

WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL

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**MINUTES OF WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY, 12th SEPTEMBER 2024 IN THE PARISH HALL**

Item No	
24(09)1	Chair's Welcome The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
24(09)2	In Attendance: John Bradshaw, Julia Cunnington, Geoff Dunkley, Jo Gault, Kate Jackson, Russell Pye, Iain Wilkinson, Emma Wilson-Jones, Louise Sampson (RAF Wittering), Rev Gary Alderson, 12 members of the public and Deirdre McCumiskey (Clerk) Apologies for Absence: Dave Hughes and Gavin Elsey (PCC Ward Councillor)
24(09)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). Russell Pye declared an interest in all matters concerning the Junior Football Club (as he is the Treasurer).
24(09)4	Public Time The members of the public raised the following issues:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sharon Polden and two members of Airplay reported on how the £4,279.55 grant from the Cambs Community Foundation (CCF) had been spent on summer activities. She will write a report to be sent to the CCF. They also spoke about the plans for activities to be held during the October half-term.• Jack Knight asked if the Parish Council would support his attempts to persuade the Highways Division to improve the path alongside the A1 North down to RAF Wittering Main Entrance following the sad death of Aircraftman Shaun Thomas on the A1 on 8th August 2024. The Parish Council agreed to support this as proposed by Jo Gault, seconded by Emma Wilson-Jones and agreed by all present.• Nuro Bakir, Serdar Erdogan and Encan Tasci asked if the Parish Council would give permission for them to site a breakfast/burger van on St Goerge's Road opposite to the Community Shop. This land is owned by the MoD and private individuals. It was agreed that this was not a suitable site. The trio were asked to contact PCC to identify a more suitable site (maybe near to the Allison Homes' Development) before bringing it back to next month's Parish Council Meeting.• Derek Griffin stated that he felt the suggestion that bus passengers travelling to Peterborough could request the bus to stop outside the Manor Close bungalows was potentially dangerous. He felt the bottom of Church Road was a more suitable place. Julia Cunnington confirmed that there are four main bus stops in the village but, as it is classed as a rural area, residents can request that the bus stops anywhere on its

	<p>route through the village providing that it is safe to do so. She will ask the bus drivers if they have experienced any safety issues when picking up passengers outside the Manor Close bungalows.</p>
24(09)5	<p>Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th July 2024 The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th July 2024, were reviewed, approved as proposed by Emma Wilson-Jones, seconded by Jo Gault, agreed to by all present and signed by the Chair. The Chair said that he had invited Sam Carling, the newly elected MP for North-West Cambridgeshire, to attend a future Parish Council meeting and will chase this invitation up.</p>
24(09)6	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes of 11th July 2024</p>
	<p>Wittering A1 Flyover Campaign Group Gavin Elsey was not present so there was no update. The Clerk will contact him for an update. He had a meeting on site with Highways England as it is HE not PCC who have jurisdiction over the road and they are supposed to be coming back with proposals. They wouldn't allow bollards there as it is a junction that has to be wide enough to facilitate all vehicles in the event of a diversion and wouldn't accept that the bollards would still allow that. He will chase them again as he also asked them to repaint all the road markings, and they haven't done that either.</p>
	<p>New Wittering Community Building Dave Hughes had sent an email stating that there has been no further progress with the planning and development for the new build throughout the summer period. He feels the Parish Council should consider how funding is secured before making any further progress. He still welcomes ideas and someone to lead with the financial aspect of the project. The Clerk had been recommended a fund-raiser (Richard Twigg of 4 Grants) who works on a no-win, no-fee basis but takes 10% of each successful grant application. She will contact him to ascertain if he felt he could help with applying for grants. Louise Sampson said that alternatively the Parish Council could apply for funding for a fund-raiser who would be paid a salary for applying for grants. It was agreed that we need to push on with the plans. The Chair plans to visit Warboys Parish Council who are also planning a new community building but are further on with their plans and would welcome someone to accompany him. This plan was proposed by Emma Wilson-Jones, seconded by Russell Pye and agreed by all present.</p>
	<p>Village Events The Summer Fete was a successful and enjoyable event with over 800 people attending. The next events will be Remembrance Tea on 9th November, Drag Bingo on 16th November and a Christmas Fayre on 7th December 2024. The Chair expressed grateful thanks to the Events' Committee for all their hard work.</p>
	<p>Village Bus Service A Review Meeting is due to be held on 27th September 2024. A request will be submitted for the provision of earlier and later buses.</p>
	<p>Neighbourhood Plan The draft letter to residents had already been circulated prior to the meeting. The Clerk will finalise it and get it copied. It will be made clear that this is not connected to Neighbourhood Watch. It was noted that the S&S Club will be undertaking a leaflet drop and the Clerk will contact the S&S Club to see if they are willing to combine it with the Parish Council. Jo Gault will contact Royal Mail. An expression of interest meeting will be held once the Parish Council knows the response.</p>
	<p>Speedwatch and 20mph Speed Limit in the Village Iain Wilkinson confirmed that the cost of a 10-year warranty for the Elan Evolis is £250. This was proposed by Emma Wilson-Jones, seconded by Jo Gault, and agreed to by all present. Iain Wilkinson will deal with this. It was agreed to keep the request for a 20-mph speed limit under review and monitor the situation once the speed cameras have been installed.</p>
	<p>Nature Recovery in Wittering The Chair said that he will invite Sophie Van Den Burgh to the next Parish Council Meeting for an update.</p>
	<p>Parish Council Logo Emma Wilson-Jones confirmed that No. 7 was the winning design, and she will progress this.</p>
	<p>Parish Hall Fire Safety Report, Fire Alarm Set-up, and Fire Regulations Russell Pye had spoken to Newflame regarding the inaccuracies contained in the Fire Safety Report. The report has now been amended. Russell asked that a laminated copy of the Fire Regulations is put up in the Parish Hall and the S&S Club are asked to include them in the S&S Club's Fire Regulations.</p>
	<p>Park Farm Trees and Path Alongside the Playing Field</p>

	<p>The Clerk will inform PCC that the tree roots are impacting on the S&S Club and when the leaves fall from the branches that overhang the path, this will make the path extremely slippery and potentially dangerous. This was proposed by Russell Pye, seconded by Emma Wilson-Jones and agreed by all present.</p>
	<p>Non-Payment of Parish Hall Fee The Clerk confirmed that she had now received the outstanding payments.</p>
	<p>Ownership of land down left-hand side of the church This has been confirmed as a Defence Infrastructure Organisation Active Land Parcel.</p>
	<p>Parish Hall – Revised Terms & Conditions These had been circulated prior to the meeting and they will be put into use.</p>
	<p>Parish Council Owned Buildings The Finance Sub Committee had met to discuss the revised Agreements with the Bowls' Club, the Children's Football Club and the Adults' Football Club as drafted by Rusell Pye. Individual meetings will be arranged with these three groups to discuss the agreements and, once these have been agreed, they will be brought to a future parish council meeting for approval by the Parish Council.</p>
24(09)8	<p>Peterborough City Council Draft Local Plan Update Considering the new government's proposed revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework, published in July 2024, and the anticipated updates to housing figures PCC has decided that the consultation on the draft Local Plan, scheduled for September and October 2024 is paused until February 2025 followed by a 6-week consultation. This will allow the necessary time to incorporate any changes to national policy, review site selection work and will ensure the evidence base is up to date. The new Local Development Scheme was approved by the council on 5 September 2024, this sets out the timetable and all the consultation stages involved in the preparation of a new Local Plan for Peterborough. Due to the changes to the Draft Local Plan consultation, and the recognition that circumstances change, PCC is aware that new sites may well now be available. Therefore, it is providing an opportunity for landowners and developers to submit additional sites for consideration through an additional Call for Sites exercise. PCC will be contacting the Parish Council again in late October for our input on additional sites, should there be any relevant to our Parish. Please note that PCC will require any comments that we wish to make to be submitted by 29th November 2024. At the meeting held on 11th September 2024, a question was asked if PCC considers the extra houses that are planned for Huntingdonshire and East Northamptonshire – the answer was 'yes' but was somewhat vague. The Chair asked if PCC liaise with Highways England if extra houses are planned close to major roads, for example the A1. He was informed that possible safety concerns take higher priority than other factors when making a decision.</p>
24(9)9	<p>Parish Councillor Vacancy The Parish Council will be able to co-opt if 10 or more residents do not request an election by 19th September 2024. Thanks were expressed to Jean Jackson for her commitment and hard work since becoming a Parish Councillor and it was agreed that the Chair will take her a card and some flowers.</p>
24(9)10	<p>Future of Good Neighbour Scheme in Wittering Julia Cunnington confirmed that there had been a very poor response from residents willing to volunteer and other Parishes were having to cover the village. Despite trying to recruit more volunteers, with no success, she now felt it was time to withdraw from the scheme. This suggestion was proposed by Emma Wilson-Jones, seconded by Julia Cunnington and agreed by all present.</p>
24(09)11	<p>Police Report It was noted that PC Stephen Main has been working in the village, monitoring areas of concern that are either reported to the police or picked up on Facebook.</p>
24(09)12	<p>Organisation Reports</p>
	<p>All Saints' Church Rev Gary Alderson said that the Harvest Festival had been held on 8th September. The RAF Spitfire Choir will hold a concert on 22nd September, which will help to raise money for Wittering All Saints' Church. There is a large quantity of pebbles near the War Memorial. If a section of grass is removed, and some easy-maintenance flowerbed planted, the pebbles could be used to surround the flowerbed. A small group comprising Gary, the Chair, representatives of Wittering Primary School and the Veterans will meet to discuss this idea. The church is now open for a couple of hours every Tuesday morning. In the future, Parish Councillor and Ward Councillors Sessions may be held at that time. The Chair is undertaking a sponsored bike ride on 14th September in aid of the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches' Trust.</p>
	<p>Bowls' Club Ally McNaughton reported that the planned purchase of a new lawn mower had been put back to October. The club had done extremely well this season and had the opportunity to play in the Peterborough Premier Bowls'</p>

	League. However, due to the timing of the matches, the club had decided to remain in the Stamford & District Bowls' League. The club will begin playing again in April 2025. Thanks were expressed to the Parish Council for their support.
	<p>RAF Wittering</p> <p>Louise Sampson gave updates on various issues including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permitting PC Stephen Main to use the CLC Building when he is working in the village • Anyone visiting the station is advised that they should not cut across the A1 South, let alone undertake U-turns from the A1 South to the A1 North, to access the main gate. Instead they should travel up to Wansford to turn round • Battle of Britain Outdoor Service and RAF Lancaster Fly-past at Broad Street, Stamford on 15th September 2024 • RAF Wittering Charity Colour Run to raise funds for the RAF Benevolent Fund on 29th September 2024 • Waterloo Band and Bugles of the Rifles at Stamford Corn Exchange Theatre on 1st October 2024 to raise funds for Stamford Royal British Legion
24(09)13	<p>Planning</p> <p>23/01750/FUL Installation of an approximately 4.3km below ground pipeline as a diversion to an existing pipeline at Collyweston – Awaiting Decision</p> <p>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 – Part Refused/Part Permitted</p> <p>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 – Approved</p> <p>24/00741/FUL Erection of a replacement stable block at Magnolia House, Old Oundle Road, Thornhaugh – Approved</p>
24(09)14	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various CAPALC Bulletins (circulated) • Neil Boyce - Local Plan Consultation Meeting - 11/09/24 (Chair and Geoff Dunkley attended, see 24(09)8) • PCC - Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations Review 2024 (circulated) • Neil Boyce – Fly Tipping Investigation Tape (circulated, it was agreed not to obtain any tape) • Richard Clarke – Meeting of Neighbouring Parish Councils to discuss Draft Local Plan (Chair attended and reported that by working together with neighbouring Parish Councils gives us a 'bigger voice' when liaising with PCC)
24(09)15	<p>Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To approve the payments included on the financial statement dated 31st August 2024. Approved as proposed by Jo Gault, seconded by Geoff Dunkley, and agreed by all present. • To discuss a request for £400 towards the Wittering Remembrance Day 2024. Emma Wilson-Jones proposed that this request is raised to £500 to cover increased expenses and this was seconded by Jo Gault and agreed by all present. • To discuss a request for a contribution to the start-up costs of the Community Choir. The Parish Councillors felt that the request was somewhat excessive, and the Clerk will ask for a revised request to be submitted to the next meeting. In addition, she will suggest that they could contact David Standish-Leigh reference the Parish Room Fund. This was proposed by Jo Gault, seconded by Geoff Dunkley and agreed by all present.
24(09)16	<p>Matters for Future Consideration</p> <p>There were no matters for future consideration.</p>
23(09)17	<p>Date of the next meeting</p> <p>To confirm the date of the next meeting as 10th October 2024, to be held at 7.30 pm in Wittering Parish Hall.</p>

Deirdre McCumiskey, Wittering Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

SIGNED _____

DATE 10/10/24

Chairman

