

WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL

www.witteringparishcouncil.com

Parish Clerk:

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY, 7th MARCH 2024 IN THE PARISH HALL**

Item No	
24(03)1	<p>Chair's Welcome The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting including Wg Cdr Nikki Duncan, Station Commander, RAF Wittering who was attending her first meeting.</p>
24(03)2	<p>In Attendance: John Bradshaw, Julia Cunnington, Geoff Dunkley, Jo Gault, Dave Hughes, Jean Jackson, Russell Pye, Emma Wilson-Jones, Emma Stacey (RAF Wittering), Wg Cdr Nikki Duncan (RAF Wittering), Sophie van den Berg (Rockingham Forest Vision), Gavin Elsey (PCC Ward Councillor), two members of the public and Deirdre McCumiskey (Clerk)</p> <p>Apologies for Absence: Sharon Pollard (Airplay), Kate Jackson and Iain Wilkinson</p>
24(03)3	<p>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).</p>
24(03)4	<p>Sophie Van Den Burgh of Rockingham Forest Vision – Nature Recovery in Wittering Sophie van den Burgh is the Project Officer for Rockingham Forest Vision. This partnership project aims to reconnect people to the habitat of the historic Rockingham Forest in North Northamptonshire . Using over £330k of funding, including £250k from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the partners are running a wide range of activities and opportunities. People can get involved by attending guided walks and events. Support is available to parishes and towns to map their wildlife and plan for its recovery.</p> <p>Parish Councils are now required to have a policy/plan in place and an information pack about this is available. The first step is to list what is already in place in the Parish Council's area and then organise campaigns, etc. A small number of residents need to be involved to promote this. It was noted that Mike Horne (Langdyke Countryside Trust) has already prepared a report about Wittering which could be used as a basis for a policy/ Plan.</p>
24(03)5	<p>Public Time The two members of the public present were representing the Guides and wanted an update on the purchase of the racking for the garage to enable them to store their camping gear, etc in the garage. The supplier had not fulfilled the order for racking made in November 2023 and so it had had to have been re-ordered. The Chair</p>

	<p>agreed to ask Craig Buttress to contact them with an update. Post Meeting – the Chair has confirmed with the Sports & Social Club that its garage will be available from 1st April 2024 and the Guides have been informed.</p> <p>Three emails had been received by the Clerk on the following issues:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U-turns by military personnel at the A1 crossing into Wittering – Wg Cdr Nikki Duncan confirmed that service personnel are well-aware that this is prohibited. Gavin Eley will request better signage at the junction and the re-painting of the road signs at the junction by Peterborough City Council/National Highways. • Damaged equipment in the playground near to the school – Gavin Eley will report this to Peterborough City Council. • Unrepaired potholes in the village – the Clerk will report this to Peterborough City Council.
24(03)6	<p>Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th February 2024</p> <p>The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th February 2024, were reviewed, approved as proposed by Emma Wilson-Jones, seconded by Geoff Dunkley, agreed by all present and signed by the Chair.</p>
24(03)7	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes of 8th February 2024</p>
	<p>Wittering A1 Flyover Campaign Group</p> <p>Gavin Eley will be attending a meeting to progress this on 8th March 2024.</p>
	<p>New Wittering Community Building</p> <p>Dave Hughes said a meeting will be arranged to finalise the choice of architect for the project.</p>
	<p>Village Events</p> <p>The Drag Bingo Evening held on 16th February 2024 had been a great success and enjoyed by those who attended. Over £300 was raised. The Sports & Social Club is holding an Easter Event. Thanks were expressed to the Wittering Events' Committee.</p>
	<p>Village Bus Service</p> <p>The route had to be redesigned to include journeys to/from Stamford. The contract is now out for tender and there are three companies on the short-list. The service will commence in July 2024 rather than April 2024 which will allow sufficient time to publicise the service. Gavin Eley has a meeting to progress this w/c 11th March 2024.</p>
	<p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>PCC Ward Councillor Peter Hillier would be willing to attend a meeting to discuss setting up a Neighbourhood Plan for the village. The Chair is attending the next Sutton Parish Council Meeting on 19th March 2024 to learn about Sutton's Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
	<p>Afghan Families</p> <p>No further meeting has taken place to discuss the Afghan Families, but one family has already moved to the village and another family is due to move to the village.</p>
	<p>Remembrance Bench</p> <p>Jo Gault reported that a Remembrance Bench and six Tommy/Jenny figures would cost approximately £800.00. A GoFundMe fund-raising page will be created. Gavin Eley said that an application could be made to the Community Leadership Fund for one Tommy and one Jenny.</p>
	<p>Mobile Barber Trailer</p> <p>Razwan Amen has set up as a barber in the hairdresser's shop on Townsend Road and therefore is no longer interested in having a mobile barber trailer.</p>
	<p>Speedwatch</p> <p>Iain Wilkinson was not present and so this was not discussed. An email from Cpl A Dalzell re Road Safety Signs near Wittering Primary School was discussed and his idea was given the full support of the Parish Council although tis is a highways matter.</p>
	<p>Communication between the Parish Council and Residents & Village Newsletter</p> <p>Jean Jackson did not think that the Living Villages magazine would suit the residents of Wittering. Therefore, it was agreed to look at producing an A4 information sheet. A volunteer from the village will be sought to produce this. Julia Cunnington will ask residents if they would prefer an A4 or A5 size information sheet.</p>
	<p>Parish Hall – Terms & Conditions</p> <p>It was agreed that the Parish Council cannot refuse a booking unless the hirer has caused anti-social issues when hiring the Parish Hall previously. Russell Pye agreed to look at the current Parish Hall Terms & Conditions (to include an inventory) as well as the current Parish Council Owned Buildings' Agreements and make any recommendations that he feels would be useful.</p>
	<p>Keyholders for Parish Council Owned Buildings</p> <p>Russell Pye will look at who the keyholders should be for the Parish Council Owned Buildings.</p>

24(03)8	Storage Container Emma Wilson-Jones suggested that the Parish Council purchases a Storage Contained for tables, chairs, crockery, etc to be sited near to the bushes next to the Parish Hall. Russell Pye suggested that the Parish Council could look at renting a container on a temporary basis in conjunction with the Sports & Social Committee. Emma Wilson-Jones will obtain some costings. Wg Cdr Nikki Duncan will speak to Robin Dunlop.
24(03)9	Police Report The next Police Surgery will take place in the Bowls' Club Pavilion between 4.00–6.00 pm on 21 st March 2024.
24(03)10	Organisation Reports RAF Emma Stacey reported the closure of the A1 at the junction 11.00 pm – 2.00 am on 9 th March 2024 to enable a tree on the edge of the camp to be felled safely. She confirmed that the hut near the Community Shop has been repainted and the graffiti covered up. She said Wittfest is due to take place on 7 th August 2024 and the Parish Council was invited to have a stall.
	Bowls' Club Report Ally McNaughton sent the following report:- "The Bowls' Club is due to hold its AGM in March 2024 and will give a report back to the Parish Council".
	All Saints' Church Report Rev Gary Alderson sent the following report:- "The noticeboard is awaiting being put in place. We are looking forward to having the rainbows, guides, and brownies join us for our Mothering Sunday service on 10 th March 2024". Post Meeting – There is a Good Friday Service at 9.00 am on 29 th March 2024 in the church. There is an Easter Egg Hunt at 3.00 pm on 30 th March 2024 in the church. There is an Easter Sunday Holy Communion Service at 10.30 am in the church.
	Allotments Geoff Dunkley confirmed that the tree and fence have been dealt with.
24(03)11	Planning 23/00852/FUL Proposed Cattery, temporary mobile home and small pet crematorium at Magnolia House, Old Oundle Road, Thornhaugh – Awaiting Decision 24/00183/HHFUL Front ground floor extension at 51 Church Road, Wittering – Awaiting Decision
24(03)12	Correspondence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various CAPALC Bulletins • PCC Parish Liaison Group – 6.30 pm 21/03/24 (Zoom) • PCC Housing Strategy Consultation (closing date 04/03/24) • Cpl Aaron Dalzell – Road Safety Signs
24(03)13	Finance <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 Jo Gault and agreed by all present • To approve the Clerk's Pay Increase backdated to 1st April 2023 – this was agreed by all present.
24(03)14	Matters for Future Consideration There were no matters for future consideration.
23(03)15	Date of the next meeting To confirm the date of the next meeting as 11 th April 2024, to be held at 7.30 pm in Wittering Parish Hall.

Deirdre McCumiskey, Wittering Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

SIGNED _____

DATE 11/04/24

Chairman