

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

Mrs D P McCumiskey
 59 Amberley Slope
 Werrington Village
 Peterborough
 PE4 6QQ

Tel: 07565 499346

clerk@witteringparishcouncil.com



MINUTES OF WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 27th FEBRUARY 2025 IN THE PARISH HALL

Item No	
25(02)1	<p>Chair's Welcome The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>
25(02)2	<p>In Attendance: John Bradshaw (Chair), Geoff Dunkley, Jo Gault, Dave Hughes, Russ Pye, Iain Wilkinson, Emma Wilson-Jones, Gavin Elsey (PCC Ward Councillor), Louise Sampson (RAF Wittering), seven members of the public and Deirdre McCumiskey (Clerk)</p> <p>Apologies for Absence: Kate Jackson, Wittering Harriers Junior Football Club and Wittering Adult Football Team.</p>
25(02)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 Churchwardens). Russ Pye declared an interest in all matters concerned the Wittering Harrier Junior Football Club (as he is the Treasurer).</p>
25(02)4	<p>Public Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julia Cunnington asked if the Parish Council would fund three noticeboards for the Exeter Road, St George's Road and Church Road bus stops at a cost of £716 inc VAT in total. This was approved as proposed by Russ Pye, seconded by Iain Wilkinson, agreed to by all present. Julia had attended a Bus Service Campaign Meeting earlier in the day and said that the continuation of the bus service and any requested changes to it are all dependent on funding.
25(02)5	<p>Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd January 2025 The Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd January 2025, were reviewed, approved as proposed by Emma Wilson-Jones, seconded by Geoff Dunkley, agreed to by all present and signed by the Chair.</p>
25(02)6	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes of 23rd January 2025</p>
	<p>Wittering A1 Flyover Campaign Group Gavin Elsey said that he had no update to give at present. Sam Carling, MP is due to visit Wittering Primary School on 28th February 2025 and the Chair will attempt to discuss this with him as he will be there. In addition, the Chair will ask for a meeting with residents and Sam Carling to discuss local issues.</p>
	<p>New Wittering Community Building The Clerk had undertaken some research into how best to obtain funding for the project, but she had not found anything of particular significance thus far. It was agreed she would ask Easton-on-the-Hill and Kings Cliffe Parish Councils how</p>

	<p>they raised funds for their projects. The Chair will meet with them if required. Gavin Elsey agreed to see if there were any officers at Peterborough City Council who could offer advice and help but he doubted there would be anyone.</p>
	<p>Village Events Jo Gault and Emma Wilson-Jones gave an update on the Summer Fayre on 12th July 2025, which will be larger than last year in terms of both the number of stalls and activities including an inflatable play area for children.</p>
	<p>Neighbourhood Plan Jo Gault gave an update on the meeting held on 4th February 2025. It was noted that the Parish Council is a facilitator of the Plan, but it is the residents who will organise and manage it. The next meeting will be held at 7.00 pm on 4th March 2025 in the Bowls' Club and everyone is welcome. The next step will be to produce a questionnaire which will be delivered to all households and local businesses. The questionnaire will be available in paper form and social media, ie Instagram and Facebook, etc.</p>
	<p>Location of the Speed Radars Iain Wilkinson said he will be working on this over the weekend. The old Speed Radars will be removed and relocated. It was agreed that the Parish Council will decide on what notifications will be shown on them, such as a smiley face if the motorist is not speeding.</p>
	<p>Parish Council Logo Emma Wilson-Jones said she is working on this.</p>
	<p>Park Farm Trees Russ Pye had not been able to get anyone from Peterborough City Council to come out and inspect the trees. Louise Sampson agreed to ask if anyone in the RAF would be able to help and, if not, Russ will get a quotation for a tree inspection from a private contractor.</p>
	<p>Leases for the Wittering Harriers Junior Football Club, Wittering Adult Football Club and the Bowls' Club Russ Pye said he will have all three leases ready for the start of the new season. The two football clubs will be asked to pay £50 per month to the Parish Council but will be able to access the funds if they need to pay for some work to be undertaken. The Clerk was asked to contact the football clubs to inform parents to switch off their car lights if they are parking and waiting on the surrounding roads to not confuse other motorists of their intentions.</p>
	<p>Parish Councillor Vacancy There has been one applicant for the vacancy – Susie Briers who has lived in the village for the past 18 years. Susie was co-opted onto the Parish Council as proposed by Geoff Dunkley, seconded by Emma Wilson-Jones and agreed to by all present.</p>
	<p>Meeting Dates 2025 20th March, 24th April (Jo Gault to Chair in the absence of John Bradshaw), 29th May (7.00 pm start), 26th June, 24th July, No meeting in August, 2nd October (September Meeting), 30th October, 27th November, No meeting in December.</p>
	<p>Parish Hall - Heating Costs Maxine Palmer will try and arrange a meeting with Cambridgeshire ACRE who have a funded project to work with Parish Halls and their energy efficiency. Emma Wilson-Jones had obtained a £1,300 quotation for the replacement of the curtains and Russ Pye proposed to accept this as seconded by Geoff Dunkley and agreed to by all present.</p>
25(02)7	<p>History Boards Jean Jackson and David Standish-Leigh spoke of their interest in the Information/History Boards displayed in Kings Cliffe and Thornhaugh. Jean thought they were an excellent way for transient residents and children to learn about the village. Wittering is a very old village with lots of history including an Anglo-Saxon church and the RAF's presence. David Standish-Leigh is willing to give a presentation to the Parish Council of his accumulated knowledge about Wittering. The Parish Councillors could then decide what information should go onto an Information/History Board. It was agreed to add this to the Action Plan (see 25(02)10) as proposed by Emma Wilson-Jones, seconded by Jo Gault and agreed to by all present. Quotations will be obtained for the cost of the boards.</p>
25(02)8	<p>Good Neighbours Rural Peterborough Disappointingly, despite the publicity, there has been little support from residents, and it was agreed not to persevere with this project.</p>
25(02)9	<p>State of the Roads and Poor Standard of Repairs It was noted that, although the potholes are repaired, the repair does not last for long. Geoff Dunkley will send some photographs of potholes to Gavin Elsey who is due to undertake a Village Walkaround with the Director of Highways. The Chair will speak to Richard Clarke of Wansford Parish Council as to how they manage the problem.</p>
25(02)10	<p>Remembrance Bench and the area around the Village Sign</p>

	<p>Emma Wilson-Jones had produced a comprehensive report on the Action Plan: Development of the Village Sign Area for 2025 which had already been circulated, and she was thanked for this. It is hoped that the Remembrance Bench will be unveiled on 8th May 2025 (VE Day).</p>
25(02)11	<p>Meeting with Afghan Families On 14th February 2025, the Chair, Geoff Dunkley and the Clerk had met with five representatives of the Afghan Families who have been living in the village since March 2024. The Afghan Families had raised concerns about the lack of support from organisations that had been tasked to help them settle in. A letter had been sent to Matthew Gladstone, Chief Executive of Peterborough City Council and he had responded disputing the Afghan Families' claims but offering a meeting with the Afghan Families, Wittering Parish Councillors and an officer of PCC. Disappointingly, none of the Afghan Families were in attendance and so it was agreed that the Clerk will send them a copy of Matthew's reply and invite them to attend the next Parish Council Meeting. It was noted that the Parish Councillors have work, family and other commitments and are generally not able to attend meetings at short notice.</p>
25(02)12	<p>Remembrance Gesture for John Hare Emma Wilson-Jones suggested that some forget-me-knots in a pot containing a small plaque could be put at the Bowls' Club, or alternatively a small plaque could be put on one of the benches at the Bowls' Club in memory of John Hare and his long involvement with the club. It was agreed that the Bowls' Club should decide what they wanted to do. This gesture was proposed by Emma Wilson-Jones, seconded by Jo Gault and agreed by to by all present.</p>
25(02)13	<p>Bowls' Club Door Keys The Bowls' Club Door Keys held by John Hare have not yet been found. Russ Pye agreed to obtain a quotation for a locksmith to change the locks on all the Parish Council Owned Buildings.</p>
25(02)14	<p>Email Addresses The Chair and Jo Gault will visit the Clerk on 7th March 2025 to discuss how to make the best use of Google.</p>
25(02)15	<p>Damage to the Wittering Harriers Junior Football Club Front Door Alcove The Wittering Harriers Junior Football Club has been asked to try and obtain three quotations for the damage to be fixed.</p>
25(02)16	<p>Police Matters There were no Police Matters.</p>
25(02)17	<p>Organisation Reports</p>
	<p>Wittering Sports & Social Club It was noted that the Warm Space Events held every Tuesday and Thursday afternoons are continuing for the time being despite a poor take-up.</p>
	<p>Wittering Harriers Junior Football Club and Wittering Adult Football Club Neither Football Club had anything to report.</p>
	<p>RAF Wittering Louise Sampson said that the RAF are working with military children from Wittering Primary School on a poetry event to be held on 20th March 2025 on camp. Civilian Parents and Parish Councillors are also welcome to attend. A request was made for the Parish Councillors to visit the Heritage Centre on camp and Louise will investigate when this could take place.</p>
25(02)18	<p>Planning 23/01750/FUL Installation of an approximately 4.3km below ground pipeline as a diversion to an existing pipeline at Collyweston – Permitted 24/01567/FUL 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 25/00015/LBC Replacement windows at 5 Townsend Road, Wittering – Awaiting Decision</p>
25(02)19	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various CAPALC Bulletins (circulated)
25(02)20	<p>Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To approve the payments included on the financial statement dated 31st January 2025. Approved as proposed by Jo Gault, seconded by Geoff Dunkley, and agreed to by all present • Request for £96.60 funding for the printing of 1,700 questionnaires for the Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan Committee had submitted a detailed application form which had already been

	<p>circulated. This was approved as proposed by Emma Wilson-Jones, seconded by Jo Gault and agreed to by all present.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for £2,000 funding for Wittering Events. The Events' Committee had submitted a detailed application form which had already been circulated. This was approved as proposed by Geoff Dunkley, seconded by Iain Wilkinson, agreed to by all present.
25(02)21	<p>Matters for Future Consideration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider the employment of a handyman to inspect the Parish Council Owned-Buildings on a regular basis and to undertake necessary repairs. The Clerk will obtain quotations for the shredding of documents currently housed in the garages next to the Sports & Social Club
25(02)22	<p>Date of the next meeting To confirm the date of the next meeting as 20th March 2025 to be held at 7.30 pm in Wittering Parish Hall.</p>

Deirdre McCumiskey, Wittering Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

SIGNED _____

DATE 20/03/25

Chairman