

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

Mrs D P McCumiskey
 6 Hillside Gardens
 Wittering
 Peterborough
 PE8 6DX

Tel: 01780 782668

clerk@witteringparishcouncil.com



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY, 20th JULY 2023 IN THE PARISH HALL

Item No	
23(7)1	<p>Chairman's Welcome The Chairman welcomed the 6 Parish Councillors present, and the Members of the Public.</p>
23(7)2	<p>In Attendance: John Bradshaw, Julia Cunnington, Geoff Dunkley, Dave Hughes, Maxine Palmer, Iain Wilkinson, Emma Wilson-Jones, Gavin Elsey (PCC Ward Councillor), Pat Firth (Easton-on-the-Hill Parish Councillor), John Stannage and Jane Taylor-Pitt (Wansford Parish Council), Irene Walsh (Trustee of Good Neighbours Rural Peterborough), 7 Members of the Public, Deirdre McCumiskey (Clerk)</p> <p>Apologies for Absence: Joanna Gault, Paul Vasey (Allison Homes)</p>
23(7)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(7)4	<p>Public Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that the trees alongside the path at the back of Wittering Primary School are overhanging the path and, when the leaves drop, it becomes a very slippery surface. This is a Health & Safety issue. Gavin Elsey suggested that the Clerk contact PCC Tree Officer to request that a Tree Survey is undertaken. It was agreed to contact the residents of Park Farm who are the owners of the trees. It was also noted that the trees in the car park need trimming back. The Clerk will ask Simon Hurn to undertake this work. • Sarah Greaves, Brownie Guide Leader said that she needs somewhere to store the guide camp equipment and asked if the Parish Council could donate funds to purchase a shed. However, James Creighton suggested that she could use part of the Football Club Pavilion on a temporary basis. The Chairman agreed to speak to the Football Club (he subsequently spoke to Paul Wood who agreed to meet with Sarah Greaves).
23(7)5	<p>Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th May 2023 The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th March 2023, were reviewed, approved (as proposed by Emma Wilson-Jones, seconded by Geoff Dunkley) and signed by the Chairman with the amendment that under 2nd Wittering Scouts' Report is should have read Coronation (not Easter) Disco and they have not been refused an Augean Grant but Augean have deferred making a decision.</p>
23(7)6	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes on 11th May 2023 23(3)1 Wittering A1 Flyover Campaign Group/Old Oundle Road</p>

	<p>Gavin Eley said that Peterborough City Council Transport Officers had registered a bid to be considered for the 2025-2030 programme of works. There will be a detailed process to follow. He said that Shailesh Vara, MP is supportive of the bid. He said he had attended a meeting that had taken place to discuss safety issue regarding the pond on Old Oundle Road following the sad deaths of Vivien and Milan Radocz. The meeting had been attended by representatives of the police, RAF, PCC and a Safety Group and they had explored various possibilities to make the bend safer. It was noted that a safety barrier would not be effective and concrete bollards were not suitable. The RAF has reinforced the fence and he is waiting to receive the price of purchasing solar powered 'slow' flashing signs. Thanks were expressed to Gavin Eley for his work on both these issues.</p>
	<p>23(5)2 New Parish Hall Dave Hughes had prepared and circulated an initial Draft of the Project Definition Document to allow the Parish Council to explore further opportunities to progress with the new Parish Hall/private members' Sports & Social Club. The next step is to have further engagement with Portacabin and send the RFP to other similar providers for an initial quotation. It was agreed that a Public Meeting will be held to inform the residents of the plans in due course and information put onto the website. Thanks were expressed to Dave Hughes for all his hard work on preparing the document.</p>
	<p>23(5)3 Summer Fete 2023 Joanna Gault was not present to give an update on the Summer Fete 2023, but it was noted that it had been an enjoyable event although not such a good turnout as hoped due to inclement weather. Thanks were expressed to all the volunteers that had been involved with the event. A Christmas Fayre is now being planned. It was agreed that the Parish Council should be 'marketed' at such events and Emma Wilson-Jones agreed to obtain the prices of purchasing some leaflets/banners, etc. This will be an Agenda Item for the next meeting.</p>
	<p>23(5)4 Good Neighbours Rural Peterborough Scheme Irene Walsh said that there had been signs of growth with the project over the last six months. The annual fees will be waived 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 as funding has been agreed with the Evelyn Trust and Peterborough City Council. The NHS Integrated Care System will become involved shortly. Wittering currently has two volunteers and has received nine referrals. Representatives from Wansford Parish Council offered to help Wittering promote this scheme.</p>
	<p>23(5)5 Village Bus Service Julia Cunnington gave an update. There is Combined Authority Site Visit followed by a meeting to be held on 17th August 2023. Members of the Combined Authority will be met at Castor, and they will tour the villages on a minibus. RAF Wittering has kindly offered to host the meeting. The Campaign Group will meet on 25^h August 2023 to discuss the visit and the actions going forward. Thanks were expressed to Julia Cunnington and the other volunteers for all their hard work. It was agreed not to include Easton-on-the-Hill in the discussions at present as it might make the issue unnecessarily complicated and less clear. However, it was agreed that Easton-on-the-Hill may be included in the future.</p>
	<p>23(5)6 Natural Recovery Plan The Chairman had attended a meeting with Wansford and Barnack Parish Councils to discuss this plan. The RAF will be asked for an update on its re-wilding plans and for signs to be erected so that everyone is aware of the re-wilding areas. The Chairman will contact Lee Moore, PCC Footpaths Officer to discuss the footpaths down Back Lane, down the side of Bluebell Woods path at the side of the Grange and regarding the damaged gates. A wildlife questionnaire will be given to children in the village to complete.</p>
25(7)7	<p>Parish Councillor Vacancies/Parish Council Representative on the Parish Room Fund Iain Wilkinson was the only applicant for the Parish Councillor vacancies and Geoff Dunkley proposed that he is co-opted onto the Parish Council, seconded by Emma Wilson-Jones and agreed to by all present. The vacancy for a further Parish Councillor will be advertised/promoted in September 2023. Joanna Gault had said she would be happy to replace Gerry Crosbie as the Parish Council's representative and the Clerk will inform David Standish-Leigh accordingly.</p>
23(7)8	<p>Police Report There were no police representatives present so there was no report.</p>
23(7)9	<p>Organisation Reports RAF Report There were no RAF representatives present so there was no report.</p>
	<p>Parish Council Owned Buildings' Sub-Committee Report</p>

	The Sub-Committee had not met so there was no report.
	Allison Homes' Development Report Paul Vasey, Site Manager, was not present so there was no report.
	Sports & Social Club Report Russell Pye has resigned as Chairman of the Club. It was noted that the garages next to the Sports & Social Club need clearing out. A skip will have to be organised.
	Bowls' Club Report Ally McNaughton said that the new doors for the back of the pavilion have now been installed and thanks are expressed to Joanna Gault for organising this. The water tank is old and although it has been patched up, a new water tank will have to be purchased next year. The estimated cost will be £1,900-£2,500. The hedge around the Bowls' Club needs trimming and the estimated cost will be £2,500.
	Football Club Report The Football Club Pavilion has been cleared out. The Chairman will meet with Wittering Junior Football Club to discuss various issues.
	All Saints' Church Report (Rev Gary Alderson) "Notice Board – I'm wanting some clarification from the Planning Department at the City Council. We had a lovely service to relicense Michael Cooper as a Reader (a lay person allowed to lead worship and preach). The Bell Ringers continue to enthusiastically ring on Sundays with a fortnightly Tuesday night practice. Electricals remediation is in progress". The Chairman said that Rev Alderson is considering holding a Coffee Morning at the church if there is sufficient interest.
	Allotments' Report The Parish Council is still awaiting a response from Peterborough City Council regarding using nearby land to be converted into additional plots.
	2nd Wittering Scouts' Report Gillian Amos said the Scouts have now broken up for the summer holidays. The fund-raising event held on 24 th June 2023 had raised £1,800 to be split between the Scouts and Labrador Rescue. She circulated a Draft Lease between the Parish Council and the 2 nd Wittering Scouts that she had prepared. It was agreed that an Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council will take place to discuss the Lease once the Parish Councillors had had time to review it.
23(7)10	Engagement with Young People in the Community Emma Wilson-Jones agreed to investigate how this could be organised.
23(7)11	Trees near the Sports & Social Club These had been discussed in the Public Time.
23(7)12	New Terrorism Laws Joanna Gault was not present, so these were not discussed.
23(7)13	Potholes near 59/60 Church Road The Clerk will report these to Peterborough City Council.
23(7)14	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 – Decided (Lawful) 23/00569/FUL Redevelopment of land for an Electric Vehicle Charging Station providing electric car charging points at Abbots Wood Service Station, Great North Road, Thornhaugh – Awaiting Decision
23(7)15	Correspondence Anglian Water - Free Water Harvester. The Parish Council had registered its interest in one of these machines.
23(7)16	Accounts to Date 2023-2024 Emma Wilson-Jones proposed, Geoff Dunkley seconded, and the Councillors agreed to accept the accounts.
23(7)17	Finance Emma Wilson-Jones proposed, Geoff Dunkley seconded, and the Councillors agreed to approve the payments included in the financial statement. Litter Picks – it was agreed not to purchase any litter picks as there are some available within the village.

	Fund Request Forms – the Clerk will produce a Draft Fund Request Form so that all the salient information needed to make a decision will be contained within the form.
23(7)18	Matters for Future Consideration Marketing the Parish Council.
23(7)19	Date of the next meeting To confirm the date of the next meeting as 14th September 2023, to be held at 7.30 pm in Wittering Parish Hall.

Deirdre McCumiskey, Wittering Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

SIGNED

DATE

14/09/23

Chairman