

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

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MINUTES OF WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 24th APRIL 2025 IN THE PARISH HALL

Item No	
25(04)1	Chair's Welcome The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
25(04)2	Declaration of Interest
25(04)3	In Attendance: Jo Gault (Chair), Susie Briers, Dave Hughes, Kate Jackson, Iain Wilkinson, Emma Wilson-Jones, twelve members of the public and Deirdre McCumiskey (Clerk) Apologies for Absence: John Bradshaw, Russ Pye, Louise Sampson (RAF Wittering) and Emma Stacey (RAF Wittering)
25(04)4	Public Time The members of the public raised the following issues:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Cottrell raised the following issues regarding the Football Club Pavilion:- the canopy is now a H&S hazard, and it was agreed that this will be taken down. Craig Buttress and James Hare will submit quotes for the brickwork and Russ Pye will obtain a third quote, the shower is still an issue and Russ Pye will deal with this, and he asked if the changing room can be painted in the team colours which was voted on and agreed by the Parish Councillors. The damaged chain fence (Emma Stacey is dealing with this). The Hall Lane sign (the Clerk to contact PCC). The playpark (John Bradshaw is dealing with this). Amy Newell & Orthodoxia Houtri would like to organise 'Turn up and Play' Football Sessions in the village. They were asked to provide a written report on their plans. The Clerk will contact Charlotte Blake, Head of Wittering Primary School to ascertain if the school can offer use of their play area and goal posts. Some of the litter bins need replacing as there are no liners inside them which makes them sharp and rusty and causes the litter sacks to tear when being taken out. The Clerk will report to PCC. The football club bins are overflowing and need emptying. The Clerk will ask the Football Clubs to do this. There is a lot of old leaves blowing around the village. The Clerk will report to PCC.
25(04)5	Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th March 2025 The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 th March 2025, were reviewed, approved as proposed by Emma Wilson-Jones, seconded by Iain Wilkinson, agreed to by all present and signed by the Chair.
25(04)6	Matters Arising from the Minutes of 20th March 2025
	Wittering A1 Flyover Campaign Group

	As Gavin Elsey was not present, there was no update.
	New Wittering Community Building Dave Hughes said that there were some questions about the New Wittering Community Building in the Wittering Village Neighbourhood Plan questionnaires and, when the questionnaires have been returned, there will be more of an idea of what the residents are looking for in a new building.
	Village Events Jack of Wittering Events' Committee said that plans for the Summer Fayre are well in hand, but additional stall holders would be welcome.
	Wittering Village Neighbourhood Plan David Allsopp gave an update on the progress of the Wittering Village Neighbourhood Plan and produced the questionnaire which will be distributed to all households in the village. The number of empty properties will be recorded. Residents will be able to drop it off at the Phoenix Shop, the Wittering Community Shop and the Sports & Social Club. It is hoped that the questionnaire can be delivered along with the Sports & Social Club/Parish Council leaflet in the next three weeks. Emma Wilson-Jones proposed that the Parish Council funds the leaflet this time. This was seconded by Jo Gault and agreed to by all present. PCC Local Draft Plan The proposed number of new properties to be built has been reduced from 5,000 to 1,500 properties. PCC is holding a series of public engagement events connected to the Draft Local Plan.
	Speed Radars Iain Wilkinson said that the clamps for the speed radars have finally arrived, and the speed radars are currently being erected.
	Parish Council Logo Emma Wilson-Jones said designer has produced a rough draft which can be used in various sizes. She will ask for a few minor amendments and report back at next month's Parish Council Meeting.
	Park Farm Trees Russ Pye said he is in talks with Peterborough City Council as regard to the trees that we feel are causing damage to the Parish Buildings and PCC has suggested that we need to notify the occupants of Park Farm that the trees are causing damage to our buildings. Once this has been done, we can then talk with PCC to get a tree survey carried out but the cost for this will have to be funded by us making a claim on our insurance policy.
	Leases for the Junior Football Club and Adult Football Club Russ Pye said he has updated the lease documents for the Football Clubs and Bowls' Club and will present them at the May Meeting for approval as all interested parties have agreed to the content and charge and are willing to proceed. He proposes that all the agreements run from 1 st June to 31 st May annually with quarterly reviews carried out by the Parish Council.
	Parish Council Owned Buildings Russ Pye has secured a meeting with Annington Homes to discuss what support it can offer in carrying out the required works. This will take place on 28 th April 2025
	History Boards Jean Jackson asked for the official approval of forming a working party. This was proposed by Jo Gault, seconded by Kate Jackson and agreed to by all present.
	Bus Services Julia Cunnington confirmed the bus service continues to run well. The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority has approached Lincolnshire County Council regarding bus services to schools in Lincolnshire. The 1 st Anniversary Party of the bus service will take place 12 noon – 2.00 pm on 6 th June 2025 in the Sports & Social Club.
25(04)7	Anti-Social Behaviour There have been several incidents of young people trespassing on surrounding fields and setting fires on the crops. In addition, a horse has been chased by a loose dog on private land. All residents are encouraged to walk their dogs on leads in public places. These incidents have taken place on private land and local landowners need to erect 'Private Land' notices to defer this behaviour. The Clerk will report this anti-social behaviour to PC Stephen Main.
25(04)8	Cross Keys' Inspection of Properties Several gardens of Cross Keys' properties in Church Road are messy and full of rubbish. Residents can independently and anonymously report issues of concern to Cross Keys. The Clerk will contact Cross Keys and request an inspection of properties. Kate Jackson will be happy to accompany them.
25(04)10	Paving Slabs near War Memorial

	Simon Hurn had inspected this and there are eight cracked/broken slabs. The slabs are made of Indian Slate and are only available in packs of twenty but, by buying a pack, we would have spares for the future. Simon will investigate further.
25(04)11	Police Matters There were no police matters discussed other than the anti-social behaviour (25(04)7).
25(04)12	Organisation Reports
	Sports & Social Club The Sports & Social Club's AGM was held on 17 th April 2025. Craig Buttress gave an end-of-year Financial Review including how the available funds had been spent supporting local groups. Grateful thanks were expressed to everyone involved with the Sports & Social Club for their hard work in keeping this valuable village asset running over the past year.
	Bowls' Club The hedge has now been cut. The Bowls' Club re-opened on 19 th April 2025, and they have four new members. They are planning to request a third brown bin from PCC. They have 4–5 pallets to give away. Some of the benches are quite rotten and need repairing or disposing of them.
	RAF Wittering Report from Emma Stacey:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wittering Heritage Centre Visit I have submitted a request to the Heritage Centre Committee to host a visit by Parish Councillors on a Friday. They are currently seeking availability of hosts and suitable dates. (Please note that hosts are volunteers, many of them are also veterans so we very much work around them). As soon as I hear anything I will contact you. Band Request for Village Fete The paperwork has been completed and has been submitted to the Military Music Services. Hopefully we should get some good news shortly!
25(04)13	Correspondence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Already distributed
25(04)14	Planning Applications 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 25/00448/HHFUL Proposed first floor side extension and addition of a front porch at 38 Church Road, Wittering – Awaiting Decision 25/00450/FUL Change of use of land to use as residential caravan site for 4 gypsy/traveller families, each with two caravans including no more than one static caravan/mobile home, together with retention of existing building for use as ancillary dayroom and laying of hardstanding at the Orchard, Uffington Road, Barnack, Stamford – this will be put onto the Wittering Residents' Facebook Page and the Clerk will write to Barnack Parish Council offering the Parish Council's support in dealing with this planning application.
25(04)15	Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To approve the payments included on the financial statement dated 31st March 2025 as proposed by Iain Wilkinson, seconded by Kate Jackson and agreed to by all present.
25(04)16	Matters for Future Consideration Geoff Dunkley resigned as Parish Councillor on 20 th April 2025. The Parish Councillors thanked him for hard work and commitment to the Parish Council over many years. The Clerk will issue the relevant notices regarding the vacancy.
25(04)17	Date of the next meeting To confirm the date of the next meeting – as 7.00 pm on 29 th May 2025 in Wittering Parish Hall. This is the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual General Meeting.

Deirdre McCumiskey, Wittering Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

SIGNED _____

DATE 29/05/25

Chairman

