

WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Wittering Parish Council held on 12th January 2023 in Wittering Parish Hall

PRESENT

John Bradshaw (Chairman)
Julia Cunnington
Geoff Dunkley
Dave Hughes
Simon Hurn
Sophie Joy
Maxine Palmer
Iain Wilkinson
Emma Wilson-Jones

IN ATTENDANCE

Richard Clarke and John Stannage, Wansford Parish Council
Mark Davis, Community Development Officer, RAF Wittering
7 Members of the Public
Deirdre McCumiskey, Clerk to the Council

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Gillian Amos, Rick Amos, Joanna Gault, Ally McNaughton, Steve Orr, Helen Robinson and PCC Ward Councillor Gavin Elsey.

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. MINUTES of the meeting of Wittering Parish Council held on 10th November 2022 were reviewed and approved.

Proposed by:- Geoff Dunkley **Seconded by:-** Dave Hughes

4. PUBLIC FORUM

The Members of the Public raised the following matters:-

- Poor service from the Call Connect Bus Service (the Clerk will write to Call Connect) regarding the residents' concerns and complaints. Julia Cunnington gave a short report on a meeting she had attended along with the Chairman and Jean Jackson at Peterborough Town Hall on 19th November 2022 regarding the possibility of reinstating the bus service. A Nottingham bus company has expressed an interest in providing a bus service although maybe on a different route.
- Funding for the Coronation Mile Run due to take place in the village on 6th May 2023. It was agreed to fund the cost of purchasing the medals and bottles of water up to a maximum of £300.

- It was noted that several streetlights are not working in the village. Residents should report them to Peterborough City Council.

5. MATTERS ARISING

i) **Wittering A1 Flyover Campaign Group**

Gavin Elsey was not present so there was no update on this item.

ii) **Future of the Parish Hall Update**

The Chairman reported that a meeting of the Wittering Parish Council Owned Buildings' Sub-Committee had been held when it had been considered that the Parish Council will explore the replacement of the current Parish Hall with a new building. This suggestion was proposed by Dave Hughes, seconded by Simon Hurn and agreed by all present. The Chairman will visit Cardea Community Sports Association Pavilion which has recently been constructed to gather information and ideas that can be used towards building a new Parish Hall. A box will be placed in the Sports & Social Club for residents to make suggestions as to what facilities they would like to see in the new Parish Hall.

iii) **Summer Fete 2023**

Joanna Gault was not present but no update on this item.

iv) **Warm Space Event**

Mark Davis said that an inaugural Warm Space Event will be held 1.00 – 3.00 pm on 30th January 2023 in the Children's Centre and all residents are welcome to attend. Depending on the success of this event, further events may be planned. This event will be advertised on Social Media, but leaflets will be distributed to those residents who do not use Social Media. Mark Davis will co-ordinate this with Julia Cunnington.

v) **Village Defibrillators**

Dave Hughes said that the missing Defibrillator for the Bowls' Club Pavilion has been located. He will undertake regular checks on it and the other Defibrillators in the village. He asked if the Parish Council was willing to purchase six signs (pointing to the locations of the Defibrillator) and two replacement pads for the Defibrillator. This request was proposed by Geoff Dunkley, seconded by Emma Wilson-Jones and agreed by all present. Thanks were expressed to Dave Hughes for his work with the Defibrillators.

vi) **Christmas Carol Singing 2022**

Thanks were expressed to Simon Hurn, Joanna Gault and the Sports & Social Club for their involvement in providing the Christmas Tree, organising the Carol Singing and serving Mulled Wines and Mince Pies at this event.

vii) **Baby Changing Mat in the Parish Hall**

A baby changing mat has been installed in the accessible toilet in the Parish Hall.

6. POLICE REPORT

i) **Neighbourhood Watch Update**

Liz Putterill was not present so there was no update on this item.

7. RAF REPORT

Mark Davis had submitted a RAF Report prior to the meeting and went over the salient points. Thanks were expressed to Mark Davis for his continued hard work within the village, also the support from other personnel at RAF Wittering.

8. ALLISON HOMES DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Paul Vasey, Site Manager reported that 81 homes have been completed and a further five will be completed by the end of January 2023. The development is on track to be completed by October 2024. There had been a few break-ins at the site. Health & Safety scores are good. He will liaise with the Parish Council regarding the donation of a Defibrillator at the site and the donation of a flagpole for the Parish Council.

9. SPORTS' & SOCIAL CLUB REPORT

Russ Pye said the monthly meeting of the Sports & Social Club Committee took place on 11th January 2023. He is in the process of obtaining two quotations for the re-upholstering of the benches and will be looking for funding towards the cost of this. There have been complaints about the cleanliness of the Sports & Social Club and the Parish Hall, and he and the Chairman will meet with the cleaner to deal with this issue. It was agreed to let disabled customers of the Sports & Social Club use the accessible toilet in the Parish Hall.

It was noted that the footpath that runs from the Sports & Social Club along the back of Wittering Primary School needs to be cleaned and a risk assessment done because it is very slippery. The Clerk will contact Peterborough City Council who is responsible for the maintenance of the path.

10. BOWLS' CLUB REPORT

Ally McNaughton was not present but had no update on this item. It was agreed to give the two quotes for the work on the door of the Pavilion to Ally McNaughton and to let the Bowls' Club Committee to decide which quotation to accept.

11. FOOTBALL CLUB REPORT

Dean Moxon and Russ Pye gave a short report. There are approximately 150 children who play football in various teams. The state of the pitches is poor, and the Parish Councillors were asked if they would give permission for repair and restoration works to be undertaken. The Parish Councillors agreed in principle to this as proposed by Simon Hurn, seconded by Emma Wilson-Jones, and agreed by all present. The Football Club will now seek grants for the works. The adult and children's football teams plan to amalgamate and use some of the football pitches at Easton-on-the-Hill.

12. ALL SAINTS' CHURCH REPORT

Rev G Alderson sent the following report:

The church has enjoyed a joyful Christmas time. The Christingle service, and Crib and Carol service, were both well attended. And thanks to Jo Gault for doing most of the organising for the Carols at the tree (and outside the Phoenix and chip shop, and inside the Social Club). We enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies with the kind people of the Social Club. Next year, I'm hoping we can build on this and do something a bit bigger!

13. ALLOTMENTS' REPORT

Geoff Dunkley had reported that there are some small works that need to be undertaken at the allotments' site at the last meeting and Simon Hurn agreed to undertake the required works.

Simon Goldsmith sent the following report:

Allotment occupancy is full with a really healthy waiting list, which is being managed as plot holders leave for pastures new.

I would like some advice on how to expand our allotments across into the rough area adjacent to the current plots. I'm led to believe this was formerly allotment areas that nature had reclaimed.

Geoff and I believe that we could put 16 half plots on this site, and this wouldn't have a detrimental impact on the wooded area to the south which does house a large colony of crows. It also has mains water to service that side.

The Clerk will contact Peterborough City Council to ascertain if they would be willing to lease the land to the Parish Council for the purpose of providing additional allotments for the village.

14. 2ND WITTERING SCOUTS' REPORT

Gillian Amos sent the following report:

Fundraising - *Our current balance, in our Hut Fund is £2700. (Discos, jumble sale, Christmas Craft Fayre, etc). We are continuing to apply for grants and continue our fundraising. We were very fortunate to be chosen to be the recipients of the money collected on the Santa walk about on the 18th December 2022, £360 was raised on the day with a further £25 being donated online through our just giving page, we would like to express our thanks to Father Christmas and his Helpers who turned out in atrocious conditions to entertain our village, it is hugely appreciated so THANK YOU to all involved. (We understand this isn't the WPC event but know that those participating are either involved on the committee or will read the minutes). There are no updates regarding funding, Aegean are due to make a decision shortly on our application and we will update the WPC as soon as we hear back. The Youth Investment Fund have been in touch regarding our application and our initial one has been rejected as they need projects ready to hit the ground running, within the next 3 months and we are not yet in that position unfortunately. Not all bad news, they are running a similar scheme for modular buildings to which they feel we are better suited, the details are being finalised and they will be in touch once they have crossed the t's and dotted the l's. The Parish Room Fund very kindly gave us a grant of £500 to cover the cost of the Tree Survey, Tree Protection Plan, and Risk Assessment we needed to get done before any work starts, this is greatly appreciated and very welcome.*

Planning Conditions - *We now have the Tree Survey etc. from Ligna Consultancy and these are attached to this email for your records. Tree Survey, Tree Protection Plan and Arboricultural Method Statement. The Parish Room Fund very kindly gave us a grant of £500 to cover the cost of the Tree Survey, Tree Protection Plan, and Risk Assessment we needed to get done before any work starts, this is greatly appreciated and very welcome and we would like to express our heartfelt thanks.*

Community Levy Fund – circa £90,000 - *At the last meeting we asked if WPC would consider setting aside £20,000 for us, this was not agreed on the night but was to be discussed at the next Financial Review Meeting, please can you advise if this has taken place and what the outcome was or when the meeting is arranged. Quotes were forwarded following the last meeting to Deirdre.*

15. PARISH COUNCIL OWNED BUILDINGS' SUB-COMMITTEE

The Sub-Committee had met recently. Electricity safety checks have been completed in the Parish Hall, Sports & Social Club, Bowls' Club Pavilion and Football Club Pavilion. Arrangements are being made for the gutters of the buildings to be cleaned out. It was agreed that, although it is hoped that a new Parish Hall will

be replaced, essential repair works will continue to be undertaken in the Parish Hall and Sports & Social Club in the meantime.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

- Martin Brooker, Highways Maintenance & Schemes Commissioning Manager – confirmation that additional signage will be installed along Old Oundle Road. As part of these works, new chevron signs on the western approach of the bend near the pond will better highlight this area of concern.
- Geoff Dunkley – the local RBL's Poppy Appeal raised £4,327.41 in November 2022.
- Jay Allsopp, Website Administrator – confirmation that he has altered the Website so that the Parish Hall Diary can be read on an iPad or a mobile phone.
- NHS Blood and Transport – enquiry about using the Parish Hall for Blood Donor Sessions.

17. FINANCE

- i) Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 31st December 2022 was reviewed and approved as presented.
Proposed by:- Geoff Dunkley **Seconded by:-** Dave Hughes
- ii) **Good Neighbours' Charity Invoice**
It was agreed to pay the Invoice for Membership of the Good Neighbours' Charity for 2022-2023 as proposed by Julia Cunnington, seconded by Emma Wilson-Jones and agreed by all present.
- iii) **2nd Wittering Scouts' Request for £20,000 from Comm Infra Levy Grant to be Ring-Fence for Five Years**
After discussion, it was agreed not to support this request at this time. However, if the 2nd Wittering Scouts were to re-request this when their project has progressed, the request will be reconsidered. It was agreed to invite 2nd Wittering Scouts to join the Wittering Parish Council Owned Buildings Sub-Committee so that they can be involved and give input to the Parish Council's plans to build a new Parish Hall. The Clerk will liaise with Gillian Amos.

18. A1 THORNHAUGH LAYBY IMPROVEMENTS

Richard Clarke and John Stannage of Wansford Parish Council gave a presentation on their reports "A1 Footpaths Carpenters Lodge to Water Newton - A Review for National Highways Designated Funds" and "A1 Footpath Wansford to Russell Hill - A Review for National Highways Designated Funds".

Wittering Parish Council agreed to confirm its support for both reports and will contact Rhys Evans of Atkins and National Highways.

The reports did not extend as far as Wittering to cover the northern part of the route. The Clerk will ask if there is time for any further information that Wittering Parish Council can provide regarding this and, if so, what will be the closing date.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of Wittering Parish Council will take place at 7.30 pm on 9th March 2023 at Wittering Parish Hall.

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

SIGNED

Chairman

DATE

09/03/23