

# WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Wittering Parish Council  
held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 in Wittering Parish Hall

## PRESENT

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

## IN ATTENDANCE

Deirdre McCumiskey (Clerk)

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from 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. No crimes were reported.

### 4. MINUTES of the Meeting of Wittering Parish Council held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 were reviewed, approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

### 5. MATTERS ARISING

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

John Bradshaw stated that, disappointingly, no date has been set for the planned meeting with Baroness Vere of Surbiton, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport. She has made it clear that there will be another Road Investment Strategy to deal with projects beyond 2025 and it is therefore important that Wittering Parish Council and all other parties concerned make their representations known to Highways England. John Bradshaw will contact Shailesh Vara, MP to arrange a meeting with him. Thanks were expressed to John Bradshaw for his persistence and determination in trying to move forward with this.

#### ii) **Wittering Sports & Social Club Agreement**

Gerry Crosbie had organised the signing of the Sports & Social Club's written agreement with the Parish Council and the Parish Councillors expressed their satisfaction that this had put the relationship between the two organisations onto a more legal footing. No changes can be made in the Sports & Social Club without the permission of the Parish Council. Thanks were expressed to Gerry Crosbie and Geoff Dunkley for their hard work and commitment in drawing up the agreement.

#### iii) **Wittering Youth Forum – Request for Picnic Tables**

There was no update on the request for picnic tables from the Wittering Youth Forum.

#### iv) **Kissing Gate and Warning Sign on Path adjacent to the A1**

Roger Paull stated that a kissing gate and warning sign had been erected on the path adjacent to the A1.

v) **Land in the Village**

The Clerk had obtained an OS map and the Chairman agreed to mark-up who owns what land in the village for future reference.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- i) PCC – Parish Councillor Parish Remuneration Panel Questionnaire (already circulated and responded to)
- ii) Jean Jackson – Wittering Food Hub (the Parish Council discussed the possibility of holding a small gathering in the Parish Hall to formally thank the volunteers for their hard work in helping elderly and vulnerable residents during the first Lockdown. Unfortunately, this cannot be planned until the current Covid 19 Restrictions are eased but will be looked at again in early 2021).
- iii) Jean Jackson – Speeding Motorists (the Parish Council will contact the Road Safety Partnership, Peterborough City Council to ascertain what measures can be put in place to reduce the number of speeding motorists and improve the safety of both pedestrians and other motorists).
- iv) Lee Booker – Wittering Premier Football Club (the Parish Councillors did not feel they could support any of the proposals regarding dug outs, pitch improvements and flood lights because the playing field is a community resource available for use by all residents and want to retain it as a facility for children to play on and for dog walkers, etc. The Parish Councillors suggested that he continues to negotiate any future plans with the Wittering Junior Football Committee.

7. **FINANCE**

- i) Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 was reviewed and approved as presented.  
**Proposed by:-** John Bradshaw                      **Seconded by:-** Roger Paull

v) **Other Financial Matters**

No quotations have been received for a canopy for the Bowls' Club Pavilion. No quotation had been received for the extension to the compound used by the Football Club. It was agreed to transfer £25,000 into the Parish Hall Roof Fund as proposed by John Bradshaw and seconded by Geoff Dunkley. Garry Crosbie suggested that printer cartridges can be bought more cheaply direct from the manufacturer and it was agreed the Clerk will arrange to do this in the future.

vi) **Community Infrastructure Levy Fund Grant Applications**

The eight applications were discussed and voted upon. The following applications were successful:

- Wittering Sports & Social Club – replacement carpet (£2,654)
- All Saints' Church, Wittering – electrical work (£3,500)
- Wittering Primary School – computers (£7,000)
- Wittering Allotment Club – rotavator and shed (£1,085)
- Wittering Scouts' Group – play equipment, arts and craft supplies (£2,000)
- Wittering Under 11s Football Team – 15 football coats (£493.50)

The above totals £16,543.50 and so there is £1,237.38 left over and this will be ring-fenced to help local organisations in the future.

8. **PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no Members of the Public present.

9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- i) **Wittering Food Hub**

The e-mail from the Wittering Food Hub was read and discussed. The Parish Councillors agreed to thank the volunteers for all their help to elderly and vulnerable residents during the first Lockdown and to suggest if they need any funds to resume their activities in future, they should contact the Parish Council accordingly.

ii) **The current physical mess of the Wittering Sports & Social Club**

It was noted that the Wittering Sports & Social Club is still undergoing refurbishment but it is hoped that the work will be completed soon.

iii) **Communications with the Parish Council**

It was noted that due to personal matters, it had been more difficult to ensure that there was good communication both within the Parish Council and with outside organisations but it is hoped that any concerns about this have now been resolved.

iv) **The Asset Register**

Gerry Crosbie asked if he could see a copy of the Asset Register. The Clerk will send this to him

v) **Voting by E-mail**

Gerry Crosbie has produced a paper detailing the process of the Parish Councillors voting by e-mail should this be necessary in the future. The Clerk will check any legislation that has to be adhered to whilst using this process.

vi) **Wittering Football Club and Wittering Bowls' Club**

The Parish Councillors asked Gerry Crosbie if he would be willing to draft an Agreement with the Parish Council and Wittering Football Club and the Parish Council and Wittering Bowls' Club to put the relationship between the two organisations onto a more legal footing. Gerry Crosbie agreed to do this with the help of Roger Paull. A peppercorn rent had been paid by both organisations to the Parish Council some years ago and will be included in the Agreement.

vii) **Footpath down Back Road**

It was noted that some residents have requested a footpath to be built down Back Lane but this land is in private ownership and the Parish Council has no say in how the land is used.

viii) **Brock Close**

Geoff Dunkley stated that the dustcart is unable to collect the wheelie bins from Brock Close due to cars being parked near to and opposite the entrance. The Clerk will contact the Highways Department and asked that yellow lines are painted near to and opposite the entrance.

ix) **Lime Tree Avenue Footpath**

The Chairman has spoken to Martin Witherington about the Lime Tree Avenue Footpath (footpath adjacent to the chicken farm in Thornhaugh) of which it has been acknowledged that there is sufficient evidence in the application to make an Order under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to record on the Definitive Map and Statement a public footpath along the application route. PCC will issue the order on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020 (the end of the statutory consultation period). Thanks were expressed to Martin Witherington for his persistence and determination. Lee Moore, Footpaths Officer has confirmed that all signage will be provided by PCC once the final stage of reinstatement is complete.

x) **Tree Trimming**

Geoff Dunkley will liaise with Simon Hurn regarding undertaking tree trimming at the side of the allotments.

xi) **Signage in the Playground**

It was noted that the signage in the playground near to Wittering Primary School has been eroded and needs re-painting. The Clerk will report it to Peterborough City Council

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Wittering Parish Council will take place at 7.30 pm on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Venue to be confirmed nearer the time.

12. **CLOSURE**

There being no further business to discuss, **the Chairman** closed the meeting at 9.50 pm

SIGNED

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Chairman

DATE

14/01/21

