

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

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY, 14th SEPTEMBER 2023 IN THE PARISH HALL

| Item No | |
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| 23(9)1 | <p>Chairman's Welcome The Chairman welcomed the 6 Parish Councillors present, Emma Stacey (RAF Wittering) and the Members of the Public.</p> |
| 23(9)2 | <p>In Attendance: John Bradshaw, Julia Cunnington, Geoff Dunkley, Joanna Gault, Dave Hughes, Emma Wilson-Jones, Emma Stacey, (RAF Wittering), 4 Members of the Public and Deirdre McCumiskey (Clerk) Apologies for Absence: Maxine Palmer, Iain Wilkinson, Steve Orr, Paul Vasey (Allison Homes) and Gavin Elsey (PCC Ward Councillor)</p> |
| 23(9)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(9)4 | <p>Public Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An email had been received from a resident (who was unable to attend the meeting) regarding speeding motorists and a request for traffic calming measures at Harriers' Rest Development. The Clerk will report this concern to Paul Vasey and the police. • An email had been received from a resident who expressed concerns about the state of the War Memorial. It was noted that a volunteer working party is due to meet on 15th September 2023 to tidy up the site in preparation for Remembrance Sunday. It was noted that the stones that have been painted by the children will be moved to another area in the churchyard. Mal Brown agreed to check the site monthly to ensure it is kept in a good state and the Parish Council agreed to fund any bulbs or plants required for the garden. • There was a request for a grant for the cost of purchasing T-Shirts for the Young Voices Concert which will be attended by 30 pupils of Wittering Primary School. The Clerk will send out a Funding Request Form and, when it has been returned, the Parish Councillors will decide on the request. |
| 23(9)5 | <p>Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th July 2023 The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th July 2023, were reviewed, approved as proposed by Emma Wilson-Jones, seconded by Joanna Gault and signed by the Chairman</p> |
| 23(9)6 | <p>Matters arising from the Minutes on 20th July 2023 23(7)1 Wittering A1 Flyover Campaign Group/Old Oundle Road</p> |

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| | <p>The Chairman confirmed that the bid for a flyover had been submitted. He is planning to meet with Wayne Fitzgerald, Leader of Peterborough City Council and Shailesh Vara, MP to discuss this further.</p> |
| | <p>23(7)2 New Wittering Community Building Dave Hughes said it had been difficult to arrange a meeting over the summer holidays. It was agreed that there will be a meeting on 20th September 2023. The next step will be to decide what monies should be set aside as an initial fund for the project. There needs to be open community engagement with the residents and a volunteer will be needed to undertake this work. It was suggested that Becki Sharman might be interested, and she will be invited to the meeting.</p> |
| | <p>23(7)3 Village Events Joanna Gault said that an afternoon tea for the older residents of the village will be held on 11th November 2023. There will be 40 tickets available plus another 10 free places. The Women of Wittering will help with this event. There will be a Christmas Fayre in the Parish Hall on 2nd December 2023 with various stalls and hopefully a visit from Father Christmas. The lights will be switched on the Christmas Tree on 1st December 2023 and carols will be sung before mulled wine and mince pies are served at the Sports & Social Club. Thanks were expressed to Joanna Gault and her committee for all their hard work in making the village events successful.</p> |
| | <p>23(7)4 Village Bus Service Julia Cunnington gave an update on the Bus Service Campaign. Nik Johnson, Cambs & Peterborough Combined Authority Mayor and Anna Smith, Cambs & Peterborough Combined Authority Deputy Mayor had visited the village and seen the dangers of having to walk on the footpath along the A1. A positive meeting to further the campaign took place on 14th September 2023 at Peterborough Town Hall. The Chairman and John Stannage, Wansford Parish Councillor, are planning to meet with Wayne Fitzgerald and Shailesh Vara to discuss further.</p> |
| | <p>23(7)5 Nature Recovery Plans The Chairman said that grants are available from the Nature Recovery Project for improving the local footpaths.</p> |
| | <p>23(7)6 Engagement with Young People in the Community Emma Wilson-Jones will talk to Sharon Pollard, Youth Worker, to see if a young person from the Youth Club would be interested in attending parish council meetings to put forward the views of the young people in the village.</p> |
| | <p>23(7)7 Trees near the Sports & Social Club The two residents of Home Farm have agreed that their tree branches that overhang the path alongside the playing field and the back of Wittering Primary School can be removed. Simon Hurn will undertake this work. Geoff Dunkley will inform the residents when this work will be undertaken. The Clerk will inform Wittering Primary School.</p> |
| | <p>23(7)8 Potholes near 59/60 Church Road Geoff Dunkley will check to see if the potholes have been repaired.</p> |
| 25(9)7 | <p>Parish Councillor Vacancy Jean Jackson was the only applicant for the vacancy and was co-opted onto the Parish Council. The Parish Councillors expressed their pleasure in her joining the Parish Council as they are familiar with her involvement with the Bus Campaign and Women of Wittering.</p> |
| 23(9)8 | <p>Police Report There were no police representatives present so there was no report. It was noted that there appeared to have been a greater police presence in the village recently.</p> |
| 23(9)9 | <p>Organisation Reports RAF Report Emma Stacey was welcomed to the meeting and introduced herself. It is hoped that Wg Cdr N Duncan will attend the next meeting. Thanks were expressed to the RAF for installing a safety barrier at the pond on the corner of Old Oundle Road.</p> |
| | <p>Parish Council Owned Buildings' Sub-Committee Report The Sub-Committee had not met so there was no report, but a village walk-around had revealed water damage to the Parish Hall. Dave Hughes will check this out and this will be discussed at the meeting of the New Wittering Community Building Committee on 20th September 2023.</p> |
| | <p>Allison Homes' Development Report (from Paul Vasey) Site is running well with no major issues; we are planning on exiting the development around March 2025, but the housing market will fully determine the pace of site as the current climate we</p> |

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| | <p>are in is unpredictable. Our Health & Safety scores on site have an average of 91.66% which is great as we are asked to achieve 80%.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 119 finished units as of 29th September 2023 (71 remaining) • August health and safety score 91.66% • Two new apprentices started on 4th September 2023 (1 bricklayer and 1 carpenter) • Continuation of waste management with Mick George • Site won an LABC 'Bricks' award for quality in April 2023 |
| | <p>Sports & Social Club Report</p> <p>It was noted that the garages next to the Sports & Social Club need clearing out. A skip will have to be organised. There is a large amount of very old paperwork which will need to be checked before it is thrown away. The Chairman will speak to Lisa Crieghton, the Chairman. The quotation from Stamford Garden and Landscapes for clearing up around the Sports & Social Club was accepted.</p> |
| | <p>Bowls' Club Report</p> <p>The Bowls' Club will close for matches on 30th September 2023 and the bowling green prepared for winter. Mr A Hare is no longer able to cut the hedge and the Bowls' Club are seeking quotes for this work. The Chairman confirmed that Simon Hurn was willing and able to undertake the work and has the correct equipment.</p> |
| | <p>Football Club Report (from Steve Orr)</p> <p>The Junior Football Club's season commenced on the weekend of 9/10th September 2023. Currently the club has in the region of 130 members providing football for Wittering and the surrounding areas. The club will be discussing the possibility of having a U6 age group to provide football to 4–5-year-olds.</p> <p>We would like permission from the Parish Council to allow us to arrange for a skip to be placed in the car park or close to the Football Club compound (dependant on if this is possible) so we can dispose of several damaged goals posts and other unwanted items. The skip would be in place for a short amount of time. The Parish Councillors agreed to this as proposed by Emma Wilson-Jones and seconded by Geoff Dunkley.</p> <p>It was noted that the grass seeding work has improved the football pitches and thanks were expressed to Simon Hurn for helping to keep the playing field in a good state of repair.</p> |
| | <p>All Saints' Church Report</p> <p>The Chairman reported that the congregation has grown recently, and Rev Gary Alderson is hoping to arrange a coffee morning soon. Jean Jackson said Rev Gary is due to speak to the Women of Wittering Community Group at their October Meeting as he wishes to be part of the village community. A Harvest Supper is being organised. It was noted that there have been many positive comments about the Sunday morning bellringing.</p> |
| | <p>Allotments' Report</p> <p>The Parish Council is still awaiting a response from Peterborough City Council regarding using nearby land to be converted into additional plots. Geoff Dunkley said that the rule book is being re-written.</p> |
| | <p>2nd Wittering Scouts' Report & Update on Request for a Lease</p> <p>Gillian Amos said the Scouts have re-started their meetings after the summer holidays. She thanked the Parish Councillors for the free use of the Parish Hall and requested several documents such as the Public Liability Insurance Policy as she had been advised by the Scout HQ. She confirmed that the 2nd Wittering Scouts were willing to pay the costs for a Lease but asked that the Draft Lease could be agreed upon between the 2nd Wittering Scouts and the Parish Council to reduce the legal fees. The Clerk will send out the Draft Lease to the Parish Councillors. She asked what space could be available in the New Wittering Community Building for the Scouts. The Scouts will also need outside space. She gave a copy of the plan for the Scout Building and Design Access Statement to Dave Hughes.</p> |
| 23(9)10 | <p>Footpath Improvements</p> <p>The Chairman said he had spoken with Lee Moore, PCC Footpaths Officer, regarding the poor state of the footpaths on the back lane and by Bluebell Wood. Lee Moore agreed to send an officer out to see if there could be a diversion of the spring and the ditch dug out on Hall Lane.</p> |

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| <p>23(9)11</p> | <p>Planning</p> <p>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. No comments. Awaiting Decision</p> <p>23/00852/FUL Proposed Cattery, temporary mobile home and small pet crematorium at Magnolia House, Old Oundle Road, Thornhaugh – Neutral but concerns were raised about the environmental impact in terms of air pollution and increased traffic on Old Oundle Road. Awaiting Decision.</p> <p>23/00829/FUL Erection of a solar farm, landscaping and associated infrastructure at land to the South of Wittering Ford Road, Barnack – No comments. Awaiting Decision.</p> |
| <p>23(9)12</p> | <p>Correspondence</p> <p>Amanda Rose, Head of Communications, Peterborough City Council – Budget Simulator Community Meetings – the Chairman will attend the meeting on 9th October 2023 at Wansford Parish Council.</p> <p>Cate Harding – Peterborough City Council Draft Local Plan – there were no comments from anyone.</p> |
| <p>23(9)13</p> | <p>Finance</p> <p>To approve the payments included on the financial statement (attached). Approved as proposed by Joanna Gault, seconded by Geoff Dunkley and agreed by all present.</p> <p>Funding Request Forms - Approved as proposed by Julia Cunnington, seconded by Joanna Gault and agreed by all present.</p> <p>Remembrance Sunday 2023 - Request for £400 donation for the event - Approved as proposed by Joanna Gault, seconded by Emma Wilson-Jones and agreed by all present. The Women of Wittering will help with refreshments at this event.</p> <p>RBL – Poppy Appeal and donation for a wreath - Approved as proposed by Emma Wilson-Jones, seconded by Joanna Gault and agreed by all present. Geoff Dunkley will purchase and lay a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council at the Remembrance Sunday Service.</p> <p>Bus Campaign – Request for £100 towards administrative costs - Approved as proposed by Joanna Gault, seconded by Emma Wilson-Jones and agreed by all present.</p> |
| <p>23(9)14</p> | <p>Matters for Future Consideration</p> <p>The marketing/promotion of the Parish Council. The Clerk will ask Wittering Primary School if it could organise a competition to design a logo for the Parish Council.</p> |
| <p>23(9)15</p> | <p>Date of the next meeting</p> <p>To confirm the date of the next meeting as 23rd November 2023, to be held at 7.30 pm in Wittering Parish Hall.</p> |

Deirdre McCumiskey, Wittering Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

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DATE 23/11/23

Chairman