

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

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MINUTES OF WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 13th JUNE 2024 IN THE PARISH HALL

Item No	
24(06)1	<p>Chair's Welcome The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>
24(06)2	<p>In Attendance: John Bradshaw, Julia Cunnington, Jo Gault, Dave Hughes, Jean Jackson, Kate Jackson, Russell Pye, Emma Wilson-Jones, Louise Sampson (RAF Wittering), Jane Taylor-Pitt (Wansford Parish Council), two members of the public and Deirdre McCumiskey (Clerk)</p> <p>Apologies for Absence: Geoff Dunkley, Iain Wilkinson, Sharon Polden (Airplay Station Youth Worker), Gavin Elsey (PCC Ward Councillor)</p>
24(06)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 declared an interest in all matters concerning All Saints' Church (as he is a Church Warden).</p>
24(06)4	<p>Public Forum Jane Taylor-Pitt explained the two functions of the Good Neighbours Rural Peterborough. One is to consult with rural Parish Councils on common issues such as fly-tipping and rural crimes. The other is to harness the skills and goodwill of local volunteers to help vulnerable people (aged eighteen and over in the rural parishes of Peterborough), where friends and family are unable to do so. Although several Wittering residents have requested support, there are currently no volunteers in the village. It was agreed that a request for volunteers will be put on Facebook and mentioned at the WoW Group Meeting. Louise Sampson will include the request on information distributed to RAF Personnel. Jane Taylor-Pitt suggested that a Warm Hub could be run in the new Wittering Community Building.</p>
24(05)5	<p>Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th May 2023 (AGM) and 16th May 2024 The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th May 2023, were reviewed, approved as proposed by Emma Wilson-Jones, seconded by Jo Gault, agreed to by all present and signed by the Chair. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th May 2024, were reviewed, approved as proposed by Emma Wilson-Jones, seconded by Dave Hughes, agreed to by all present and signed by the Chair.</p>
24(06)6	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes of 16th May 2024</p>
	<p>Wittering A1 Flyover Campaign Group Gavin Elsey was not present so there was no update. The Chair commented that despite the substantial number of additional properties built in the last forty years, access from the A1 South into the village is worse than most other local villages. It was noted that Gavin had agreed to pursue the issue of people doing U-turns at the junction.</p>

	<p>New Wittering Community Building</p> <p>Dave Hughes said a further meeting had taken place with the architect, also a meeting with the Parish Councillors to show them the plans. It was agreed to hold a meeting with Parish Hall users and the RAF at 7.30 pm on 2nd July 2024. Dave is discussing the plans with the Practice Manager of Wansford GP Surgery. The Chair proposed that the idea of employing a fund raiser should be further investigated, this was seconded by Dave Hughes and agreed to by all present. Louise Sampson agreed to send details of a Funding Workshop that is due to be held at Market Deeping. The Clerk will investigate the possibility of opening another bank account solely for the project. She will also prepare a spreadsheet of income and expenditure. It was agreed that Russell Pye will be reimbursed for purchasing a bottle of gin (£14) for a friend who had undertaken preliminary land studies at no cost.</p>
	<p>Village Events</p> <p>The next Village Event will be the Summer Fete 1.00–11.00 pm on 13th July 2024. Banners advertising the event have now been erected in the village. Emma Wilson-Jones proposed that, if the weather is fine, cars can be parked on the grass near the Bowls' Club, this was seconded by Russell Pye, and agreed to by all present. It was noted that PCC may lend plastic ramps and temporary orange fencing for this. It was also agreed to look at obtaining yellow cones (stating No Parking) to be placed down Burghley Avenue. Thanks were expressed to the Events' Committee for all their hard work.</p>
	<p>Village Bus Service</p> <p>The new Bus Service commenced on 3rd June 2024 and is proving very popular. The wooden Bus Shelter on Church Road needs refurbishing/replacing by PCC. It needs to be suitably designed to deter anti-social behaviour in this area of the village. PCC has stated that the land is owned by Cross Keys and is in liaison with Cross Keys about this matter. The Clerk will contact PCC to try and expedite this. A Request Stop has been agreed to on Townsend Road for buses going towards Peterborough. The Chair proposed that the Clerk contacts PCC to request that double yellow lines are painted on St George's Road/Parker Road to ensure that no vehicles are parked in this area to enable to bus driver to safely navigate the corner, this was seconded by Dave Hughes, and agreed by all present. Thanks were expressed to John Elson has produced a colourful map of the route. Julia Cunnington proposed that the map could be used for merchandise such as tea-towels, etc, this was seconded by Jo Gault, and agreed to by all present. Julia Cunnington expressed her thanks to Jay Allsopp for doing the survey, the Campaign Group and all the Wittering Residents for supporting the campaign. In response, Julia was thanked by the Parish Councillors for all her hard work in the campaign.</p>
	<p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>The Chair and Jo Gault had met with Gavn Elsey and had agreed that a letter will be distributed to all residents explaining what a Neighbourhood Plan involves and asking for specific volunteers. The Chair will speak to Simon Scriven, Chair of Sutton Neighbourhood Plan Group, regarding the contents of the letter.</p>
	<p>Speedwatch</p> <p>Iain Wilkinson had obtained the following quotes for Radar Speed Cameras:- Elan Evolis (£5,615.98), Morelock (£7,788) and Pandora Tech (£8.394). All three companies are used in the UK, with Cambs Police familiar with Evolis and Morelock. As Iain was not present, it was agreed to defer a decision until the next meeting.</p>
	<p>Communication with Residents</p> <p>The Clerk had started a Wittering Parish Council Facebook page which is in its early stages. Jean Jackson and Julia Cunnington agreed to help with it.</p>
	<p>Parish Hall – Terms & Conditions</p> <p>Russell Pye has been looking at the current Parish Hall Terms & Conditions. More work will be undertaken on this when the New Community Building is built.</p>
	<p>Keyholders for Parish Council Owned Buildings</p> <p>The Clerk will ask the Sports & Social Club for a Parish Council fob. Lisa Creighton and Jo Gault will check which key fits the grey door of the Bowls' Club. Russell Pye has a universal key for the Football Club Pavilion.</p>
	<p>Storage Container</p> <p>There was no update on this.</p>
	<p>Nature Recovery in Wittering</p> <p>The Chair had met with Sophie Van Den Burgh and Simon Hurn, contractor, to plan rewilding in the churchyard. Sophie Van Den Burgh will make another visit to the village to see what progress has been made.</p>
24(06)7	<p>Parish Council Logo</p> <p>Sharon Pollard had sent in a shortlist of designs drawn by Wittering Primary Schol pupils and rated by the Youth Group. Emma Wilson-Jones will put them on the Parish Council's WhatsApp Group for Parish Councillors to look at.</p>
24(06)8	<p>Parish Hall Fire Safety Report</p>

	<p>This was undertaken on 23rd May 2024 by Newflame and had been circulated prior to the meeting. Russell Pye said he disagreed with several points in the report and will contact Newflame to discuss further.</p>
24(06)9	<p>Park Farm Trees It was noted that the roots continue to extend under the playing field. Russell Pye agreed to obtain a quote for a Tree Survey.</p>
24(06)10	<p>Limiting the Meetings to Two Hours It was agreed to reduce the Organisation Reports discussed at each meeting unless an organisation has an urgent item that it wishes the Parish Council to discuss</p>
24(06)11	<p>Police Report PC Stephen Main sent the following report:-</p> <p>“The police surgeries will now be arranged by council ward, encompassing all the parishes within each ward. We understand that the parishes work independently of the council wards, but these present a good geographic area within which to work. There will be a surgery every 6 weeks and we will rotate between each ward. As there are four wards this means each ward, and hence each parish, will have a surgery in their locality twice a year.</p> <p>These will now take place on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings as during the last 6 months this has yielded the best attendance. I will offer a 2-hour window just like before between 5.00-8.00 pm, i.e. 5.00-7.00 pm or 6.00-8.00 pm. I will email all the parishes within each respective ward with the possible dates, and I will await parish clerks/Cllrs to respond to me. As a “ward surgery” it would be beneficial for you to discuss and organise with fellow parishes where the surgery can be held – this should be rotated between the parishes on each occasion. Through the previous process it has become apparent that not all parishes can host a surgery, and some are more responsive and engaging than others and it has taken a lot of time for me to try and arrange with particular parishes whether they want to host, and what days they can/can’t do which ultimately takes time out of me being on the streets providing the service your residents want of me. Once this discussion between parishes has taken place, which can involve me if required, then please let me know where and when the surgery is to be hosted.</p> <p>I am going to look at dates and then these will be emailed to you, Ideally it will be a ward for all the parishes to come to. Our view is that in most cases it should not involve much driving (although we appreciate, we cover a large geographic area) if it was not to be hosted in your village. In addition, you can network with fellow parishes and councillors and as we noticed that the same issues crop up across parishes/wards, so if there has been an issue in one area and it has been solved, then this can be adopted in another area and as a ward we can discuss things in one go.</p> <p>I am proud to be your point of contact and I know the team work hard to provide you with a service you can be proud of and I thank you for your hospitality when I do visit and when we do have these surgeries as you are the eyes and ears and I urge any reports please do report via 101 or via online as if I am away or sick the report / email will sit on my emails and not looked until my return.</p> <p>I hope to get the first ward in by the end of June and look to then plan and sort times and dates with the other wards. There is a lot of demand in neighbourhood policing during the summer months, so please be patient”.</p> <p>It was noted that the next police surgery is due to take place at 6.00-8.00 pm on 15th July 2024 at Wansford Community Hall.</p> <p>Jean Jackson had met with Insp Jo Grant and PC Stephen Main and discussed the following:- terrorism letter, speeding on Old Oundle Road, speeding in the village, anti-social behaviour/drug taking and talking to Y5 and Y6 school children. The main message from the meeting was for residents to report all crimes, however small.</p>
24(06)12	<p>Organisation Reports RAF Report Louise Sampson said that she and Emma Stacey will attend alternate Parish Council Meetings. It was noted that the £4,279.55 grant from the Cambs Community Foundation to fund the children’s summer activities in the village has now been received.</p>
	<p>Sports & Social Club Report Lisa Creighton had no update from the Sports & Social Club.</p>

	<p>Bowls' Club Report It was noted that the new lawnmower for the Bowls' Club has been ordered but the delivery has been delayed.</p>
	<p>Junior Football Club Report The Football Club will be holding a presentation on the playing field on 22nd June 2024. Questions were asked about the information that Football Club Lease will be reviewed by the Parish Council. Russell Pye said that all leases will be reviewed in association with the building of the Wittering Community Building, but no immediate changes are envisaged. Thanks were expressed to the Football Club for their hard work in encouraging village children to participate in this sport.</p>
	<p>All Saints' Church Report Gary Alderson – “the Church noticeboard is now in place. We are allowing space in it for Parish Council notices and for the uniformed organisations. If anyone else wants to put a notice on it, let me know and we can look for a space if appropriate. On 6th June 2024 we hosted a memorial ceremony for the 80th anniversary of D-day. We are raising money through grant applications and appeals to cover the cost (c 20-30k) of the roof repairs, wall repairs and the graveyard-wide tree work including removal of the dying ash tree – scheduled for late June 2024. My congratulations to Gavin Elsey on his re-election and thanks for the work he's done and continues to do for the community (personal comment)”.</p>
24(06)13	<p>Planning 23/01750/FUL Installation of an approximately 4.3km below ground pipeline as a diversion to an existing pipeline at Collyweston – Awaiting Decision 24/00686/TRE Lime trees x 3 (red) crown raise to 4m, reduce and shape trees by approx 3m (05/00002/TPO) at 7 Church View, Trent Road, Wittering – Awaiting Decision 24/00721/WCPP Variation of condition C2 (drawings and documents) of planning permission 23/00852/FUL at Land Adjacent To Magnolia House, Old Oundle Road, Thornhaugh – Awaiting Decision 24/00741/FUL Erection of a replacement stable block at Magnolia House, Old Oundle Road, Thornhaugh – Awaiting Decision</p>
24(06)14	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various CAPALC Bulletins • Cate Harding - Parish Council Liaison Meeting 19th June 2024 6.30pm (the Chair will attend) • Cristina Fernandez Hierro – Recycling Education from Peterborough City Council.- she will attend the next Parish Council Meeting
24(06)15	<p>Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To approve the payments included on the financial statement (previously circulated). Approved as proposed by Jo Gault, seconded by Emma Wilson-Jones, and agreed to by all present. • To discuss two months' free hire of the Parish Hall for Slimming World's new class – Approved as proposed by Jo Gault, seconded by Russell Pye, and agreed to by all present. • To discuss request from All Saints' Church for funding to fell a dying tree in the churchyard. Approved as proposed by Jo Gault, seconded by Julia Cunnington, and agreed by all present. CIL monies will be used. • To discuss purchasing the Rialtas Parish Council Software package – Approved as proposed by Emma Wilson-Jones, seconded by Jo Gault, and agreed to by all present.
24(06)16	<p>Matters for Future Consideration Kate Jackson gave her apologies for absence for the next meeting.</p>
23(06)17	<p>Date of the next meeting To confirm the date of the next meeting as 11th July 2024, to be held at 7.30 pm in Wittering Parish Hall.</p>

Deirdre McCumiskey, Wittering Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

SIGNED _____

DATE 11/07/24

Chairman

impedes