

WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Wittering Parish Council held on 7th July 2022 in Wittering Parish Hall

PRESENT

John Bradshaw (Chairman)
Maxine Palmer (Vice Chairman)
Julia Cunnington
Geoff Dunkley
Joanna Gault
Dave Hughes
Simon Hurn
Emma Wilson-Jones

IN ATTENDANCE

Gavin Elsey, PCC Ward Councillor
Mike Horne, John Clare Countryside Project
8 Members of the Public
Deirdre McCumiskey, Clerk to the Council

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Mark Davis, Community Development Officer, RAF Wittering.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

John Bradshaw and Geoff Dunkley declared an interest in all matters concerning All Saints' Church (as they are Church Wardens). Simon Hurn declared an interest in his on-going work for the Parish Council.

3. POLICE REPORT

i) **Anti-Social Behaviour outside Cost Cutter**

Gavin Elsey agreed to liaise with Cost Cutter regarding the provision of CCTV to try and discourage the anti-social behaviour in this area of the village.

ii) **CCTV Cameras in the Village**

It was agreed that Liz Putterill would contact the resident who had requested that CCTV cameras are installed in certain areas in the village.

iii) **Neighbourhood Watch**

Liz Putterill gave an informative update on the progress of starting up a Neighbourhood Watch group in the village. Maxine Palmer proposed that the Parish Council pay £52 for the signs that will be purchased, this was seconded by Dave Hughes and agreed by all present.

iv) **'Flashing' Speed Sign/Community Speedwatch**

Liz Putterill gave an informative update on the progress of a Community Speedwatch in the village. She explained that 200 residents will need sign up to it via an online survey before it can go ahead. A minimum of six people will be needed to become involved in the project before it can go ahead.

4. **RAF REPORT**

The Chairman read out the report that had been sent by Mark Davis, Community Development Officer. It was agreed to invite him to meet with the Parish Council to discuss whether financial support could be given to help with the decrease in funding for the Youth Provision Summer Programme.

5. **ALLISON HOMES DEVELOPMENT**

There was no-one present from Allison Homes Development but no issues had been raised by residents to the Parish Council.

6. **MINUTES** of the meeting of Wittering Parish Council held on 12th May 2022 were reviewed and approved.

Proposed by:- Simon Hurn **Seconded by:-** Geoff Dunkley

7. **MATTERS ARISING**

i) **Co-Option of two Parish Councillors and Parish Councillor Vacancy**

The Chairman welcomed Julia Cunnington and Dave Hughes to their first meeting following their co-option as Parish Councillors. It was agreed to arrange the interviews for the three applicants for the Parish Councillor vacancy within the next two weeks.

ii) **Wittering A1 Flyover Campaign Group**

Gavin Esley stated that a meeting to discuss the A1 Flyover Campaign had been arranged but needs to be re-arranged due to a change in personnel at PCC.

iii) **Wittering Bowls' Club Agreement**

It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Gerry Crosbie to send her the Draft Bowls' Club Agreement.

iv) **Update on 2nd Wittering Scouts' Plans**

Gillian and Rick Amos were not present, and it was assumed that they had no update on their plans.

v) **Repairs to the Parish Hall/Maintenance of Parish Council Owned Buildings**

Geoff Dunkley had obtained one quotation for the work but will be asked to obtain a further quotation for the work.

vi) **Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

Joanna Gault gave a comprehension report on the successful Wittering Community Jubilee Weekend held in the village on 4th and 5th June 2022. The total net expenditure was £6,401.20 which was significantly less than the maximum grant agreed by the Parish Council. The Parish Council expressed its thanks for all the hard work undertaken by Joanna Gault, Craig Buttress and the Jubilee Event Committee in making the Jubilee Weekend such an enjoyable occasion. Joanna Gault would like to build on this by planning a Summer Fete in 2023. It was agreed that this would be put onto the Agenda for the next meeting.

vii) **Dog Foul Bins**

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had paid for the dog foul bins to be emptied on a weekly basis and it was noted that this was being undertaken. The problem with overflowing dog foul bins has now been dealt with.

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**

A resident had sent in an email requesting that the Parish Council conducts a financial review to see if anything can be done to reduce the Parish Precept. It was agreed that this will be looked at by the Finance Sub-Committee.

9. FINANCE

- i) Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 30th June 2022 was reviewed and approved as presented. The Parish Council expressed its thanks to Richard Roffe, the previous Chairman, for leaving the Parish Council in an excellent financial position upon his retirement.

Proposed by:- Simon Hurn **Seconded by:-** Geoff Dunkley

ii) **Formation of a Finance Sub-Committee**

It was agreed that the Chairman, the Clerk, Joanna Gault and Geoff Dunkley would form a Finance Sub-Committee.

iii) **Wittering Parish Council Contract Procedure Rules**

It was agreed that these will be looked at by the Finance Sub-Committee.

iv) **Community Infrastructure Levy Fund**

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had received £46,948.91 from the Community Infrastructure Levy Fund in May 2022 which she believed was from the Brock Close development. The total currently left to spend is £90,503.77. Russell Pye offered to investigate the Planning Permission Conditions for the Brock Close and Allison Homes Developments to check what future grants are likely to be paid and when they are likely to be paid.

v) **Purchase of a Printer for the Chairman**

Russell Pye kindly offered to donate a printer that he no longer used to the Chairman.

vi) **CAPALC Subscription (£567.65)**

It was agreed to pay this as proposed by Simon Hurn, seconded by Emma Wilson-Jones and agreed by all present. It was agreed that the Clerk will pass on any information that she receives about future PCC Parish Liaison Meetings.

vii) **Wittering Bowls' Club Pavilion (Back Door and Canopy)**

John Hare was not present at the meeting and had not submitted any quotations to the Clerk. Geoff Dunkley has asked for a quotation from Mick Harrison for the work.

viii) **Gift for Richard Roffe**

It was agreed to purchase a garden seat (with a plaque) to acknowledge the previous Chairman's 50 years of service to the Parish Council up to a cost of £500 maximum as proposed by Maxine Palmer, seconded by Joanna Gault and agreed by all present. Simon Hurn will organise this.

10. PUBLIC FORUM

The Members of the Public raised the following matters:-

- The trees along the path by Wittering Primary School need trimming back. It was agreed to ask the PCC Tree Officer if he would be able to visit the village to undertake a brief inspection of the trees or, failing that, if he would provide details of any trees with TPOs on them. Emma Wilson-Jones, Maxine Palmer and Simon Hurn will form a Village Land Sub-Committee to establish who owns what land within the village and to undertake a tree survey.
- Russell Pye (Wittering Sports & Social Club) confirmed that the problem with opening/shutting the patio doors has been dealt with. He explained that the Sports & Social Club is looking to extend their Licence to

cover the Parish Hall, Bowls' Club Pavilion and the Football Club and he was in negotiations with the Licencing Officer. Simon Hurn proposed that the Parish Council will support this plan, and this was seconded by Maxine Palmer and agreed by all present. Russell Pye agreed to let the Parish Council have a copy of the Sports & Social Club Accounts. The Parish Council expressed its thanks for Russell Pye for attending the meeting and his update.

Mike Horne raised the following matters:-

- He gave an update on the John Clare Countryside Project which has organised 354 events, 5 well-being walks, 28 work parties, 2 festivals, 90 projects (36 which had been completed) and the planting of 1.6 km of hedgerow, bulbs, plants and trees.
- He stated that the trees in Burghley Avene and St Mary's Avenue are getting older and the plan is to plant 100 new trees in the village.
- He suggested that 15 -20 Cherry Trees (@ £13 per tree) could be planted in Parker Avenue.
- He suggested that snowdrops and other spring bulbs could be planted in the future.

Gavin Elsey raised the following matters:-

- A new Police Inspector has been appointed and he plans to hold a series of quarterly meetings with PCC Ward Councillors. Gavin is willing to take any Parish Council concerns to the meetings
- He had attended the Jubilee Weekend in Wittering and thought it was an excellent event.
- James Collingridge, PCC Head of Environmental Partnerships is due to meet with the Chairman and himself.
- He has purchased some garden/landscaping equipment that he would be prepared to lend to the Parish Council for tidy-up works within the village
- A meeting to discuss the A1 Flyover Campaign had been arranged but needs to be re-arranged due to a change in personnel at PCC.
- He is still helping 13 out of the 80 families who were given eviction notices to leave rented properties in the village.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i) The Future of the Parish Hall

A short discussion took place as to the future of the Parish Hall which will be 60 years old in 2023 and the likelihood of it needing repairs soon. It was felt that it would not be worthwhile spending monies on repairs and plans for a new Parish Hall/Community Centre/Sports & Social Club need to be commenced. This was proposed by Simon Hurn, seconded by Joanna Gault and agreed by all present. An initial meeting (for Parish Councillors only) will be organised. Gavin Elsey stated he did not feel that PCC would object to this on the basis it would not have to fund or maintain it. Geoff Dunkley stated that he felt the Parish Council should have a small contract with a village builder to undertake small repairs on any of the Parish Council owned buildings. John Bradshaw, Geoff Dunkley and Dave Hughes will form a Parish Council Buildings' Sub-Committee.

ii) Approval of the Standing Orders (already distributed to the Parish Councillors)

The Standing Orders were approved as proposed by Maxine Palmer, seconded by Geoff Dunkley and agreed by all present.

iii) Use of the Playing Field for Commercial Events

It was agreed that this would be looked at by the Finance Sub-Committee and a policy drawn up. In the meantime, the Clerk will ask for details of the Public Liability Insurance Policy and Risk Assessment for all future commercial events that are due to take place on the playing field.

iv) Witter Pickers – Concern for Safety

A resident had sent in an email regarding the amount of broken glass around the Cost Cutter and nearby playground. The Parish Council expressed its thanks for the excellent work that the Witter Pickers undertake to deal with litter within the village.

v) **State of the Playing Field**

The bottom of the playing field is in a poor state due to a damaged wire fence around the goalposts. It was agreed that the damaged wire fence will be removed to enable the contractor to mow around this area.

vi) **All Saints' Church**

Geoff Dunkley reported that, regrettably, there is a dwindling congregation attending the 10.30 am Sunday Service at the church. If this situation does not improve, there are fears that the church would have to close. He stated that everyone was welcome to attend and there was an opportunity to gain experience in bellringing for anyone who was interested. Pamela Miller asked if the Parish Council would contribute to the purchase of shrubs for the memorial garden. This was agreed up to a maximum spend of £100. The Parish Council expressed its thanks for the continued excellent work undertaken by Simon Hurn in keeping the churchyard in a neat and tidy condition. A short discussion took place as to purchasing a Christmas Tree for the village, possibly locating it near to the Village Sign, and having a carol singing event around it. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

vii) **Leases**

It was agreed that the Clerk will send out a copy of the Leases for the Bowls' Club, Football Club and Sports & Social Club to all Parish Councillors.

12. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Meeting of Wittering Parish Council will take place at 7.30 pm on 8th September 2022 at Wittering Parish Hall.

There being no further business to discuss, **the Chairman** closed the meeting at 9.45 pm.

SIGNED

Chairman

DATE

08/09/22