

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

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY, 18th JANUARY 2024 IN THE PARISH HALL

Item No	
24(01)1	<p>Chair's Welcome</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chair stated that, due to the Parish Council needing to respond to the Peterborough Local Plan by 19th January 2024, the format for the meeting had been changed and only essential business would be discussed. All other business will be deferred until the February meeting.</p>
24(01)2	<p>In Attendance:</p> <p>John Bradshaw, Julia Cunnington, Geoff Dunkley, Joanna Gault, Dave Hughes, Jean Jackson, Kate Jackson, Russell Pye, Iain Wilkinson, Emma Wilson-Jones, Emma Stacey, (RAF Wittering), 36 Members of the Public and Deirdre McCumiskey (Clerk)</p> <p>Apologies for Absence:</p> <p>Gavin Elsey (PCC Ward Councillor), Razwan Amen, Daisy Hart and Pam & Simon Hurn</p>
23(11)3	<p>Declaration of Interest</p> <p>The Chair 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).</p>
24(01)4	<p>Public Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was reported that the path alongside the back of Wittering Primary School and the playing field is in a poor state and needs cleaning. The Clerk will report this issue to PCC. • A member of the public expressed his disappointment that the police do not have the authority to deal with speeding vehicles in the village. It was agreed that the Community Speedwatch Scheme will be put on the Agenda for the next meeting.
24(01)5	<p>Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd November 2023</p> <p>The Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd November 2023, were reviewed, approved as proposed by Dave Hughes, seconded by Emma Wilson-Jones agreed by all present and signed by the Chair.</p>
24(01)6	<p>23(11)2 New Wittering Community Building</p> <p>Dave Hughes said the Sub-Committee is meeting monthly and is due to meet with the third architect on 25th January 2024. A decision will then be made as to which architect will be selected to draw up the initial plans. These will be shared with residents who will be encouraged to make comments.</p>
	<p>23(11)13 Parish Councillor Vacancy</p> <p>The Parish Council had interviewed two applicants and Russell Pye had been chosen to be co-opted as a Parish Councillor. Kate Jackson will join the Parish Council as a non-voting member.</p>

24(01)8	<p>Organisation Reports Sports & Social Club The Sports & Social Club had asked for permission to site the Cheesy Pig Catering Van outside the main entrance to the Club. It was agreed that The Cheesy Pig Catering Van can use the main entrance once per month, but the Sports & Social Club must take total responsibility for it. This will be on a trial basis until the end of the financial year (31st March 2024). The Parish Council will decide as to whether they are happy that this arrangement can continue at its March Meeting and, from that date onwards, will look at charging a pitch fee in fairness to the other food establishments in the village.</p>
	<p>Allotments Geoff Dunkley said he will speak to Simon Hurn about the posts on the allotments.</p>
	<p>2nd Wittering Scouts' Request for a Lease The 2nd Wittering Scouts had asked for their request for a lease to be reconsidered. After a discussion between the Parish Council and Gillian Amos, the Chair asked if any of the Parish Councillors would be willing to propose a lease. Geoff Dunkley proposed a lease but there was no seconder, so the request was not put to the vote.</p>
24(01)9	<p>Peterborough Local Plan Peterborough City Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan. The Council has published its Strategic Housing & Economic Land Availability Assessment (Stage 1) Report – or “SHELAA” for short. The SHELAA report includes all sites suggested to the Council during the ‘Call for Sites’ exercise held in summer 2023. The Council will now assess all sites set out in the SHELAA report to determine if they are suitable for development and for allocation in the emerging Local Plan. The Parish Council has been invited to respond to the SHELAA report. Sites 2035 and 2093 propose the addition of 8,000 homes to the village of Wittering. The Chair stated that although the Parish Council has been asked for its comments, it has no power in determining planning policies. A long discussion took place, and the following comments were noted:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sites are not within the village envelope which is in place to protect the countryside and rural communities • The sites are on greenfield sites rather than brownfield sites that could be allocated for future house building • There are only two ways of accessing the village. One being the A1 and the other the A47 – both extremely busy roads. Motorists travelling south on the A1 must cross over the A1 north at a dangerous junction. The residents have been campaigning for an A1 Flyover for over 20 years with no success, despite an increase in house building during that time and there is currently a 190-housing development in construction which will mean a greater number of motorists accessing the village • There is currently no bus service to/from the village • The infrastructure in the village is already poor – there are no doctors, dentists or other health professionals. There would be a need to build an additional primary school and build a secondary school. • One of the foremost concerns is the potential increase in flood risk • The capacity of sewage treatment works is another aspect that needs careful evaluation • Moreover, the impact on local biodiversity must not be underestimated, as unchecked urbanisation can lead to the destruction of crucial habitats for wildlife. There are SSSIs in place to protect the environment where the houses would be built • Increased number of residents is likely to mean increased incidents of crime in the area but there are already not enough police to efficiently serve the village • Loss of recreation/dog walking/riding land which benefits both physical and mental welfare of residents. Residents have chosen to live in a village rather than to live in a town • There is historic ridge and furrow land on the grass field next to Old Oundle Road, which is of historic importance • The planned housing development in Stamford will also impact on the village as many residents shop and visit businesses in Stamford as it is nearer to Peterborough • Wittering Parish Council would support a change to the end date for the draft Local plan to 2041, as opposed to the current end date of 2044. This would reduce the additional number of homes required to be built by 3,000

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36 people attended the Wittering Parish Council meeting on 18th January 2024. They were asked to indicate their support for the new housing developments in the draft Local Plan. No-one raised their hand • Wittering Parish Council supports the comments made by Thornhaugh and Wansford Parish Council on the Peterborough Local Plan <p>The Clerk will draw up a draft response. This will be checked by the Chair before being submitted before the deadline.</p>
24(01)10	<p>Airplay</p> <p>Members of the Airplay Youth Group attended the meeting to present their Cambridge Community Grant Bid proposal. They requested that Wittering Parish Council acts as a 'sponsor' and applies on behalf of the Airplay station youth worker (as the RAF cannot apply for this funding as it is not one of the eligible bodies). If the bid is successful, the grant will be used to deliver open access children and young people summer holiday provision in Summer 2024 using existing Youth Services. Emma Wilson-Jones agreed to be the lead contact for this, supported by Joanna Gault and the Clerk.</p>
24(01)11	<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 – Permitted</p> <p>23/00852/FUL Proposed Cattery, temporary mobile home and small pet crematorium at Magnolia House, Old Oundle Road, Thornhaugh – Awaiting Decision</p>
23(11)12	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various CAPALC Bulletins • PCC Local Plan
23(11)13	<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 Geoff Dunkley and agreed by all present
23(11)14	<p>Matters for Future Consideration</p> <p>There were no matters for future consideration.</p>
23(11)15	<p>Date of the next meeting</p> <p>To confirm the date of the next meeting as 8th February 2024, to be held at 7.30 pm in Wittering Parish Hall. Due to the increased amount of business to be discussed, it had been agreed to hold the meetings every month except for August and December. The meetings for 2024 will take place on 7th March, 11th April, 16th May 7.00 pm start), 13th June, 11th July, 12th September, 10th October and 14th November.</p>

Deirdre McCumiskey, Wittering Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

SIGNED _____

DATE 08/02/24

Chairman