

# WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of Wittering Parish Council held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021 via Zoom

### PRESENT

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

### IN ATTENDANCE

Paul Vasey, Site Manager, Harriers Rest, Larkfleet Homes Housing Development  
Mark Davis, Community Devt Officer, RAF Wittering  
Two Members of the Public  
Peter Slinger, Prospective Green Party Candidate for the Ward Elections  
Deirdre McCumiskey, Clerk

Paul Vasey, Site Manager of Harriers Rest, the Larkfleet Homes Housing Development attended the meeting. He gave an update of the progress of the site so far. He reported that several houses have been sold off-plan. The aim is to have 39 properties built by June 2022 when a show home will be opened. It was noted that the signage for visiting deliveries/contractors has improved. He confirmed that the grass verges will be reinstated at the end of the project. He is looking to employ a full-time labourer for the site and Maxine Palmer agreed to put this vacancy onto a Wittering Facebook site. It was noted that Nicola Blake has been in discussions with Paul Vasey regarding a 'hedgehog highway' to help protect the hedgehogs' habitat. Peter Slinger mentioned that the planning permission was given when the 205 Delaine bus route went through the village and Paul Vasey agreed to investigate this.

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Wg Cdr Margaret Boyle, RAF Wittering.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Simon Hurn declared an interest in his on-going work for the Parish Council. John Bradshaw and Geoff Dunkley declared an interest in Item 7 ii) Capital Expenditure in the Churchyard.

### 3. POLICE MATTERS

There were no police representatives present. No crimes were reported.

### 4. MINUTES of the Meetings of Wittering Parish Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were reviewed and approved. **Proposed by:-** John Bradshaw      **Seconded by:-** Simon Hurn

### 5. MATTERS ARISING

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

John Bradshaw stated that a Zoom Meeting took place on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021 attended by James Palmer the Mayor of Peterborough & Cambridgeshire, a Highways England Officer, Shailesh Vara MP, John Bradshaw

and Geoff Dunkley. Peterborough City Council put forward a business case for a flyover for the next Road Improvement Programme RIS3 in 2025. There will be another meeting in April 2021. There will be a separate meeting with Highways England to discuss the possibility of closing the central reservation and any other options.

ii) **Wittering Football Club and Wittering Bowls' Club Agreements**

The Wittering Football Club Agreement has been completed and signed but the Wittering Bowls' Club Agreement has not yet been completed. It was noted that two Peterborough football teams will no longer be using the playing field as they have relocated to Easton-on-the-Hill, but the Wittering Football Team will continue to use on the playing field.

iii) **Wittering Community Food Hub**

The Wittering Community Food Hub had submitted an excellent power point presentation on its activities and achievements since the beginning of the year which had already been circulated to the Parish Councillors. It will be closing down shortly due to the lifting of the Covid Restrictions and any surplus funds will be returned to the Parish Council and will be ring-fenced in case there is a need to re-start the Wittering Community Food Hub in the future. Thanks were expressed to all those involved. It was noted that Peterborough City Council is providing initiatives for residents who have mental health difficulties.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

i) **2<sup>nd</sup> Wittering Scouts (Gillian Amos)**

It was agreed that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wittering Scouts could have use of the Parish Hall (when it is available) free-of-charge. It was agreed that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wittering Scouts could erect a shed to store its equipment within the football compound. It was agreed to invite Gilliam Amos to attend the next Parish Council Meeting to discuss the request for guidance and support for obtaining land and storage space for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wittering Scouts. Mark Davis will investigate whether an empty RAF property could be used for meetings.

ii) **Grit Bins (Sandra Cooper)**

It was agreed not to go ahead with this request as it was felt that the grit may be stolen (as it has from other grit bins) and there had only been six days of snow this year so there was not the need for a grit bin.

iii) **Noise Disturbance (James Felce)**

Mark Davis confirmed he has been in communication with James Felce regarding his on-going issue with noise and disturbance caused by young people hanging around the hut beside the basketball court on St George's Road. He had encouraged James Felce to call the police when incidents occur. He had spoken to James Felce on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 who told him that the noise levels had lessened recently.

iv) **Curry Wagon (Ajay Chauhan)**

It was agreed not to allow Ajay Chauhan to sell food from the Parish Hall carpark. This is because there are already three takeaways in the village who must pay Business Rates and it was felt that the carpark should be kept as a carpark.

v) **Fly-tipping (Kerry Williams)**

It was reported that fly tipping that has yet again happened at the garages behind Lale Walk, as you come from Maltby Close. A young man was seen taking rubbish around from the front of the house and later it was all dumped around the bins and the bins had been unsealed and refilled. There is also oil spilled near the garages from one of the men who rents it from when he fixed a car and just covered it up with leaves.

7. **FINANCE**

i) Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021 was reviewed and approved as presented.

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

ii) **Capital Expenditure in the Churchyard (£3,180 held by Peterborough City Council)**

The Clerk had established that when capital work has been undertaken in the churchyard, a copy of the invoice must be sent to Peterborough City Council who will then release the funds to the Parish Council.

iii) **Quote for a canopy for the Bowls' Club Pavilion (£1,743.24 Fordson Developments)**

It was agreed not to go ahead with this quotation as it was felt that the Bowls' Club has enough funds available to pay for this as they received a £10,000 grant from Peterborough City Council in 2020.

iv) **Quote for fencing and gates for the Football Pavilion (£2,173.49 Fordson Developments)**

It was agreed to go ahead with this quotation. The Clerk will contact Fordson Developments.

v) **CAPALC Affiliation (£563.45)**

It was agreed not to pay this subscription as the Parish Councillors felt there is enough information on Parish Council matters available for free on the Internet.

vi) **Wittering Sports & Social Club**

There had been a request from Wittering Sports & Social Club for £320 funding for the purchase of a non-slip commercial grade flooring rather than a carpet for which the Parish Council had already donated £2,465. It was agreed to invite a representative from the Wittering Sports & Social Club to discuss this request at the next Parish Council Meeting. It was noted that the Sports & Social Club is due to re-open on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021. Gerry Crosbie stated that the Minutes and Accounts of the Sports & Social Club will be put onto the Website.

8. **PUBLIC FORUM**

The Member of the Public asked whether it would be possible to resurface the grass verges in the cul-de-sac on Church Road so that residents could park their cars outside their house. Some residents are already doing this which has meant that the grass has been churned up. It was acknowledged that these houses were built in the 1940s when fewer residents owned cars which is why there are no parking spaces/garages. This is not something that the Parish Council is able to undertake. The Clerk was asked to contact Peterborough City Council to request that the tree stump is removed to ground level which will mean that this area can be used for parking a car.

9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

i) **Planning Application 21/00223 Land owned by church to be consecrated to allow the burial of human remains to take place at All Saints Church, Church Road Wittering**

This was noted and supported.

ii) **NHS Blood & Transplant Service**

This organisation is looking into the possibility of using the Parish Hall for blood donation sessions.

iii) **Drains and Potholes**

It was noted that the drains on Parker Road are still full of mud. It was noted that there are still many potholes in the village. The general condition of the roads is poor. The Clerk will report this to Peterborough City Council.

iv) **RAF Report**

Mark Davis will forward a RAF Report to the Clerk for distribution to the Parish Councillors.

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual General Meeting of Wittering Parish Council will take place at 7.00 pm on 20th May 2021. Venue to be confirmed nearer the time but likely to be via Zoom.

12. **CLOSURE**

There being no further business to discuss, **the Chairman** closed the meeting at 9.40 pm

SIGNED

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Chairman

DATE

20/05/21

