

WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Wittering Parish Council held on 9th March 2023 in Wittering Parish Hall

PRESENT

John Bradshaw (Chairman)
Julia Cunnington
Dave Hughes
Sophie Joy
Maxine Palmer
Emma Wilson-Jones

IN ATTENDANCE

Gavin Eley, PCC Ward Councillor
Rev Gary Alderson
8 Members of the Public
Deirdre McCumiskey, Clerk to the Council

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Geoff Dunkley, Simon Hurn, Iain Wilkinson, Cate Harding, Mark Davis, Stn Cdr Wg Cdr Nikki Duncan, Ruth Angrow, Sophie Vandenberg, Gillian Amos, Rick Amos, and Charlotte Reynolds.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

John Bradshaw declared an interest in all matters concerning All Saints' Church (as he is a Church Warden).

3. PUBLIC FORUM

The Members of the Public raised the following matters:-

- Bollards or a crash barrier to be erected near to the pond on Old Oundle Road. Gavin Eley reported for several reasons, including the makeup of the verge, a crash barrier has been discounted, but Peterborough City Council is exploring putting in more signage and better road markings although there has not been an update on when that might happen.
- Organising a weekly Coffee Morning at the Parish Hall. It was agreed to look at this suggestion again at the end of the summer.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12th JANUARY 2023

The Minutes of the meeting of Wittering Parish Council held on 12th January 2023 were reviewed and approved.

Proposed by:- Dave Hughes

Seconded by:- Joanna Gault

5. MATTERS ARISING

i) Wittering A1 Flyover Campaign Group

Gavin Elsey reported that a report must be written by the end of the year for Highways England who will be preparing its plans for 2025-2030 and he considers that this should be undertaken by Lewis Banks, Principal Sustainable Transport Planning Officer at PCC. He is in the process of advancing this with PCC.

ii) New Parish Hall

The Chairman reported that he had not yet managed to visit Cardea Community Sports Association Pavilion. Emma Wilson-Jones will be visiting it on 11th March 2023 and stated she will take some photographs. It was agreed that the Parish Council needs to start a consultation with residents as to what facilities should be included in the Parish Hall, this can be done on Social Media including a questionnaire and having a suggestion box in the Sports & Social Club. Russ Pye had sent details of a portacabin company to the Chairman for consideration. It was agreed to set up a Teams Meeting with the company, Russ Pye, the Chairman and Dave Hughes.

iii) Summer Fete 2023

Joanna Gault reported that the committee is meeting monthly. It is planned to have traditional games such as a coconut shy and hook-a-duck as well as hiring a band. She asked if it would be possible to increase the allocated grant from £2,000 to £4,000 if necessary. Emma Wilson-Jones proposed this increase, seconded by Sophie Joy and agreed by all present. Thanks were expressed to Joanna Gault and the committee for their hard work.

iv) Warm Space Event

Mark Davis had reported that the two Warm Space Events had been poorly attended and no future events will be organised. It was agreed to look at this subject again at the end of the summer.

v) Good Neighbourhood Scheme

Julia Cunnington reported that four residents had asked for help but there have been no volunteers from the village to date. It was agreed to ask Cate Harding to attend a future meeting to discuss if there are any other ways of attracting volunteers for the scheme.

vi) Village Defibrillators

Dave Hughes reported that a new defibrillator has been installed at the Allison Homes Development and there was the possibility of another defibrillator being installed at the nearby pond.

vii) Village Bus Service

Julia Cunnington had submitted a report prior to the meeting and went over the salient points. A survey has been undertaken with residents. A Bus Service Campaign Group Meeting will be held on 10th March 2023 to discuss further actions and talk about the questions that have been submitted to the Combined Authority in advance of its next meeting. The Chairman, Julia and Jean Jackson will be attending a Public Forum before the Combined Authority goes into a closed meeting about Transport and Infrastructure on 15th March 2023. Supporting letters have been received from Wansford GP Surgery, Wittering Families Centre/School and Peterborough Ramblers (proof of activities coming to the village) and other supporting letters are awaited. It was agreed not to become involved with the potential grant for taxi fares from the Mayor's Charity as it was felt that this did not come under the Parish Council's remit and could be difficult to administer.

6. POLICE MATTERS

There were no police representatives present and nothing formally recorded.

7. RAF REPORT

Mark Davis had submitted a RAF Report prior to the meeting, including details of the Airplay Summer Holiday Programme. He asked if the Parish Council could help with any of these costs? He said if the Parish Council wishes to discuss the programme/costs at a separate meeting that will be fine. He is also seeking funding from Cambs Police Commissioner's Office to see if it will support with funding for our summer holiday provision. Thanks were expressed to RAF Wittering for their youth work in the village.

8. PARISH COUNCIL OWNED BUILDINGS' SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

The Chairman reported that the gutters need cleaning out on Parish Council owned buildings. Russ Pye agreed to get a quote for this.

9. ALLISON HOMES DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Paul Vasey, Site Manager reported that 92 homes have been completed and a further 60-70 are under construction. House sales are slowing down due to the current economic climate, but the development is still on track to be completed by October 2024. Health & Safety scores are good. The dog foul bin has been emptied. A defibrillator has been installed. Julia Cunnington raised the issue of two transport matters that had been included in the approval of Planning Permission for the site, she will send this information to Paul Vasey for him to check out.

10. SPORTS' & SOCIAL CLUB REPORT

Russ Pye reported that the Sports & Social Club is experiencing difficulties as its outgoings are higher than its incomings in the current economic climate. However, both the bingo and quiz sessions are going well. He will send the Accounts to the Parish Council in due course. The Sports & Social Club's AGM will take place within the next two months.

11. BOWLS' CLUB REPORT

Ally McNaughton sent the following report:-

The bowling season is fast approving and we have started to cut the green, we have had to get extra top dressing due to the weather after the work on the green during Autumn season.

12. FOOTBALL CLUB REPORT

James Creighton reported that the Adult Teams have stopped playing on the football pitches due to their poor condition. The football pitches need to be re-seeded using a seed dispenser which could be attached to Simon Hurn's tractor. Paul Vasey stated that Allison Homes may be able to provide the seed and the loan of a seed dispenser. Plans for the amalgamation of the adult and children's football teams is work in progress.

13. ALL SAINTS' CHURCH REPORT

Rev Alderson reported that the Mothering Sunday Service will take place on 19th March and the St George's Day Service will take place on 23rd April 2023. The Easter Services included a Bunny Hunt on 8th April 2023.

If anyone wishes to look around the church, the key can be borrowed from the Phoenix Shop. He is planning on giving a guided tour of the church on 21st March 2023.

There is outstanding electrical work required to be undertaken but this must be approved by the Chancellor of the Diocese before this can begin.

A replacement Noticeboard is planned, subject to Planning Permission. It would have three columns, one for the church, one for local groups and one for the Parish Council.

It is planned to sing carols at the lighting of the Christmas Tree, followed by refreshments at the Sports & Social Club in December 2023.

13. ALLOTMENTS' REPORT

Simon Goldsmith sent the following report:-

No real update other than we still have full occupancy and a healthy list of people waiting for an allotment plot.

We are hoping that PCC will favour us with the lease of the land to create the 16 half lots and would be approaching the Parish Council to secure funding to clear the land and put fencing up once we are given the go ahead.

My thanks to all who have helped so far.

14. 2ND WITTERING SCOUTS' REPORT

Gillian Amos sent the following report:

Please accept our apologies for being unable to attend this month's meeting but please see below our report. We once again express our thanks for the use of the Parish Hall and All Saint's Church for our weekly meetings.

We have a Family Easter Disco on 8th April to raise funds for our hut and our 2nd Wittering Great Get Together and Fun Dog Show on the 24th June 2023, so hope to swell the coffers a little at these events. We also plan on hosting other events but are busy organising camps at the moment for Cubs and Scouts.

Fundraising - It seems to be a vicious circle, the 4 responses we have received have all said we are not far enough along with our project to be considered, all have said re-apply when further down the line, Unfortunately we cannot move ahead until we get major funding, the next application response we are waiting for is from the National Lottery. On the plus side we have just over 2 years left to start so not panicking yet.

The Augean Community Fund - GrantScape's Board of Trustees were unable to award us a grant this round. The Advisory Group felt the project is too early in its conception to give a definite decision and would therefore like to review progress at the next meeting in July.

Wittering Parish Council, we requested £20,000 from the Community Levy Fund - It was agreed by WPC not to support our request at this time. However, if the 2nd Wittering Scouts were to re-request this when its 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 is to liaise with Gillian Amos. Gillian accepts the invitation and awaits an invitation to attend the next meeting.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

- i) Planning Applications 23/001522/HHFUL & 23/00153/LBC - Installation of dormer windows and porch canopy with internal alterations at Bonemills Farm, Old Oundle Road, Thornhaugh – No Comments.
- ii) Gigaclear Cabinets in Wittering – the Parish Councillors were not happy with the location and size of these, particularly the one to be sited in Burghley Avenue. The Clerk will inform Gigaclear accordingly.

16. FINANCE

- i) Statement and Bank Reconciliation at 28th February 2023 was reviewed and approved as presented.
Proposed by:- Sophie Joy **Seconded by:-** Joanna Gault
- ii) Quote for Electrical Works from JLB Electrical (£2,636 plus VAT)
It was agreed to go ahead with this quote (as the work needs to be done as soon as possible) as proposed by Maxine Palmer, seconded by Dave Hughes and agreed by all presents.
- iii) Funding for 1,200 Bus Campaign Leaflets (Julia Cunnington)
It was agreed that £200 will be allocated to print Bus Campaign Leaflets if a bus service is re-started in the village.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- i) **Natural England Initiatives (John Bradshaw)**
The Chairman reported on a positive meeting in the village that he had had with representatives from Natural England. The Langdyke Countryside Trust wants to hire the Parish Hall on 26th April 2023 and, in return, will donate some bird boxes and bat boxes to the village. It was agreed to go ahead with this as proposed by Dave Hughes, seconded by Sophie Joy and agreed by all present.
- ii) **Google Drive (Joanna Gault)**
Joanna Gault gave an update on the files that have been put onto Google Drive which will be accessible to all Parish Councillors.
- iii) **Action Tracker (Emma Wilson-Jones & Sophie Joy)**
Emma Wilson-Jones had produced an Action Tracker which will be used to track all projects being undertaken by the Parish Council.
- iv) **King Charles III Coronation Event**
Craig Buttress gave an update on the plans for the Coronation Mile Run. Although the Sports & Social Club has no plans to hold an event on the day, it was agreed that it could have use of the Parish Hall as proposed by Joanna Gault, seconded by Dave Hughes and agreed by all present. The Parish Council has no plans to hold an event on the day but it was agreed to publish information on how to apply for approval for a road closure in case any residents want to hold a street party.
- v) **Accessible Parking Spaces in the Parish Hall Car Park (Julia Cunnington)**
Julia Cunnington asked if road markings or signs could be put in the Parish Hall Car Park indicating Disabled Parking Bays. It was agreed to get a quote for this.
- vi) **Village Sign Maintenance (Julia Cunnington)**
Julia Cunnington reported that the Village Sign is dirty and is covered with green mould. It was agreed that some of the Parish Councillors would see if it can be cleaned up rather than re-painted now.

18. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Meeting of Wittering Parish Council will take place at **7.00 pm** on 11th May 2023 at Wittering Parish Hall. This will be the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual General Meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, **the Chairman** closed the meeting at 9.25 pm.

SIGNED

Chairman

DATE

11/05/23