

**WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL**[www.witteringparishcouncil.com](http://www.witteringparishcouncil.com)**Parish Clerk:**

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## MINUTES OF WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2025 IN THE PARISH HALL

Item No	
25(03)1	<p><b>Chair's Welcome</b>            The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>
25(03)2	<p><b>In Attendance:</b>            John Bradshaw (Chair), Susie Briers, Geoff Dunkley, Jo Gault, Dave Hughes, Kate Jackson, Russ Pye, Iain Wilkinson, Emma Wilson-Jones, Emma Stacey (RAF Wittering), six members of the public and Deirdre McCumiskey (Clerk)</p> <p><b>Apologies for Absence:</b>            Gavin Elsey (PCC Ward Councillor)</p>
25(03)3	<p><b>Declaration of Interest</b>            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 Churchwardens). Russ Pye declared an interest in the Junior Football Club (as he is the treasurer).</p>
25(03)4	<p><b>Sarah Hutchinson-Towler, Recycling Assistant – Food Waste Initiative</b>            Sarah explained that PCC is trying to promote the use of food waste recycling by using bins and liners as the numbers of Wittering residents doing this is lower than it would like. The team has visited Wittering and undertaken visual checks which have confirmed that this is the case. The food waste can be used to produce electricity, to produce compost and to produce fuel for vehicles. Bin liners are available at the Coffee Stop. The bins are collected every week. Sarah has visited Wittering Primary School to speak to the pupils. There will be leaflet drop in conjunction with a leaflet drop being undertaken by the Sports &amp; Social Club. She will attend the Summer Fayre.</p>
25(03)5	<p><b>Public Time</b>            The members of the public had raised the following issues:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Julia Cunnington gave an update on the Bus Service. The contract is on a three-monthly rolling basis and, if numbers remain at the current levels, the bus service will continue. Although it is hoped that additional services, for example buses leaving Wittering to Stamford earlier in the morning will eventually happen, at least the village now has a bus service. A survey will be undertaken to establish what additional services residents would like to see. A 1st Anniversary Party of the bus service will take place 12 noon–2.00 pm in the Sports &amp; Social Club. The Sports &amp; Social Club has kindly offered to provide tea, coffee and Prosecco, Castor Parish Council has kindly offered to provide sandwiches, and Stagecoach has kindly offered to provide a cake. Wittering Events Committee has kindly offered to provide balloons. Julia and Sue, a Castor resident had met with Heidi Alexander, Secretary of State for Transport and Sam Carling, MP to discuss the bus service amongst other transport issues. Julia was congratulated on this. There will be a video produced of the bus service which depicts the highlights of Castor, Wansford and Wittering.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Karen Wheritt asked if traffic calming measures could be installed near to the Phoenix Shop in Townsend Road as many motorists speed at the corner which is dangerous, especially when vehicles are parked outside the Phoenix Shop. The Clerk will request an engineering survey to be undertaken by PCC to assess the road safety risks at this location.</li> <li>• Karen Wheritt asked if the flood lights could be switched on at the playing field to give dog walkers better visibility when walking their dogs in the winter months. It was agreed to put this on the agenda for the September meeting. It was noted that many owners do not clear up after their dogs which is disappointing, and all owners are urged to behave responsibly.</li> </ul>
<b>25(03)6</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b> The Minutes of the Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025, were reviewed, approved as proposed by Jo Gaut, seconded by Emma Wilson-Jones, agreed to by all present and signed by the Chair.</p>
<b>25(03)7</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising from the Minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b></p>
	<p><b>Wittering A1 Flyover Campaign Group</b> The Chair had received a letter from Sam Carling, MP, about the need for a flyover.</p>
	<p><b>New Wittering Community Building</b> The Chair and Jo Gault had met with Simon Fairhall at Kings Cliffe Active to discuss possible funding streams for the New Wittering Community Building. Simon had suggested that the current plans are scaled down to a minimum while allowing the potential to future proof expansion later. He had said that it would be almost impossible to obtain the estimated £2.1 million funding needed. He had emphasised the importance of showing community engagement when applying for funds. One way of doing this is to include a couple of questions in the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire, such as 'would you like to have a new community building in the village' and 'what would you use it for'. Local groups currently using the Parish Hall, such a yoga and Slimming World could be approached for letters of support.</p>
	<p><b>Village Events</b> Jack of Wittering Events' Committee said that the Drag Bingo held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2025 had been successful. There will be at least 18 stall holders attending the Summer Fayre. Leaflets advertising the Summer Fayre will be distributed to residents and banners will be erected at both entrances to the village. Jean Jackson asked if events for older people could be included in the Summer Fayre, for example a cake making competition or an agricultural stall. It was explained that the Events' Committee only consists of five members so this would not be possible without additional volunteers. Jack confirmed that the minutes of Wittering Events' Committee Meetings and the accounts are available on request. Thanks were expressed to the Events' Committee for their hard work. On a personal note, Jack will be undertaking a skydive in August to raise funds for Dementia UK and would be delighted if anyone is able to sponsor him.</p>
	<p><b>Neighbourhood Plan</b> It was agreed to pay the £20 cost of printing an Appendix of the Draft Local Plan and, in addition, Geoff Dunkley proposed a £60 float for the group's expenses. This was second by Russ Pye and agreed to by all present. The Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire will be distributed in the next month in a paper version, online and with a QR code. This may be in conjunction with a leaflet drop being undertaken by the Sports &amp; Social Club.</p>
	<p><b>Speed Radars</b> Iain Wilkinson said that the speed radars have been powered up but need clamps which he has ordered. They will be installed at the entrances/exits to the village – Townsend Road and Old Oundle Road.</p>
	<p><b>Parish Council Logo</b> Emma Wilson-Jones said there have been delays due to the difficulty of transferring a hand-drawn logo rather than a computer designed logo and she will need to approach a graphic designer for help with this. Russ Pye proposed that £500 be allocated for the cost, this was seconded by Jo Gault and agreed to by all present.</p>
	<p><b>Park Farm Trees</b> Russ Pye will speak to an arboriculturist about the trees.</p>
	<p><b>Leases for the Junior Football Club and Adult Football Club</b> Russ Pye said that both clubs are happy with the leases which will start at the beginning of the new season. The clubs will pay a monthly sum to the Parish Council which will be held in a bank account on their behalf and used when work needs to be undertaken. A grant will be submitted to the Football Association to pay for improvements to the pitch. He is consulting ProjectX regarding repairs to the football club pavilion and other Parish Council Owned Buildings.</p>
	<p><b>History Boards</b> David Standish-Leigh has arranged a meeting at 7.30 pm on 25<sup>th</sup> March at Grange Farm to talk about Wittering's history and what information could be included on the history boards. He has photos of some of the artefacts that have been collected over the years. The Chair asked Robin Dunlop if he was able to make a presentation</p>

	on his historical finds at the Summer Fayre on 12th July, but he said that Matt the Metal Detectorist would be much better at giving such a presentation.
	<b>State of the Roads</b> The Clerk was asked to arrange a site meeting with the Chair and a PCC Highways Officer to discuss the poor state of the roads and the poor repair work.
	<b>Bowls' Club Door Keys</b> Russ Pye is dealing with this.
	<b>Google</b> It was agreed to defer this until the next meeting.
25(03)8	<b>Play Park – fenced off equipment and the state of the sign</b> The Clerk will report this to PCC.
25(03)9	<b>Short fence outside the church, broken post and detached chain link fence hazard</b> It was noted that this is MoD land. Emma Stacey will deal with this.
25(03)10	<b>Police Matters</b> There were no police matters discussed.
25(03)11	<b>Organisation Reports</b>
	<b>Sports &amp; Social Club</b> The Sports & Social Club's AGM will be held on 17 <sup>th</sup> April and a report of the past year will be given at the Wittering Parish Council Meeting on 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2025.
	<b>Bowls' Club</b> The Bowls' Club had its AGM on 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 and Glen Willoughby was appointed the new Chair. The hedge is due to be cut in two weeks' time.
	<b>RAF Wittering</b> Emma Stacey said the RAF is unable to help with undertaking a tree survey in the village. She had attended a Poetry Day with Wittering Primary School pupils. She is happy to arrange visits to the Heritage Centre on camp, preferably in the afternoons, and will organise a visit on a Friday afternoon for Parish Councillors.
25(03)12	<b>Planning</b> <b>24/01567/FUL</b> For change of use of agricultural land to dog walking paddocks including formation of gravel car parking area, fencing and landscaping at land to the east of Wittering Ford Road, Barnack – Awaiting Decision <b>25/00015/LBC</b> Replacement windows at 5 Townsend Road, Wittering – Refused
25(03)13	<b>Correspondence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAPALC Membership</li> </ul>
25(03)14	<b>Finance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To approve the payments included on the financial statement dated 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025. Approved as proposed by Emma Wilson-Jones, seconded by Jo Gault, and agreed by all present</li> <li>• Clerk's Salary Review – a pay rise in line with guidance provided by the National Association of Councils was approved as proposed by Emma Wilson-Jones, seconded by Iain Wilkinson, and agreed to by all present.</li> <li>• It was agreed to purchase 10 'no smoking' stickers for the Parish Hall.</li> </ul>
25(03)16	<b>Matters for Future Consideration</b> There were no matters for future consideration.
25(03)17	<b>Date of the next meeting</b> To confirm the date of the next meeting as 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 to be held at 7.30 pm in Wittering Parish Hall. The Chair gave his apologies. The meeting will be Chaired by Jo Gault.

Deirdre McCumiskey, Wittering Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

DATE 24/04/25

Chairman