

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

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**MINUTES OF WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING****HELD AT 7.30 pm ON THURSDAY, 26th February 2026 IN THE PARISH HALL**

Item No	
26(02)1	Chair's Welcome The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
26(02)2	In Attendance: John Bradshaw (Chair), Susie Briers, Jo Gault, Dave Hughes, Kate Jackson, Russ Pye, Iain Wilkinson, Emma Wilson-Jones, Wg Cdr Joan Ochuodho (Station Commander, RAF Wittering), Louise Sampson (RAF Wittering) 14 members of the public, Deirdre McCumiskey (Clerk) and Ruth Demagalski (New Clerk) Apologies for Absence: Brian Day and Gavin Elsey (PCC Ward Councillor)
26(02)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). Russ Pye declared an interest in all matters concerning the Football Club (as he is the Treasurer).
26(02)4	Public Forum The Public Forum was mainly spent discussing the proposed development of 3,000 houses west of Wittering. See under 26(02)6. Other Items:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative storage for the Wittering Guides' camping equipment – see under 26(02)9 • Larger Dog Foul Bin and Rubbish Bins at Bus Stops – the Clerk will contact PCC. • Old street map on Burghley Road – Wg Cdr Ochuodho will deal with this. • Bulk Waste Containers for Residents – the Clerk will speak to Gavin Elsey. • Parking on the grassed area next to the church – this is MoD land and Wg Cdr Ochuodho will deal with this. • Young people riding electric bikes too fast throughout the village – no action • Uneven paths in various areas of the village – this will be reported to PCC
26(02)5	Minutes of the Meeting held on 29th January 2026 The Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 th January 2026, were reviewed, approved as proposed by Susie Briers, seconded by Kate Jackson, agreed to by all present and signed by the Chair.
26(02)6	Matters Arising from the Minutes of 29th January 2026
	PCC Draft Local Plan, Proposed Development of 3,000 houses West of Wittering and Funding a Planning Consultant

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicky Rogers, Thornhaugh Parish Councillor, reported that Thornhaugh Parish Council had appointed Kate Wood, Planning Director at BTG Eddisons, to produce a Draft Objections Report against the proposed development of 3,000 houses at West Wittering. She asked if Wittering Parish Councillors would be prepared to donate towards the cost of this as it had been expensive. It was agreed that she would forward the report and then a decision will be made. • The residents who attended the Planning Department Meetings on 18th and 20th February expressed their dissatisfaction with the organisation of the events. • Despite the distribution of flyers to every house in Wittering, not all residents are aware of the proposed development. A group of residents planned to go round and undertake a door knocking session on Saturday lunchtime. Kate Jackson had already undertaken a door knocking session. • Station Cdr Joan Ochuodho said RAF comments about the proposed development must be filtered through the Defence Infrastructure Organisation and they will manage communications with Peterborough City Council. • A resident gave a detailed report of the number of large lorries that already visit the sewage station down Hall Lane on a daily basis. This will get worse if the proposed development goes ahead. • The best way that residents can express their concerns is to make comments either online, by email or by post by 5th March 2026.
	<p>Wittering A1 Flyover Campaign Group & Transport Assessment The Chair has finally been able to obtain a copy of the Transport assessment and gave details of some of the salient details. He finds it very frustrating reading due to inaccuracies and the dismissing of important issues. Once the Chair has read it, he will arrange to meet with Adrian Chapman, PCC. The Parish Council may contact the local press to ask if it will publicise its concerns.</p>
	<p>New Wittering Community Building A resident asked if the current Parish Hall could be refurbished now as it was obvious that the building of a Wittering Community Building is unlikely to be soon. The Chair said the Parish Council is currently spending all its time dealing with the proposed development but once this has quietened down, further work will be undertaken to progress the Wittering Community Building.</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. Brian Day has agreed to deal with this. Jo Gault agreed to look at distributing the questionnaires which have already been printed.</p>
	<p>Speed Radars Iain Wilkinson reported that the Speed Radars are working well.</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 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 contact Lee Moore, PCC, to arrange a follow-up meeting to discuss traffic calming measures and poor parking within the village.</p>
26(02)7	<p>Bus Service Campaign It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.</p>
	<p>Defibrillator</p>

	Dave Hughes said the promised defibrillator from Allison Homes has not yet been received and he is concerned that the site has been completed as there are no workers on site. The Clerk will contact Allison Homes.
26(02)8	Police Matters PC Oliver Gregory will attend Police Surgeries 6.00 – 7.00 pm in the Bowls' Club Pavilion on 29 th April, 22 nd July, 14 th October 2026 and 6 th January 2027.
26(02)9	Organisation Reports
	Sports & Social Club Craig Butress reported that the three asbestos tests undertaken in the garages were negative. He proposed that the Parish Council purchases three containers, two for the Sports & Social Club and one for the Wittering Guides' camping equipment. This was seconded by Susie Briers and agreed to by all present. Craig will obtain a quote. The AGM of the Sports & Social Club will take place at 7.30 pm on 16 th April 2026.
	Bowls' Club The Bowls' Club Pavilion door needs a new key and lock (as highlighted by a recent Fire Inspection). Brian Day is dealing with this. The new bowling session restarts in April 2026. The outside hedge has been cut back and looks much improved, and Ally McNaughton thanked the Parish Council to their donation. Disappointingly, the number of members of the Bowls' Club has dropped and so the Bowls' Club is looking for new members. Emma Wilson-Jones suggested that Ally contacts Lucy Peyton, Living Sports to see if bowling could be part of a multi-sports day run during the school holidays.
	RAF Wittering Wg Cdr Ochuodho, the new Station Commander at RAF Wittering, was welcomed to the meeting. It is hoped that she will attend further meetings throughout the year.
26(02)10	Clerk's Resignation and Vacancy The Chair said he was delighted to report that following interviews, Ruth Demagalski has been appointed as the New Clerk subject to satisfactory references.
26(02)11	Metal Detecting on Parish Land It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.
26(02)12	Planning No current Planning Applications.
26(02)13	Correspondence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already circulated
26(02)14	Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To approve the payments included on the financial statement dated 31st January 2026 as proposed by Emma Wilson-Jones, seconded by Jo Gault, and agreed to by all present.
26(02)15	Matters for Future Consideration To consider Agenda items for the next meeting not already covered above.
26(02)16	Date of the next meeting To confirm the date of the next meeting – 7.30 pm on 26 th March 2026 in Wittering Parish Hall. John Bradshaw will be absent, and Jo Gault will chair the meeting.

Deirdre McCumiskey, Wittering Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

SIGNED

Chair

DATE 26/03/26