

WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY, 8th FEBRUARY 2024 IN THE PARISH HALL**

Item No	
24(01)1	Chair's Welcome The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
24(01)2	In Attendance: John Bradshaw, Julia Cunnington, Geoff Dunkley, Jean Jackson, Emma Wilson-Jones, Emma Stacey, (RAF Wittering), Gavin Elsey (PCC Ward Councillor), Mike Horne (Langdyke Countryside Trust), Charlotte Blake (Head of Wittering Primary School) and Deirdre McCumiskey (Clerk) Apologies for Absence: Sharon Pollard (Airplay), Jo Gault, David Hughes, Kate Jackson, Russell Pye, Iain Wilkinson and Gillian Amos (2 nd Wittering Scouts)
23(11)3	Declaration of Interest 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).
24(01)4	Public Time There were no members of the public present.
24(01)5	Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd November 2023 & 18th January 2024 The Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 rd November 2023, were reviewed, approved as proposed by Emma Wilson-Jones, seconded by Geoff Dunkley, agreed by all present and signed by the Chair.
24(01)6	23(11)1 Wittering A1 Flyover Group Gavin Elsey confirmed that the A1 Flyover Submission is in Stage 2 (in the 2025-2030 programme of works). Stage 3 deals with the financing/funding of successful projects. He had attended a meeting of England's Economic Heartland recently and they had been fully supportive. He confirmed that there is a great deal of support from other organisations. Thanks were expressed to Gavin for all his hard work.
24(01)6	23(11)2 New Wittering Community Building Dave Hughes sent the following report:- We have been visited by three independent architects who are interested in supporting our project and they have

	<p>rendered initial proposals. Next steps for the Project Board are to select a preferred architect by means of a scoring method. We then intend to conduct the initial feasibility study as well as an outline design and consultation period. This will be very much in draft. We will look to invite current user group leads who use the Parish Hall today as well as the Sports & Social Club Chair or their representative and capture their 'as is' user requirements. In time, we will look towards 'the future state' to look at what the 'to be' may look like. The future state will very much depend on overall project costs and future business income.</p>
	<p>23(11)3 Village Events Emma Wilson-Jones confirmed that the Drag Bingo Evening will take place on 16th February 2024 in the Parish Hall. She is hoping that there will be a fly-past and a military band attending the Summer Fete on 13th July 2024. Thanks were expressed to the Events' Committee for all their hard work.</p>
	<p>23(11)4 Village Bus Service Julia Cunnington confirmed that a village bus service will be trialled in Wittering, Wansford, Ailsworth and Castor and this is due to start in April 2024. It was agreed it will need to be strongly promoted in these villages because it will be a case of 'use it or lose it'. She is awaiting confirmation of the bus timetable. Thanks were expressed to the Bus Campaign Group and Gavin Elsey for all their hard work.</p>
	<p>23(11)15 Mobile Barber Trailer It was agreed to ask Razwan Amen to attend the next meeting to answer further questions on his request to site a mobile barber trailer in the village.</p>
	<p>24(01)8 The Cheesy Pig It was that this will be discussed at the end of the financial year.</p>
	<p>24(01)9 Peterborough Local Plan It was confirmed that the Parish Council's response was submitted before the deadline of 19th January 2024. PCC has now processed all the comments received during the consultation. It will take them into consideration alongside a range of other evidence that it is gathering as it prepares the Draft Local Plan. It expects to publish the Draft Local Plan for consultation in autumn 2024.</p> <p>Gavin Elsey suggested that the Parish Council considers producing a Neighbourhood Plan. Neighbourhood planning is a new way for communities to have a say in the future of the places where they live and work. It gives them the power to produce a plan with legal weight that directs development in their local area. It helps them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • choose where you want new homes, shops and offices to be built. • have your say on what those new buildings should look like. • grant planning permission for the new buildings you want to see go ahead. <p>Groups can get tailored advice, support and grants to develop their neighbourhood plans. It was agreed that Gavin will discuss this further with the Chair and it will be an agenda item for the next meeting.</p>
	<p>24(01) 10 Airplay Grant Application Emma Wilson-Jones confirmed that the application has been submitted.</p>
24(02)7	<p>Police Report The next Police Surgery will take place in the Bowls' Club Pavilion between 4.00–6.00 pm on 28th March 2024.</p>
24(01)8	<p>Organisation Reports RAF Emma Stacey had nothing new to report.</p>
	<p>Parish Council Owned Buildings Sub-Committee Report There was no update from the Parish Council Owned Buildings Sub-Committee.</p>
	<p>Allison Homes Development Report There was no update from the Allison Homes Development.</p>
	<p>Sports & Social Club Report There was no update from the Sports & Social Club.</p>
	<p>Bowls' Club Report</p>

	There was no update from the Bowls' Club.
	Football Club Report
	<p>All Saints' Church Report</p> <p>Rev Gary Alderson sent the following report:- The electrical works have been completed – thanks for all the assistance with this. A new noticeboard is due to be delivered w/c 29th January 2024 and will be slightly smaller than the existing one, to bring it within the bounds of permitted changes. It will be far more flexible than the old, painted noticeboard. Work is due to start on the stonework and then the roof repairs. These are now straining the church's reserves and we will be looking at fund raising to assist us with these schemes. They must be done – we have a 1,000-year-old building and they are expensive to look after if we are to keep them open. We had several enjoyable Christmas activities, from 1st December 2023 at the Christmas Tree with the Events' Team through to the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services. We held the burial of Barry Pullen, MBE on 26th December 2023. He was a much-loved member of the church and community – so much so that we had to hold the funeral service at Barnack to fit everyone in. His passing was marked with the RAF, Royal British Legion, Nene Valley Railway and tolling from Wittering Bell Ringers.</p>
	<p>Allotments</p> <p>Geoff Dunkley had nothing new to report.</p>
24(02)9	<p>Speedwatch</p> <p>This will be put on the agenda for the next meeting as Iain Wilkinson was not present.</p>
24(02)10	<p>Communication between the Parish Council and Residents</p> <p>Jean Jackson expressed her concerns that residents who do not use social media are disadvantaged because they do not have access to information about community events, for example the Police Surgeries. She had investigated the cost of having 2 pages in the Village Tribune magazine, but this is a large booklet and readers could struggle to find the information about the village. She had looked at the local magazine that is produced for Castor and Ailsworth, but it would need someone who would be prepared to spend a good deal of time in preparing it for print. She had also looked at having a A4 information sheet. The Clerk suggested that Jean could approach Living Villages (a local magazine that is produced for the residents of Wansford, Thornhaugh, Sutton and Stibbington) to see if information from Wittering could be included in that. This will be discussed again at the next meeting.</p>
24(02)11	<p>Key Holders for Parish Council Owned Buildings</p> <p>This will be put on the agenda for the next meeting as Russ Pye was not present.</p>
24(02)12	<p>Parish Hall Hire – Terms & Conditions</p> <p>These had been circulated and will be sent out with the Booking Confirmation. The anti-social behaviour of the hirer (and her guests) of the Parish Hall on 27th January 2024 was discussed. Despite assuring the Clerk that any music would stop by 11.00 pm, the music went on into the early hours of the morning and the guests did not leave until about 4.00 am. The Clerk will contact her and request that an additional hire fee of £200 is paid as the event went on longer than the time it was booked for. It was agreed that it is difficult to 'police' hirers, but this will be discussed when the Wittering Community Building is completed, and the Parish Councillors will consider the idea of employing a part-time manager to run it and the other Parish Council Owned-Buildings.</p>
24(02)13	<p>Afghan Families</p> <p>The Chair and several Parish Councillors met with Ian Phillips on 7th February 2024. Seven Afghan refugee families will be moving to the village in the next 4-6 weeks. The Afghan males had worked as interpreters/translators for the British Forces in Afghanistan. They will live in the village for a minimum of three years. The Red Cross will be supporting them during this time. Another meeting with Ian Phillips will take place in 4-6 weeks' time. The Chair will put this information on Facebook so that the residents are aware of what is planned.</p>
24(02)14	Nature Recovery Programme

	<p>Mike Horne reported on a site meeting on Burghley Avenue on 7th February 2024. Two areas have been selected to plant low growing native flowers. Sowing will take place in the autumn 2024 and the flowers will bloom in 2025. Amey has agreed to pay for the signage, explaining why the area will not be mowed (although a cut and collect will take place once per year). It is hoped that local volunteers, school pupils and members of Airplay will take on the on-going maintenance of the area including watering, etc. Mike is exploring the possibility of either obtaining a water harvester from Anglian Water or using water from the voided MoD houses. It was noted that snowdrops are flowering around the village sign.</p> <p>Emma Wilson-Jones expressed her disappointment that Preim has cut down well established bushes to ground level in the Maltby Close/Lale Walk area of the village. The Parish Council will contact Preim (Emma will give Preim's contact details to the Clerk).</p> <p>The following report has been received from Lee Moore, Footpaths Officer, PCC:-</p> <p>Hall Lane - I finally managed to get my contractor down to look at Hall Lane and he has cleared out the pipe on the left hand side that was installed some years ago and initially appeared to improve things but due to the volume of water it's difficult to say whether this combined with lower flows from the springs and land drainage. Given the current conditions and water flow there is very little I can do currently to improve this path but I have arranged for a site meeting at the end of March with my contractor and also the PCC Drainage Manager to discuss what options are available to improve this path with works anticipated during the summer 2024 where it will hopefully be drier and more favourable conditions.</p> <p>Wittering footpath no6 through Lound Wood - this is a tricky location with the fence either side limiting pedestrian movements and the walked path is extremely muddy and wet. You may be able to advise further but I believe this path is also affected by natural springs which given the extremely wet winter we have had are at their highest flow for some years. I have spoken to Robin Dunlop of Wittering Grange, and he is willing to collaborate with me during the summer months to undertake improvements to this path. I will also visit this location with my contractor and Drainage manager in March.</p> <p>With these visits in mind, it may be better I attend the April Meeting where I may be able to explain what improvement works, we are planning.</p>
24(01)11	<p>Planning 23/00852/FUL</p> <p>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
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 • Application for a grant to purchase T-Shirts for the Living Voices Concert (Wittering Primary School) – it was agreed to grant £570 for 38 T-shirts.
23(11)14	<p>Matters for Future Consideration</p> <p>The matters for future consideration will be the Neighbourhood Plan and the Village Newsletter.</p>
23(11)15	<p>Date of the next meeting</p> <p>To confirm the date of the next meeting as 7th March 2024, to be held at 7.30 pm in Wittering Parish Hall.</p>

Deirdre McCumiskey, Wittering Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

SIGNED

DATE

07/03/24

Chairman