

WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Wittering Parish Council held on 30th January 2020 in Wittering Bowls' Club Pavilion

PRESENT

Richard Roffe (Chairman)
John Bradshaw (Vice Chairman)
Gerry Crosbie
Julia Cunnington
Geoff Dunkley
Simon Hurn
Roger Paull

IN ATTENDANCE

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

John Bradshaw, Vice Chairman chaired the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Wg Cdr M Boyle, Gavin Elsey, Diane Lamb and Maxine Palmer.

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 Meeting of Wittering Parish Council held on 28th November 2019 were reviewed, approved and signed by John Bradshaw. It was noted that the Parish Hall is fifty-five years old (not sixty-six years old as reported in the previous Minutes) as it was completed in 1964.

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

5. MATTERS ARISING

i) **Wittering A1 Flyover Campaign Group**

John Bradshaw will be attending a meeting with Baroness Vere of Surbiton, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport and Shailesh Vara, MP at Westminster on 9th March 2020. Mark Davies will find out whether the MoD can be represented and John Bradshaw will find out whether a representative of Peterborough City Council can attend. Thanks were expressed to John Bradshaw for his hard work in trying to progress the campaign for a Wittering A1 Flyover.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- i) Finding Fitness Ltd – Roger Paull agreed to liaise with Jack Hubbard of Finding Fitness Ltd regarding the possible provision of a summer sports' holiday club in the village during the summer holidays.
- ii) Good Neighbours' Scheme Mini Bus – this was noted but it was agreed that no further action will be taken.

7. FINANCE

- i) Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 31st December 2019 was reviewed and approved as presented.
Proposed by:- Simon Hurn **Seconded by:-** Geoff Dunkley
- ii) **Approval of Quotation for Tree Work in All Saints' Churchyard**
It was agreed to approve the quotation of £975.00 plus VAT (which does not include the removal of the stump of the Ash Tree) from Sam Trimmer, Tree Services. Thanks were expressed to Simon Hurn for his hard work in keeping the churchyard in a neat and tidy condition.
- iii) **Approval of Budget and Precept 2020-2021**
Richard Roffe outlined the Budget which had already been circulated to the Parish Councillors. It was agreed to maintain the Precept at £55,000 for 2020-2021. However, due to a change in the Council Tax Base this will mean an increase from £65.36 to £66.49 (1.73%) for a Band D property. The Precept was approved by all the Parish Councillors.

8. PUBLIC FORUM

John Hare, Wittering Bowls' Club asked for an update on the purchase of the canopy for the Bowls' Club Pavilion which had been agreed at a previous Parish Council Meeting. He was informed that the Parish Council will need several quotations for the canopy before it can be purchased and he agreed to obtain three quotations by the next Parish Council Meeting.

David Standish-Leigh reported that David Maylor, Vicar of All Saints' Church is retiring in April 2020. It was noted that grants could be applied for from Mick George/Augean for the work that needs to be undertaken in the church and also to replace the broken bench in the churchyard. It is hoped that the bells can be rung on 8th May 2020 (VE Day) but an inspection of the bell tower needs to be undertaken. It was agreed that the Parish Council will fund an inspection of the bell tower.

Mark Davies gave a report on various activities that are being organised by RAF Wittering and an update on the future of village properties that are owned by the MoD. He plans to take the young people of the village onto the playing field to discuss where benches could be sited (subject to the approval of the Parish Council).

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- i) Gerry Crosbie expressed his concerns about the informal relationship between the Wittering Sports & Social Club and the Parish Council as he feels there should be a more formal agreement/contract in place which could set down the duties, responsibilities and financial obligations of both organisations. It was agreed that Gerry will meet with Geoff Dunkley to draw up a draft agreement/contract by the next Parish Council Meeting.
- ii) Simon Hurn reported that there is a leak down Old Oundle Road (near to the road sign). He will dig a grip into the existing drain.
- iii) Simon Hurn reported that he will trim back the trees near the boundary fence of the allotment.
- iv) Gerry Crosbie reported that the gate/garage at 1 Boxer Road still needs repairing.
- v) Gerry Crosbie reported that a bedroom light is on 24 hours per day at 11 Boxer Road (an empty property)
- vi) Julia Cunnington reported that the key is missing for the Community Noticeboard outside the Cost Cutter Shop. Mark Davies stated that it will be opened up as all the information contained in it is extremely out-of-date.
- vii) Richard Roffe reported that he had spoken to Mr R Thrower, Headteacher at Wittering Primary School who had thanked the Parish Council for the two donations that were made at the last Parish Council Meeting.
- viii) Richard Roffe reported that coaches/cars had blocked Church Road on the day of the Living Voices Concert and it would be preferable if the coaches/cars parked in the Parish Hall car-park next year.

10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Next Meeting of Wittering Parish Council will take place at 7.30 pm on 12th March 2020 in Wittering Bowls' Club Pavilion.

11. **CLOSURE**

There being no further business to discuss, **John Bradshaw** closed the meeting at 9.30 pm

SIGNED

Chairman

DATE

12/03/20