

WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL

www.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, 23rd NOVEMBER 2023 IN THE PARISH HALL**

Item No	
23(11)1	Chairman's Welcome The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
23(11)2	In Attendance: John Bradshaw, Julia Cunnington, Geoff Dunkley, Joanna Gault, Dave Hughes, Jean Jackson, Iain Wilkinson, Emma Wilson-Jones, Emma Stacey, (RAF Wittering), Gavin Eley (PCC Ward Councillor), John Stannage (Wansford Parish Council), Mike Horne ((Langdyke Countryside Trust), Jon Parsons (Detectorist Group), Sarah Dummigan (Guides), 7 Members of the Public and Deirdre McCumiskey (Clerk) Apologies for Absence: Wg Cdr N Duncan (RAF Wittering), Andy Maudsley (Allison Homes) and Gillian Amos (2 nd Wittering Scouts)
23(11)3	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). Geoff Dunkley declared an interest in all matters concerning the allotments (as he is an allotment holder).
23(11)4	Detectorists Jon Parsons gave an interesting talk about the work of the small local group of Detectorists that he is involved with. They are already working in Ailsworth, Castor and Yarwell and are seeking permission to work on Wittering Parish Council owned land. The group is a member of the National Council for Metal Detecting and have public liability insurance and work to a strict Code of Conduct. After discussion it was agreed that the group will be given the permission that they request. Approved as proposed by Jean Jackson, seconded by Iain Wilkinson and agreed by all present. The Clerk will inform the Football Club.
23(11)5	Public Time <ul style="list-style-type: none">Gavin Eley said he is now the PCC representative on the CPCA Transport and Infrastructure Committee. Therefore he can now be more influential in the four villages he serves as a Ward Councillor, for example the bus service is likely to be reinstated from April 2024 and the application for an A1 Flyover at Wittering is now at Stage 2 (in the 2025-2030 programme of works). Thanks were expressed to him for his work in making this happen. The MoD plans to house Afghan nationals who are living abroad (if they have a military connection to the UK) in six houses in the village which have been made available to them from Annington Homes. Peterborough has already done so much to welcome refugees and asylum seekers, including Afghan nationals, and it also accommodates the highest number of asylum seekers across the whole of the Eastern region councils by some

	<p>considerable margin. It was felt that Wittering is not a suitable place for this due to the lack of facilities and transport. Gavin is due to meet with Council Officers next week for further discussions. The Parish Councillors were disappointed that they had not been informed of this plan and the Clerk was asked to contact PCC to find out why.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Horne gave an update as to the trees that had been planted in the village earlier in the year, some have died but will be replaced. He asked if the Parish Council would be interested in purchasing some native bluebells and/or snowdrops around the village. Approved as proposed by Emma Wilson-Jones that 2,250 bulbs are purchased at £615 + VAT this was seconded by Dave Hughes and agreed by all present. The bulbs will be planted along the tree avenue and near to the village sign. Mike Horne has been liaising with Liz Putterill about the planting. It is also hoped that the MoD, the Primary School Pupils and the Youth Group will be involved with the planting. • Sarah Dummigan asked if the Guides could use one of the garages next to the Sports & Social Club to store the equipment which includes tenting gear, etc. It was agreed that the Parish Council will purchase three racking units for garage one to enable the Sports & Social Club to vacate garage two. The Sports & Social Club will have to pay for the construction and installation of the racking units and take responsibility for them. The Clerk will ask the Sports & Social Club to clear out garage three by 31st March 2024.
23(11)6	<p>Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th September 2023 The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th September 2023, were reviewed, approved as proposed by Emma Wilson-Jones, seconded by Geoff Dunkley agreed by all present and signed by the Chairman</p>
23(11)7	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes on 14th September 2023 23(9)1 Wittering A1 Flyover Campaign Group This had been discussed under 23(11)5.</p>
	<p>23(9)2 New Wittering Community Building Dave Hughes said there had been three meetings since the last Parish Council Meeting. One of these had been with an architect. Robin Dunlop, a local landowner, has joined the Committee and he has suggested a couple of alternative architects who could be contacted for a quote. The decision on which architect to engage will be made in January/February 2024. It was noted that the building will likely be a two-story building.</p>
	<p>23(9)3 Village Events Joanna Gault confirmed that the Christmas Fayre will take place 11.00 am-4.00 pm in the Parish Hall. Geoff Dunkley confirmed that the Remembrance Sunday Parade and Church Service had been well supported. Wittering Primary School visited the War Memorial on 10th November 2023. The Remembrance Afternoon Tea held on 11th November 2023 had been enjoyed by those who had attended. A total of £4,276.30 had been collected for the Poppy Appeal which included £116.16 on the raffle. Grateful thanks are expressed to everyone involved with the Remembrance Weekend.</p>
	<p>23(9)4 Village Bus Service This had been discussed under 23(11)5.</p>
	<p>23(9)6 Engagement with Young People in the Community Sharon Pollard, Youth Worker, is keen for the Youth Group to be involved with the village and will attend future meetings of the Parish Council. The Clerk will send her the date of the next meeting.</p>
23(11)8	<p>Police Report Iain Wilkinson attended the Police & Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough's visit on 13th October 2023, despite receiving short notice of the visit. A discussion had taken place about the lack of communication with the police, and, because of this, PS Andy Gadders proposes to hold a series of Police Surgeries in various parishes including Wittering. The first one will be held 9.00-11.00 am on 4th January 2024 in Wittering Parish Hall. It was agreed that this needs to be publicised within the village. Iain Wilkinson has been in contact with the Road Safety Partnership, and it would be possible to have a Community Speedwatch in the village, but it would need 4 – 5 volunteers.</p>
23(11)9	<p>Organisation Reports RAF Report Emma Stacey said that the main runway is going to be resurfaced and this will take until the end of 2024, therefore there will be no large aircraft landing at RAF Wittering during this time. She said the Shelter will be repaired, repainted and resealed but she had no timescale for this. She had established that the litter bin in the play park is emptied once a week, but she did not know</p>

	<p>which day. She said the litter bin outside the Community Shop is the responsibility of Peterborough City Council. She urged residents to telephone the police on 101 if they see incidents of anti-social behaviour, there is no point in telephoning the RAF Police. The RAF is due to meet with the police on 24th November 2024. RAF Wittering will be closed 15th December 2023 – 8th January 2024. Sharon Pollard is organizing a Children's Christmas Food Bank Appeal and would welcome donations of chocolates, advent calendars, etc.</p>
	<p>Parish Council Owned Buildings' Sub-Committee Report Emma Wilson-Jones asked if the curtains in the Parish Hall could be replaced. She was asked to get a quote for the next meeting.</p>
	<p>Allison Homes' Development Report Andy Maudsley had not submitted a report.</p>
	<p>Sports & Social Club Report No report had been received</p>
	<p>Bowls' Club Report The Bowls' Club asked if the Parish Council would fund the cost of trimming the hedge. This will include the inside, outside and on top of the hedge at a cost of £2,500. Approved as proposed by Geoff Dunkley, seconded by Dave Hughes and agreed by all present</p>
	<p>Football Club Report It was noted that the compound around the Football Club Pavilion has been sorted out and looks much tidier.</p>
	<p>All Saints' Church Report (Rev Gary Alderson) We were, as ever, glad to host so many people for the Remembrance Sunday service. The church noticeboard is now being ordered. We have c £20K of repairs required to the walls and roof of the church, so will be fundraising shortly.</p> <p>1st December 2023 - Carol Singing around the Christmas Tree (Townsend Road), 6.30 pm 14th December 2023 - Christmas Carol Service at All Saints', 6.00 pm 24th December 2023 - No morning service but Crib Service at All Saints', 4.00 pm 25th December 2023 - Communion at All Saints', 10.30 am 31st December 2023 - No service at All Saints' but Benefice Communion & Covenant Service at St Botolph's, Helpston</p>
	<p>Allotments' Report (Simon Goldsmith) We recently asked the Parish Council to make enquiries on our behalf to obtain the common land next to the allotment site so that we could expand the allotments. We have had a bit of a downturn in allotment applications and as such, as a committee, we would like to withdraw our application. It would take considerable funding to get the land to growing standard and we feel that this would be a justifiable use if money at this time. Our thanks to the work the parish council has put in so far.</p> <p>We would however ask that the wooden posts on the perimeter fence are replaced with metal ones. The wooden ones have now rotted to such an extent that they do need replacing. (This was not discussed).</p> <p>We have had two quotes to trim a large eucalyptus tree in the middle not the site. This needs doing as it is too big. Quotes are £640 and £620. The allotment committee have asked if the Parish Council may fund this, given our very limited funds. (The quote of £640 was approved as proposed by Geoff Dunkley, seconded by Iain Wilkinson and agreed by all present).</p> <p>Lastly, the allotment committee have held our AGM where we are looking to increase our visibility, so the village have access to the committee and what we do. Would it be possible to have a page in the parish council website so we could put our rule book, committee officers, contact details, etc on there? (This was approved).</p>
	<p>2nd Wittering Scouts' Report & Update on Request for a Lease (Gillian Amos) Gillian Amos had no update as such but wanted to know if the Parish Council had approved the lease agreement in principle so that the scouts could engage a solicitor. None of the Parish Councillors were willing to propose the approval of the lease agreement. The Clerk will inform Gillian Amos accordingly.</p>

23(11)10	<p>Promotion of the Parish Council and Parish Council Logo It was agreed that an advertising banner will be purchased. The pupils of Wittering Primary School have produced designs for the Parish Council Logo. Emma Wilson-Jones will make a shortlist of designs and bring them to the next meeting.</p>
23(11)11	<p>Tree and Bulb Planting This had been discussed under 23(11)5.</p>
23(11)12	<p>Peterborough City Council Budget Simulator The Chairman had attended a meeting at Wansford Parish Council on 9th October 2023. It was perceived to be a PCC engagement exercise rather than anything else.</p>
23(11)13	<p>Parish Councillor Vacancy and Vice Chairman Vacancy The Clerk has received one application for the Parish Councillor Vacancy thus far. The Clerk will advertise the vacancy with a closing date in 4 weeks. Joanna Gault agreed to take on the role of Vice Chairman.</p>
23(11)14	<p>Witter Pickers It was noted that several residents had purchased litter picking equipment.</p>
23(11)15	<p>Mobile Barber Trailer Razwan Amen explained his request to set up a mobile barber trailer in the Parish Hall car park for up to six days per week. If the Parish Council agree, he would have to obtain a Trading Licence from Peterborough City Council. A discussion took place and various points were raised such as how busy the car park becomes at weekends. Several Parish Councillors agreed that this request could be granted on a trial basis. However, eventually Razwan Amen was advised to speak to the Manager of the Community Shop to see if he could park his trailer there. A final decision was deferred to the next meeting.</p>
23(11)16	<p>Signs on the Playing Field and Outdoor Gym Emma Wilson-Jones asked if the sign on Townsend Road could be removed as it could prove a Health & Safety hazard. The Clerk will ask Simon Hurn to do this. The Clerk was asked to contact Ashley Brittain and request that any outstanding Inflatable Day advertising signs are removed. Emma Wilson-Jones asked if an outdoor gym could be considered when the New Community Building is being designed. It was agreed that either an indoor or outdoor gym will be discussed.</p>
23(11)17	<p>Planning 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 23/00852/FUL Proposed Cattery, temporary mobile home and small pet crematorium at Magnolia House, Old Oundle Road, Thornhaugh – Awaiting Decision 23/00829/FUL Erection of a solar farm, landscaping and associated infrastructure at land to the South of Wittering Ford Road, Barnack – Permitted 23/01178/FUL Change of use of agricultural land to dog walking paddocks including creation of associated parking areas – retrospective at Grange Farm Equestrian Centre, Old Oundle Road, Thornhaugh - Permitted</p>
23(11)18	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cate Harding, Good Neighbours Rural Peterborough – free Associate Membership for two years. (Julia Cunnington will publicise the service in the village) • Police & Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough – visit on 13th October 2023 (attended by Iain Wilkinson) • National Highways A1 Wansford to Stibbington – bridge surveys and maintenance • CAPALC – October & November 2023 Training Courses • Parish Council Liaison Meeting – 15th November 2023 • A47 Wansford to Sutton dualling October Newsletter • CAPALC – Funding for Community Hubs • Good Neighbours - Rural Peterborough: AGM Invitation 22nd November 2023 (attended by Julia Cunnington) • Razwan Amen – Mobile Barber Trailer (discussed under 23(11)15)
23(11)19	<p>Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To approve the payments included on the financial statement (previously circulated). Approved as proposed by Emma Wilson-Jones, seconded by Iain Wilkinson and agreed by all present

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Precept 2024-2025 – the Chairman said that the Finance Sub-Committee had met recently and, after studying the finances, would like to suggest a £5,000 increase in the Precept to take it to £65,000 for 2024-2025. Approved as proposed by Emma Wilson-Jones, seconded by Joanna Gault and agreed by all present • Allotment Rent Subsidy – it was agreed to subsidise the allotment holders' rents by £113 per year (an increase of £26 on previous years). Approved as proposed by Emma Wilson-Jones, seconded by Iain Wilkinson and agreed by all present • Poppy Memorial Bench – it was agreed to put the £135 remaining from the Remembrance Sunday 2023 donation towards the cost of purchasing a Poppy Memorial Bench. Joanna Gault will start a GoFundMe page in the new year. • Printer for the Chairman – it was agreed that the Chairman could purchase a £60 printer. Approved as proposed by Emma Wilson-Jones, seconded by Geoff Dunkley and agreed by all present
23(11)20	<p>Matters for Future Consideration There were no matters for future consideration.</p>
23(11)21	<p>Date of the next meeting To confirm the date of the next meeting as 11th January 2024, to be held at 7.30 pm in Wittering Parish Hall.</p>

Deirdre McCumiskey, Wittering Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

SIGNED

DATE

11/01/24

Chairman