

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, 26 March 2026 IN THE PARISH HALL

Item No	
26(03)1	Chair's Welcome The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
26(03)2	In Attendance: Jo Gault, (Deputy Chair) (JG), Susie Briers (SB), Dave Hughes (DH), Kate Jackson (KJ), Russ Pye (RP), Iain Wilkinson (IW), Emma Wilson-Jones (EWJ), Emma Stacey (RAF Wittering) (ES), Ruth Demagalski (Clerk) (RD), Deirdre McCumiskey (outgoing Clerk) (DMcC). 8 members of the public, Apologies for Absence: John Bradshaw (Chair) (JB)
26(03)3	Declaration of Interest The Chair reminded the Parish Councillors of their obligation under the Codes of Conduct to declare personal and pecuniary interest. Russ Pye declared an interest in all matters concerning the Football Club (as he is the Treasurer). Brian Day declared an interest in all matters concerning the Bowls Club as he is their Treasurer.
26(03)4	Public Forum Jean Jackson (JJ) advised of first anniversary of George's Food Hub in June and felt a small celebration to make this even would be appreciated by all who volunteer and use the Hub. JJ asked if the Parish Council would donate £50 towards the event. Proposed by RP and seconded by KJ and agreed by other council members. Maxine Palmer (MP) advised 1,000 completed surveys were sent to PCC. She also advised she had made contact with Martin Chillcott of Nene Park Trust to gain advice on way forward with opposition re. proposed housing development west of Wittering. Robin Dunlop of Grange Farm has shown him around the whole area of the proposed development. It was felt more councillors needed to be involved. KJ suggested it involving John Clare Countryside. It was also suggested a drone video to be taken of the area to present to senior PCC councillors. ES confirmed RAF would need to provide approval. MP to obtain quotes for drone video costs. A further comment made advising funding now available for development of Brownfield sites within the Peterborough area. Craig Buttress (CB) advised licence application had been submitted and confirmed as received to include sports & social club, hall, bowls club and part outdoor area. Approval process can take up to 28 days. This licence would negate the need to apply for a single use licence per event.

	<p>CB also initiated some discussion around the installation of containers, redirection of footpath (PCC approval required). RP advised of possibility of receiving a grant from the Football Associated (1/3 of cost) towards cost of demolishing garages/containers.. BD agreed in principle but recommended further quotes obtained for cost of containers. Suggested quote for containers be obtained from Easton Lodge Storage to compare with quotes obtained by RP and CB. JG would then create a whatsapp poll for councillors to decide on successful quote.</p> <p>Frontline Plumbing Quote for heating control in Parish Hall discussed - 2 other quotes needed.</p> <p>Geoff Dunkley (GD) asked about progress with fencing adjacent to church - ES to follow up and advise.</p>
26(03)5	<p>Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th February 2026 The Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 February 2026, were reviewed, approved as proposed by, IW seconded by RP, agreed to by those present and signed by the Deputy Chair.</p>
26(03)6	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes of 26th February 2026</p>
	<p>PCC Draft Local Plan, Proposed Development of 3,000 houses West of Wittering and Funding a Planning Consultant</p> <p>Please see notes above in 26(03)4.</p> <p>Request by Thornhaugh Parish Council for contribution towards cost of the representations in objection to the allocation of land west of Wittering for development. It was agreed Wittering would pay 50% of the invoice cost of £3,210 (incl VAT). Proposed by KJ and seconded by IW and agreed by those present..</p>
	<p>Wittering A1 Flyover Campaign Group & Transport Assessment A response has been received by PCC following The Chair's earlier email asking for clarification on some points. JB to respond.</p>
	<p>New Wittering Community Building</p> <p>Please see Maintenance of Parish Hall below.</p>
	<p>Village Events EWJ advised the Drag Bingo evening on 21/03 was very successful. Upcoming events: Adult Disco - 03/05/26 Psychic Night - 04/06 (both events can be booked through Eventbright)</p> <p>Events meeting taking place 30/03 to discuss Summer Fayre.</p>
	<p>Wittering Village Neighbourhood Plan BD confirmed 12-15 responses had been received in response to his recent FB post. MP offered to contact people who had expressed an interest to get a kick off meeting arranged. Questionnaires for the Neighbourhood Plan already printed, ready for distribution. Suggested the group took a stand at the Summer Fayre to promote this initiative.</p>
	<p>Speed Radars Iain Wilkinson reported the Speed Radars are working well again. EWJ suggested WPC set its ambitions for coming financial year to support this initiative.</p>
	<p>History Boards It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting. SB to approach David from The Coffee Stop to get an update from him.</p>
	<p>IT Policy and Parish Councillor Email Addresses & move to .gov.uk domain</p>

	<p>JG provided the following update. Cloud Next and Hugo Fox are able to support the move to the .gov.uk domain. Charge per annum and per month respectively. ACR Stamford can also provide this service. JG to provide a matrix of 'must have' and 'desirable' services provided by all 3 companies to show comparison of services available.</p>
	<p>Maintenance of the Parish Hall EMJ has drafted a detailed specification for the Village Hall refurbishment works for consideration. 3 quotes to be obtained from local contractors for consideration.</p> <p>Following Richard Clarke's visit to the Parish Hall and subsequent email, it was agreed to go ahead with the structural survey as offered of the hall as part of a WRAP (Workplace Risk Assessment & Control). Proposed by JG and seconded by KJ and agreed by all present. RD to contact RC to confirm we would like to go ahead and arrange a date (13/4 if convenient).</p>
	<p>Landscaping of the area around the Village Sign No further update from previous month's update.</p>
	<p>Traffic Calming Measures Lee Moore has provided an update to his email regarding extension of double yellow lines in area of Townsend Road/Church Road and also St George's Road. He has offered to attend Parish Council meeting - RD to check re May date.</p> <p>Resurfacing - we have received a report (19/3) from PCC (Leane Barraco) who visited 3 sites in Wittering where the resurfacing looked unfinished. She suggested visiting Lime Close which was resurfaced last year, which has settled quite well. She is going to ask that the joint on Carnegie Road is improved before the programme is complete.</p>
26(03)7	<p>Bus Service Campaign Parking issues - the bus was unable to get down Woodruff Road due to parking on both sides of the road. RD to put a notice on FB pages from the Parish Council about this. - impact on emergency services access.</p>
26(03)8	<p>Police Matters The Council was not made aware of a very recent visit by Sam Carling MP to the village with a member of the police service. RD to draft a message to him to ask why the Parish Council was not made aware of his visit.</p>
26(03)9	<p>Organisation Reports</p>
	<p>Defibrillator Allison Homes have confirmed their commitment to provide one of these. The best position is the access road from Harriers Rest to Lawrence Road. Need to understand how the cabinet will be powered - ideally solar power. RD to respond to Allison.</p>
	<p>Bowls' Club BD advised the AGM has taken place. Bowling greens are in good condition.</p>
	<p>Football Pavillion A washing machine has been placed inside the pavilion. RP to investigate why it is there.</p> <p>As the electrical checks are deemed urgent, there is no need for additional quotes to be obtained. Quote provided by Steven Greaves Electrical to be accepted. Proposed by RP, seconded by JG. and agreed by those present.</p>
	<p>Hedgehogs KJ advised hedgehogs are now coming out of hibernation. She has purchased 4 signs to be placed on lampposts down Church Road. KJ to get approval for the signs from PCC.</p>
26(03)10	<p>Clerk's Resignation and Vacancy The committee presented Deirdre with a bouquet of flowers as part of a thank you for all her years of service.</p>
26(03)11	<p>Metal Detecting on Parish Land It was agreed to delete this item from April's agenda.</p>
26(03)12	<p>Planning Planning Application 26/00208/FUL - 6 St George's Road, Wittering - no comments were forthcoming from the the Parish Council</p>

	<p>East of England Ambulance DH advised the donation by the Parish Council has been well received and will be used to train people in the use of CPR/Defibrillator. Booked to attend Women of Wittering event on 13.04.</p>
26(03)13	<p>Correspondence Already circulated</p>
26(03)14	<p>Finance To approve the payments included on the financial statement dated 26 March 2026 as proposed by IW seconded by SB, and agreed to by all present. Clerk annual increase to be moved to April agenda.</p>
26(03)16	<p>Date of the next meeting To confirm the date of the next meeting – 7.30 pm on 23 April 2026 in Wittering Parish Hall.</p>

Ruth Demagalski, Wittering Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

SIGNED _____
Chair

DATE 23/04/26