

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

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MINUTES OF WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 29th May 2025 IN THE PARISH HALL

| Item No | |
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| 25(05)1 | Chair's Welcome The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. |
| 25(05)2 | In Attendance: John Bradshaw (Chair), Susie Briers, Jo Gault, Kate Jackson, Russ Pye, Iain Wilkinson, Emma Wilson-Jones, Emma Stacey (RAF Wittering), Gavin Elsey (PCC Ward Councillor), two members of the public and Deirdre McCumiskey (Clerk) Apologies for Absence: Dave Hughes |
| 25(05)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 declared an interest in all matters concerning All Saints' Church (as he is a Churchwarden). Russ Pye declared an interest in the Junior Football Club (as he is the Treasurer). |
| 25(05)4 | Election of Officers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of Chair to the Parish Council – John Bradshaw • Appointment of Vice Chair to the Parish Council – Jo Gault Appointment of Sub-Committees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance Sub-Committee - the Chair, Jo Gault, Russ Pye and the Clerk • Parish Council Owned Buildings & Land Sub-Committee – the Chair, Susie Briers, Dave Hughes and Iain Wilkinson. • New Parish Hall Sub-Committee – the Chair, Brian Day, Dave Hughes and Kate Jackson |
| 25(05)5 | Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th April 2025 The Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 th April 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(05)6 | Matters Arising from the Minutes of 24th April 2025 |
| | Wittering A1 Flyover Campaign Group Gavin Elsey said that the Government are stalling on deciding as to whether this will go ahead due to the preparation of the PCC Draft Local Plan. |
| | New Wittering Community Building Two questions about the New Wittering Community Building will be included in the Wittering Village Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire. The Sports & Social Club have produced an alternative plan to the one designed by the architect, and it is hoped that both plans will be available at the Village Fayre. |

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| | <p>Village Events</p> <p>The plans for the Summer Fayre are well-in-hand, but additional stall holders would be welcome. This year, the whole field will be used. There will be several new activities including a Dog Show. An event may be arranged for September. Thanks were expressed to the Events Committee for their hard work. Emma Wilson-Jones said that she had sourced some signage and fencing which will be stored in the garages.</p> |
| | <p>Wittering Village Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>The Wittering Village Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire has been printed is due to be distributed in July 2025 and will include two questions about the building. It is hoped that the questionnaire will be available within the next two weeks. A QR code will be added to it. Gavin Elsey said he will try and attend future meetings of the group as and when his commitments allow.</p> |
| | <p>Parish Council Liaison Meeting</p> <p>The Chair asked the Parish Councillors to authorise writing the following letter to Gemma Wildman, Planning Policy Manager, PCC.</p> <p>At the Parish Council Liaison meeting on 30th April 2025, John Bradshaw, Chair of Wittering Parish Council asked the following question:-</p> <p><i>"The only roads in and out of Wittering are dangerous. Residents face hazardous journeys whenever they leave and return to Wittering, including taking journeys to gain access to basic health care. There are no safe footpaths, cycle routes or bridleways in or out of Wittering. Furthermore, Wittering Primary School has empty places and access to the school, from outside the village, can only happen using dangerous roads. In these circumstances, why did PCC granted planning permission for a significant number of extra homes to be built in Wittering? Some of these houses have already been built and are occupied, others are currently under construction. The inevitable result of this extra housing has been to add significant traffic volumes to the dangerous Wittering roads. The Chair asked for this question to be minuted and made the reasonable request that a reply to this question should be received within two weeks. Four weeks has now passed, and Wittering Parish Council is both surprised and disappointed that no answer has been received. Wittering Parish Council is now formally writing to PCC asking for a reply to the above question within 5 days as stipulated by the Parish Council Charter. We look forward to receiving your answer".</i></p> <p>The sending of the letter was proposed by Russ Pye, seconded by Kate Jackson and agreed to by all present.</p> |
| | <p>Draft Local Plan</p> <p>The proposed number of houses to be built near Wittering has been rescinded because there are no plans in place to improve the crossing over the A1 southbound nor to build the required infrastructure. However, it was noted that if the proposed number of houses to be built near Castor (3,000) is also rescinded, the Parish Council still needs to be watchful of where these houses will be built.</p> |
| | <p>Speed Radars</p> <p>Iain Wilkinson said that one of the speed radars has been erected. The speed radars run for 14 days before the batteries stop working but the radars are still working even if they are not showing any speed warnings.</p> |
| | <p>Parish Council Logo</p> <p>Emma Wilson-Jones said the designer has finalised the design which can be used in various sizes. Emma will inform Wittering Primary School, and prizes will be purchased for the three winners. Thanks were expressed to Emma for her hard work with this project.</p> |
| | <p>Park Farm Trees</p> <p>It was agreed that the Clerk will draft a letter to the residents concerned and Wittering Primary School stating that there are issues with both the height of the trees, including overhanging branches and the impact of the growing roots on the Sports & Social Club garages and nearby paths. The letter will request that the residents and Wittering Primary School undertake a tree survey. If they are unwilling to do this, the Parish Council will pay for a tree survey and claim the cost back from the residents and Wittering Primary School.</p> |
| | <p>Overgrown Bushes on Boxer Road/Church Road</p> <p>The Clerk will ask Simon Hurn to cut back the bushes.</p> |
| | <p>Leases for the Junior Football Club and Adult Football Club</p> <p>Russ Pye said he has updated the lease documents for the Football Clubs (the Bowls' Club lease has been agreed) and will circulate them to the Parish Councillors in time for the next meeting. Both clubs are willing to sign the leases, and this will give them the opportunity to apply for grants to invest in the field. The Clerk will invite both clubs to attend the next meeting.</p> |
| | <p>History Boards</p> |

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| | <p>Jean Jackson said that David Standish-Leigh had undertaken a great deal work towards this project and thanked him for this. She had obtained three quotes for the boards, and, after discussion, Russ Pye proposed that the Nature Sign Design quote is accepted, this was seconded by Emma Wilson-Jones and agreed to by all present. Three boards will be erected at the village sign and one at the church. Emma Stacey will speak to RAF Wittering about erecting a double board at the RAF gates on Townsend Road.</p> |
| | <p>Play Area on Parker Road The Chair has been consulting with Paul Robertson, Environment Contracts Officer, PCC who has said that in 2007 PCC asked the Parish Council if they could install play equipment on the land (owned by the PC). The Chair will contact Paul and suggest that because PCC has not paid any rent for use of the land, the costs of maintaining and replacing the play equipment should be off set against this. This was proposed by Emma Wilson-Jones, seconded by Russ Pye and agreed to by all present. The Chair will also ask for a copy of the Annual Safety Report.</p> |
| | <p>Parish Councillor Vacancy Jo Gault proposed that Brian Day is co-opted onto the Parish Council, this was seconded by Kate Jackson and agreed to by all present.</p> |
| 25(04)11 | <p>Police Matters Emma Wilson-Jones said that Airplay premises had been broken into and a TV, microwave, air fryer, tuck-shop items and tuck shop float had been stolen. The Sports & Social Club had agreed to replace the tuck-shop items and the tick shop float. Jo Gault proposed that a £300 donation should be made to Airplay to replace the other items, this was seconded by Russ Pye and agreed to by all present.</p> |
| 25(04)12 | <p>Organisation Reports</p> |
| | <p>RAF Wittering Emma Stacey had provisionally arranged a trip to the Heritage Centre on the afternoon of 6th June 2025. However, this was not convenient for most Parish Councillors. It was agreed that the Clerk will arrange another day with the Heritage Centre once the Parish Councillors have agreed on a date.</p> |
| | <p>Sports & Social Club The Chair and a representative from the Sports & Social Club met with a resident who had complained about the noise from events held in the Parish Hall/Sports & Social Club. The issues with noise at the Sports & Social Club have been resolved. Emma Wilson-Jones will establish the decibel limit usually allowed in halls and this can be added to the Parish Hall's T&Cs.</p> |
| | <p>Football Club It was noted that the Football Club Pavillion needs cleaning. Russ said that Tom has resigned and has been replaced by Joe who is aware of the situation and is dealing with it. Russ said that Annington Homes will be undertaking maintenance work free-of-charge on the Pavilion. Russ said he has asked a locksmith to quote for changing the locks.</p> |
| 25(04)13 | <p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already distributed |
| 25(04)14 | <p>Planning 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 has been put onto the Wittering Residents' Facebook Page and the Clerk has written to Barnack Parish Council offering the Parish Council's support in dealing with this planning application. 25/00552/HHFUL First floor side extension at Wittering Manor, Townsend Road, Wittering – Comments: it does not appear that the planning application notices have been erected near to the area. In addition, the work has already started. The Clerk will inform Planning Control. The Clerk will draft the Parish Council's response; this will be checked by the Chair and Russ Pye. - Awaiting Decision</p> |
| 25(04)15 | <p>Finance</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To approve the payments included on the financial statement dated 30th April 2025 as proposed by Iain Wilkinson, seconded by Kate Jackson, and agreed to by all present. Annual Return for Year Ending 31 March 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Section 1 Statement of Accounts b) Section 2 Annual Governance Statement c) Section 4 Internal Audit & Report <p>Approved as proposed by Iain Wilkinson, seconded by Kate Jackson and agreed to by all present.</p> |
| 25(04)16 | Matters for Future Consideration To assign the Parish Councillors a Wittering Parish Council email address. |
| 25(04)17 | Date of the next meeting To confirm the date of the next meeting – as 7.30 pm on 26 th June 2025 in Wittering Parish Hall. Jo will chair the meeting as John will be attending the RAF Wittering Annual Formal Reception. |

Deirdre McCumiskey, Wittering Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

SIGNED _____
Chair

DATE 26/06/25

George's Food Hub

Prior to the meeting, George Hetherington of George's Food Hub spoke to the Parish Councillors about his wish to open a Food Hub in the Parish Hall, 3.00 – 6.00 pm on Tuesday afternoons. He had been approached by two Wittering residents who would be willing to volunteer to help him with this project.

Businesses donate food that is not spoiled but would otherwise go to waste. People can collect the food at no cost. They are not asked for proof of income or benefits.

They will not be cooking food and only require use of a couple of tables. The food is mainly fruit, vegetables, bread and cakes.

The service is a Community Interest Company (non-profit making), and he asked if the Parish Councillors would be willing to permit use of the Parish Hall on a free-of-charge basis. He would set up the tables outside unless the weather was poor.

It was agreed by all present that he could use the Parish Hall on a free-of-charge basis.

He hopes to start the project in a few weeks' time.