

Due to the Covid Restrictions, the Parish Council did not hold an Annual Parish Meeting nor an Annual General Meeting in 2020. The Chairman and Vice Chairman remained in their positions.

Therefore, this year's Chairman's Report will cover two years.

In 2019-2020 the Parish Hall met six times in the Bowls' Club Pavilion and during the past year, the Parish Council has met once in Wittering Parish Hall and three times via Zoom.

Disappointingly, attendance at meetings by Police Representatives has been non-existent over the past two years as the PCSOs have failed to attend any meeting. Thankfully the level of crime in the village is low.

Several members of the public have attended meetings throughout the year, and they are always very welcome. Various issues were brought to the Parish Council's attention which varied from dog fouling, overgrown footpaths and motorists parking vehicles dangerously.

Throughout the two years, several planning applications were considered and approved.

The Wittering Parish Council Website (www.witteringparishcouncil.co.uk) has proved ideal for people to keep up with the Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings and for other matters that affect the village.

Simon Hurn continues to keep the playing field and churchyard in a neat and tidy condition. I would like to thank Simon Hurn for his commitment to this.

The Sports Pavilion and Bowls' Club Pavilion are much appreciated by residents and visiting football teams and bowls' teams alike. I would like to thank Jon Warters and Roger Paull for their commitment to the Wittering Junior Football Club.

The Allotments provide a popular amenity in the village. The Allotments are all rented out and there is a small waiting list for people wanting to rent out an Allotment. I would like to thank Geoff Dunkley for his commitment to the Allotments.

The Parish Council's finances remain on a sound footing, the internal audit has been completed and suggestions from parishioners to improve or add anything to the village are always welcome.

The Parish Hall is hired out on a permanent basis on four evenings per week. In addition, it is hired out for wedding receptions, christening parties, children's parties and other social functions at the weekends. Due to the Covid Restrictions there was a loss of income from Parish Hall hirings, but the Parish Council received a £10,000 grant from Peterborough City Council to offset this loss.

Gerry Crosbie made a successful application to Mick George for replacing the existing Parish Hall Kitchen and the Parish Council was awarded £14,000.00. The Parish Council paid the £1,561.00 Third Party Donation. QKS were awarded the contract which was completed in November 2019.

Wittering Parish Council received grants of £11,813.92 and £5,906.96 from the Community Infrastructure Levy Fund. Local organisations were invited to apply for a grant and the following grants were made:-

Wittering Primary School	£7,000
All Saints' Church, Wittering	£3,500
Wittering Sports & Social Club	£2,465
Wittering Scouts	£2,000
Wittering Allotment Society	£1,085
Wittering Food Hub	£800
Wittering Junior Football Club	£480

Delaine Buses Ltd withdrew from running the village bus service in December 2019 and no other bus company was willing to take it over. Residents have the option to use the Stamford and Peterborough CallConnect Services which operate six-days-a-week: 7am-7pm, Monday-Friday, and 7:30am-6:30pm on Saturdays. These services operate in south west Lincolnshire, east Northamptonshire, east Rutland and Peterborough and can be used for direct journeys to Stamford or Peterborough which includes Peterborough City Hospital.

Formal Agreements were drawn up and signed for Wittering Sports & Social Club and Wittering Football Club. A Formal Agreement for Wittering Bowls' Club has still to be completed. I would like to thank Gerry Crosbie and Roger Paull for their commitment to this.

Larkfleet Homes commenced its development that will comprise of 190 three, four and five-bedroom homes in a variety of styles that will be available to move in to from Spring 2021. Larkfleet Homes want to manage the Parish Council's expectations – they are building in a densely populated area and they understand the area has key workers and lots of parked cars. They said things will go wrong and it will be a challenging relationship. They work with third party/sub-contractors and don't always have full control of timings of deliveries for example. However, they want to work with the residents/village in harmony. They are willing to listen to residents' concerns via the Parish Council and step in as necessary.

The Wittering Community Food Hub was formed at the beginning of the first lockdown in March 2020. Its aim was to support residents to cope with life under the Covid Restrictions both practically and emotionally and included shopping, providing meals, fetching prescriptions, posting letters as well as welfare visits. Due to the lifting of Covid Restrictions in April 2021, it was closed down and any surplus funds will be returned to the Parish Council to be ring-fenced in case there is a need to re-start it in the future. Thanks are expressed to all those involved.

John Bradshaw has been involved with advancing the case for an A1/Wittering Flyover. A Zoom Meeting took place in 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 was 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. I would like to thank John Bradshaw for his commitment to this.

Wg Cdr Margaret Boyle, Officer Commanding Support Wing, RAF Wittering has attended several Parish Council Meetings. Mr M Davies, Community Devt Officer, RAF Wittering has also attended the Parish Council Meetings and his commitment and involvement to working with the Parish Council and village residents has been much appreciated.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors for their interest and commitment to the village over the past two years.

Richard Roffe
Chairman
May 2021