

WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL
www.witteringparishcouncil.com

Parish Clerk:

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MINUTES OF WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 pm ON THURSDAY, 29th JANUARY 2026 IN THE PARISH HALL

Item No	
26(01)1	Chair's Welcome The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
26(01)2	In Attendance: John Bradshaw (Chair), Susie Briers, Brian Day, Dave Hughes, Kate Jackson, Iain Wilkinson, Emma Wilson-Jones, Gavin Elsey (PCC Ward Councillor), Emma Stacey (RAF Wittering) twelve members of the public and Deirdre McCumiskey (Clerk) Apologies for Absence: Jo Gault and Russ Pye.
26(01)3	Declaration of Interest The Chair reminded the Parish Councillors of their obligation under the Codes of Conduct to declare personal and pecuniary interest. He declared an interest in all matters concerning All Saints' Church (as he is a Churchwarden).
26(01)4	Public Forum The Public Forum was spent discussing the proposed development of 3,000 houses west of Wittering. There is to be a Public Consultation on the proposal to put the building of 3,000 houses back into the local plan; this is because the original plan to build them around Ailsworth and Castor has been taken out of the plan as the three 'red flags' (environmental, AOB and rainwater catchment) preclude development here, as well as the position of the gas pipeline. It was noted that Wittering has two red flags currently and the gas pipeline as well as three nature reserves, which suggests that the new map of a proposed development to the west of the village doesn't accurately represent the area that could be built on. Bear in mind, the plan for Ailsworth and Castor was to build 5,000 houses. For any development to go ahead, an A1 flyover would have to be built first, to take Wittering's traffic south on the A1, the Old Oundle Road would have to be upgraded as well as access to the A47. This would be funded by National Highways, and this is partly why the Burghley land to the east of the A1 has been taken out of the local plan. If the development at west Wittering's goes ahead, it would include a primary school, a secondary school and recreational areas, Wansford Surgery is already in negotiations to open a satellite Wittering surgery, to open if the development goes ahead. Wittering PC objected to the development by a letter dated 20 th January 2026 when this was discussed at a PCC Cabinet Meeting.

	<p>Gavin Elsey said thorough archaeological surveys would have to be carried out (despite the A47 already having had £10 million archaeological work spent on it already) and that the 'archaeological department' were the 'supreme power' and could stop the development, depending on what was found. Gavin's feeling is that there will be 'some' development at Wittering, so residents will be well served if they accept this and do not flatly refuse. The Chair gave an example of the Harriers Rest development where 98% of residents objected and yet it still went ahead.</p> <p>Peterborough City Council is not hitting its housing targets so now must look favourably at any plans, including those on greenfield sites. Developers do not have to own the land they want to develop before they suggest possible sites, so many blanket applications are being submitted to Peterborough City Council and are approved. Interestingly, Gavin said that Peterborough City Council will cease to exist in 2027 and will be replaced by a unitary authority which will include Huntingdonshire and Fenland. This would then draw more land into service. Just a point worth noting as Peterborough City Council is committed to building 20,000 new houses in 20 years now, so will this be re-calculated?</p> <p>The Public Consultation at Wittering is 6.00-9.00 pm on 18th February and 10.30 am-4.30 pm on 20th February 2026. It was agreed that Emma Wilson-Jones will produce A5 flyers advertising these events and Julia Cunnington will organise the distribution. Posters will be erected in the shops and barbers, etc.</p>												
26(01)5	<p>Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th November 2025</p> <p>The Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th November 2025, were reviewed, approved as proposed by Susie Briers, seconded by Kate Jackson, agreed to by all present and signed by the Chair.</p>												
26(01)6	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes of 27th November 2025</p>												
	<p>Wittering A1 Flyover Campaign Group & Transport Assessment The Chair has still not been able to obtain a copy of the Transport assessment and has learned from Sam Carling, MP, that PCC cannot find it. It was agreed to submit a Freedom of Information Application and make a complaint as proposed by Emma Wilson-Jones, seconded by Iain Wilkinson, and agreed to by all present.</p>												
	<p>PCC Draft Plan See Under 26(01)4</p>												
	<p>New Wittering Community Building Dave Hughes is waiting to hear from Jo Gault regarding obtaining QR Codes for the survey.</p>												
	<p>Village Events It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.</p>												
	<p>Wittering Village Neighbourhood Plan The Wittering Village Neighbourhood Plan had to be abandoned because of lack of support, which is a disappointment, but several residents want to resurrect it, and, with the support of the Parish Council, they will circulate flyers urgently to try and get it going again.</p>												
	<p>Speed Radars Iain Wilkinson had produced the recent statistics showing the percentage of cars travelling under 30 miles per hour extracted from the Speed Radars:</p> <table> <tr> <td>WK 1.</td> <td>In 76.1</td> <td>Out 64.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WK 2.</td> <td>In 76.3.</td> <td>Out 64.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WK 3.</td> <td>In 76.7</td> <td>Out 65.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WK 4.</td> <td>In 77.1</td> <td>Out 65.3</td> </tr> </table>	WK 1.	In 76.1	Out 64.2	WK 2.	In 76.3.	Out 64.6	WK 3.	In 76.7	Out 65.1	WK 4.	In 77.1	Out 65.3
WK 1.	In 76.1	Out 64.2											
WK 2.	In 76.3.	Out 64.6											
WK 3.	In 76.7	Out 65.1											
WK 4.	In 77.1	Out 65.3											
	<p>Park Farm Trees The second Park Farm Tree Survey had also confirmed that the trees were not affecting the stability of the garages.</p>												
	<p>History Boards It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.</p>												
	<p>IT Policy and Parish Councillor Email Addresses & move to .gov.uk domain Jo Gault will report her findings at the next meeting.</p>												
	<p>Maintenance of the Parish Hall Jo Gault and Emma Wilson-Jones will meet with the people who quoted for the decorative work to discuss their quotations in more detail.</p>												
	<p>Landscaping of the area around the Village Sign</p>												

	<p>The Chair and Emma Wilson-Jones will meet with the people who had quoted for the work to discuss their quotations in more detail.</p>
	<p>Traffic Calming Measures The Clerk will recirculate the email from Peter Tebb regarding reducing the reduction in the speed limit within the village. Kate Jackson will draw up a list of potential traffic calming measures, such as speed bumps, for the next meeting.</p>
	<p>Potholes Emma Wilson-Jones had reported the potholes to Lee Moore, but they have already collapsed. Lee will arrange for a visit next week; the wet weather is causing problems across the authorities area. Wittering is scheduled for a programme of resurfacing during 2026-2027 with provisional list of the roads:- Malby Close, St George's Road, St Michael's Road, Carnegie Road, Hall Lane, Sutcliffe Road and Old Oundle Road. This list is provisional and depending on budgets, etc, some may be pushed back to the following year but now, this is this list to which he is working.</p>
26(01)7	<p>RAF Supports for Route 27 and Bus Service Campaign It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting when Station Cdr Joan Ochuodho will be in attendance. Jean Jackson had written to her and received a supportive reply.</p>
26(01)8	<p>Police Matters PC Oliver Gregory will attend Police Surgeries 6.00 – 7.00 pm in the Bowls' Club Pavilion on 4th February, 29th April, 22nd July, 14th October 2026 and 6th January 2027.</p>
26(01)9	<p>Defibrillator Training Dave Hughes asked if the Parish Council would be willing to donate £500 to the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust Charitable Fund to support EEAST Heart Training. This was proposed by Susie Briers, seconded by Kake Jackson and agreed to by all present. Dave will co-ordinate any training with the organisation, that way they can prioritise training delivery to our community and work around our plans.</p>
26(01)10	<p>Organisation Reports</p> <p>Sports & Social Club Brian Day had obtained a quote for a structural report on the garages at an approximate cost of £2,500. Craig Buttress said the doors are very difficult to open. He obtained a quote for a 40' container at £2,250 and for a 20' container at £2,000. The containers would need lighting. This purchase was proposed by Kate Jackson, seconded by Iain Wilkinson and agreed to by all present. In the meantime, Craig will get a sample of the garage bricks tested for presence of asbestos.</p> <p>Craig Buttress suggested a central heating timer is installed in the Sports & Social Club and Parish Hall at a cost of approximately £375. This should save approximately £300 a year. This work was proposed by Kate Jackson, seconded by Dave Hughes and agreed to by all present. In the meantime, Craig will obtain a quote. It was noted that Warm Space is no longer running on Thursday afternoons. The Clerk was asked to contact PCC to request the leaves and wet mud are removed from the path alongside the back of Wittering Primary School.</p>
	<p>Bowls' Club The Bowls' Club Pavilion door needs a new key and lock (as highlighted by a recent Fire Inspection). Brian Day will deal with this.</p>
	<p>RAF Wittering Emma Stacey said that Station Cdr Joan Ochuodho will attend the next meeting. She said that the problem with the over-flowing pond on Old Oundle Road is being dealt with.</p>
26(01)11	<p>Clerk's Resignation and Vacancy The Chair said he had received three applications thus far. The Chair, Kate Jackson and Emma Wilson-Jones will sit on the interview panel.</p>
26(01)12	<p>Metal Detecting on Parish Land It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.</p>
26(01)13	<p>Planning 25/01309/TRE T.1 – Lime - Crown reduction to previous pruning points and remove epicormic growth up to 10m (79/00001/TPO) at 16 Harvey Close, Wittering – Permitted 25/01317/HHFUL Two storey side extension at Wittering Manor, Townsend Road, Wittering – Objection. Refused</p>
26(01)14	<p>Correspondence</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already circulated
26(01)15	Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To approve the payments included on the financial statement dated 31st December 2025 as proposed by Emma Wilson-Jones, seconded by Jo Gault, and agreed to by all present.
26(01)16	Matters for Future Consideration To consider Agenda items for the next meeting not already covered above.
26(01)17	Date of the next meeting To confirm the date of the next meeting – 7.30 pm on 26 th February 2026 in Wittering Parish Hall.

Deirdre McCumiskey, Wittering Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

SIGNED _____

Chair

DATE 26/02/26