

WITTERING PARISH COUNCILwww.witteringparishcouncil.com**Parish Clerk:**

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY, 11th MAY 2023 IN THE PARISH HALL

Item No	
23(5)1	<p>Chairman's Welcome The Chairman welcomed the 8 Parish Councillors present, and the Members of the Public.</p>
23(5)2	<p>In Attendance: John Bradshaw, Julia Cunnington, Geoff Dunkley, Jo Gault, Dave Hughes, Sophie Joy, Maxine Palmer, Iain Wilkinson, Emma Wilson-Jones, Mark Davis, (Community Development Officer, RAF Wittering), Mike Horne (John Clare Countryside Project), 7 Members of the Public, Deirdre McCumiskey (Clerk)</p> <p>Apologies for Absence: Gavin Elsey (PCC Ward Councillor), Paul Vasey (Allison Homes)</p>
23(5)3	<p>Declaration of Interest The Chairman reminded the Parish Councillors of their obligation under the Codes of Conduct to declare personal and pecuniary interest. John Bradshaw and Geoff Dunkley declared an interest in all matters concerning All Saints' Church (as they are Church Wardens).</p>
23(5)4	<p>Public Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Horne gave a comprehensive report on the wildlife activities that had been undertaken in the village which included making 17 bird boxes (7 of which had been erected in the woods and a bat box) and planting 300 young trees on Burghley Avenue. It is hoped that a water harvester can be installed near to the woods to provide water for the new trees during the summer. It was agreed to purchase bluebell plants as proposed by Sophie Joy, seconded by Maxine Palmer and it was agreed that the group could have free use of the Parish Hall as proposed by Dave Hughes and seconded by Joanna Gault. • The Chairman and Sophie Joy had attended a meeting of Rockingham Forest Vision on 9th May 2023. The parishes covered by this group include Thornhaugh, Wansford, Wittering and Woithorpe.
23(5)5	<p>Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th March 2023 The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th March 2023, were reviewed, approved (as proposed by Joanna Gault, seconded by Dave Hughes) and signed by the Chairman.</p>
23(5)6	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes of 9th March 2023</p> <p>23(3)1 Wittering A1 Flyover Campaign Group Gavin Elsey was not present so there was no report. The Clerk will contact him and ask for an update.</p>
	<p>23(3)2 New Parish Hall Dave Hughes gave a report on the Zoom Meeting that had taken place with the Portacabin Company who produce modular buildings which could be suitable for the new Parish Hall. As</p>

	<p>they are modular buildings, they can be easily altered to fit what is required, for example either one or two storeys and can take solar panels on the roof. Another company, Leisure Framework has also been approached. A meeting of the new Parish Hall Sub-Committee will take place at 7.30 pm on 8th June 2023 in the Sports & Social Club.</p>
23(3)3	<p>Summer Fete 2023 Joanna Gault gave an update on the plans for the Summer Fete 2023 which will include a fly-past by a Hurricane.</p>
23(3)4	<p>Good Neighbours Rural Peterborough Scheme No-one from this scheme was able to attend the meeting but a report had been received from Neil Boyce and an invitation will be sent for the next Parish Council Meeting.</p>
23(3)5	<p>Village Bus Service Julia Cunnington gave an update. There is a meeting at Peterborough City Council on 17th May 2023. The Bus Survey undertaken in Ailsworth, Castor, Wansford and Wittering is now finished, and the results have been put onto the Wittering Parish Council Website. There is a meeting with Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority on 31st May 2023 at Huntingdon and Joanna Gault and Jean Jackson will attend. The Clerk will inform Gavin Eley. It was agreed not to become involved with a proposed free taxi scheme in the village as it would be too difficult to administer, and it is not in the Parish Council's remit. Thanks were expressed to Julia Cunnington for all her hard work in trying to obtain a bus service in the village.</p>
23(5)7	<p>Police Report There were no police representatives present so there was no report.</p>
23(5)8	<p>Organisation Reports 23(3)7 RAF Report Mark Davis read out a comprehensive report. It was noted that several empty houses have been vandalised recently and the Clerk will contact the Wg Cdr Nikki Duncan, Station Commander and Glenn Drew, Housing Estate Manager. Thanks were expressed to Mark Davis for all his support and commitment to the Parish Council over the past 20 years as this will be his last meeting as he is retiring this month.</p>
23(3)8	<p>Parish Council Owned Buildings' Sub-Committee Report The Sub-Committee had not met so there was no report.</p>
23(3)9	<p>Allison Homes' Development Report Paul Vasey, Site Manager, was not present so there was no report.</p>
23(3)10	<p>Sports & Social Club Report It was reported that it had been difficult for the brewery to deliver the beer barrels recently due to the blocking of the area by parents' cars. It was agreed that an 'Access Required' sign can be erected as proposed by Joanna Gault and seconded by Sophie Joy. Russell Pye confirmed that the gutters of the Sports & Social Club, Parish Hall and Bowling Club Pavilion have been cleared out. He and the Chairman had met with the cleaner of the Sports & Social Club and Parish Hall and apologised for the comments that had been made at a previous Parish Council Meeting and which were subsequently published in a local newspaper. The club is surviving financially but is struggling to pay some of its bills such as £1,700 for the heating per month. It was agreed that Russell Pye will meet with the Chairman to look at the bills and re-visit the lease to ensure everything contained in it is still correct. The Chairman said that the Sports & Social Club is a great facility in the village and should be supported.</p>
23(3)11	<p>Bowls' Club Report Ally McNaughton said that the new doors for the back of the Pavilion have now been organised. Due to the inclement weather, the bowling green is not in a great condition and is about one month behind what it would normally be at this time of the year. Some children have been climbing over the Bowling Green fence to retrieve their footballs and this behaviour is being discouraged.</p>
23(3)12	<p>Football Club Report The Junior Football Club has paid for the playing field to be re-seeded at a cost of £2,300. They enquired as to whether the Parish Council would be willing to help with the cost and were informed that they would have to make an official request in writing. They asked if they could use part of the playing field (adjacent to Townsend Road) for training sessions and this was agreed as proposed by Geoff Dunkley and seconded by Joanna Gault. The Senior Football Club will be playing at Eason-on-the-Hill next season.</p>
23(3)13	<p>All Saints' Church Report (Rev Gary Alderson)</p>

	<p>“We had a well-attended Mothering Sunday service and, sadly, no members of the cubs and beavers for the St George’s Day service – but thank you to the leaders for trying to get the numbers out and turning up themselves! The Easter Bunny Hunt on 8th April was amazingly well-attended. So much so that for the second time in three years, we had to send out for emergency Easter eggs. Some people came along for the tour of the church. I’m working on a very short guide, to go alongside the existing “Welcome” leaflet in the church. Electrical work has been approved by the Chancellor and will be carried out in May. I’m still consulting on the new notice board. Thanks to Cllr Gavin Elsey for the work, he’s done on our behalf on this”.</p>
	<p>23(3)14 Allotments’ Report (Simon Goldsmith) “The Parish Council is awaiting a response from Peterborough City Council regarding using nearby land to be converted into additional plots”.</p>
	<p>23(3)15 2nd Wittering Scouts’ Report Gillian Amos thanked the Parish Council for the £400 donation to the Easter Disco and the free use of the Parish Hall on an on-going basis. The next big fund-raising event is the Get-together on 24th June 2023. There is £3,286 in the new Hut Fund. They are waiting to hear about their National Lottery Funding Application. They have been refused an Augean Grant. They have had two Zoom Meetings with the Youth Investment Fund but to be approved for a grant they will need to produce a Lease between themselves and the Parish Council for the land. The Parish Council has been advised that a solicitor should be used to draw this up. The Clerk will ask Gavin Elsey if Peterborough City Council’s Legal Department could help, otherwise the 2nd Wittering Scouts will have to pay for a solicitor to draw up a Lease.</p>
23(5)9	<p>Planning 23/00217/CLE Installation of a 3.9MWp solar farm and associated infrastructure at land to the South Of Wittering Ford Road, Barnack, Stamford. The Clerk had not been able to submit the Parish Council’s comments on the Peterborough City Council Planning Portal, but she had sent an email stating that the Parish Council did not approve of using agricultural land for such a purpose and it might impact on the A1 improvements including the Wittering Flyover</p>
23(5)10	<p>Correspondence i) Cate Harding – Peterborough Mayor’s Jolly – 20th May 2023 ii) RAF Wittering Annual Formal Reception – the Chairman and his partner will attend.</p>
23(5)11	<p>Accounts to Date 2023-2024 Geoff Dunkley proposed, Maxine Palmer seconded, and the Councillors agreed, to accept the accounts</p>
23(5)12	<p>Finance Geoff Dunkley proposed, Maxine Palmer seconded, and the Councillors agreed, to accept the accounts</p>
23(5)13	<p>Annual Return 2023 Section 1 Statement of Accounts Section 2 Annual Governance Statement Section 4 Internal Audit & Report Geoff Dunkley proposed, Maxine Palmer seconded, and the Councillors agreed, to accept the Annual Return which was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.</p>
23(5)14	<p>Matters for Future Consideration i) Parish Councillor Vacancy. Simon Hurn has resigned as a Parish Councillor. The Parish Council will advertise the vacancy to see if 10 or more residents request an election. If not, the Parish Council will co-opt a new Parish Councillor. Thanks were expressed to Simon Hurn for his many years as a Parish Councillor and for his continued work keeping the playing fields and churchyard in such a tidy condition.</p>
23(5)15	<p>Date of the next meeting To confirm the date of the next meeting as 20th July 2023, to be held at 7.30 pm in Wittering Parish Hall.</p>

Deirdre McCumiskey, Wittering Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

SIGNED

DATE

20/07/23

Chairman

