2019 which had raised £1,200 for the Royal British Legion Geoff Dunkley reported that £4,752.28 had been raised in the village for the Royal British Legion.

vi) Trees in the Churchyard

Geoff Dunkley reported that a quotation of £415.30 had been received for a comprehensive survey of all the trees in the Churchyard. It was agreed to go ahead with the quotation. Thanks were expressed to Marie Dunkley who is retiring from looking after the War Memorial Garden but this work will be continued by Pamela Miller.

vii) Larkfleet Homes Development

Geoff Dunkley reported that Larkfleet Homes have put in Non-material amendment - Sub-station to be installed on the northern smaller area of POS and minor revisions to the planning layout (the removal of some garages) to Planning Permission 16/01361/FUL.

viii) National Lottery Grants

Maxine Palmer reported that National Lottery Grants of £100 - £1,000 are available for community groups to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the National Lottery. The grants can be applied for using a simple form.

ix) Free LED Lighting

Maxine Palmer reported that free LED Lighting is available for public buildings.

x) Hedge Trimmings/Fly-Tipping

Simon Hurn reported that he had cleared up hedge trimmings that had been left behind after work on the hedges around the Bowls' Club. It was noted that the fly-tipping on Old Oundle Road has kindly been removed by Robin Dunlop.

xi) Free Trees

Simon Hurn and Maxine Palmer will liaise with each other regarding the free trees that are available from the Peterborough Environment City Trust.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Next Meeting of Wittering Parish Council will take place **at 7.30 pm on 30th January 2020 in Wittering Bowls' Club Pavilion.**

11. CLOSURE

There being no further business to discuss, **the Chairman** closed the meeting at 9.10 pm

SIGNED

Chairman

DATE

30/01/20