

WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL www.witteringparishcouncil.com Parish Clerk: Ruth Demagalski Wittering Parish Council Wittering Parish Hall Townsend Road Wittering PE8 6BD clerk@witteringparishcouncil.com	
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MINUTES OF WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT 7.30 pm on THURSDAY, 25 JUNE 2026 IN THE PARISH HALL

Item No	
26(06)36	Chair's Welcome The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made by the Councillors/Clerk to members of the public present. The Chair then thanked JB for his contribution as Chair in previous years and also read out a letter from a Wittering resident saying personal thanks to JB.
26(06)37	In Attendance: Jo Gault, (Chair) (JG), Brian Day, Deputy Chair (BD); John Bradshaw (JB) Susie Briers (SB), Liz Putterill (LP), Emma Wilson-Jones (EWJ), Iain Wilkinson (IW), Dave Hughes (DH), Ruth Demagalski (Clerk) (RD). 7 members of the public, Apologies for Absence: Kate Jackson (KJ), Gavin Elsey - PCC Ward Councillor (GE); Emma Stacey, RAF (ES).
26(06)38	Declaration of Interest The Chair reminded the Parish Councillors of their obligation under the Codes of Conduct to declare personal and pecuniary interest. JB declared an interest in all matters concerning All Saints' Church (as he is a Churchwarden). Brian Day declared he is the Treasurer for the Bowls Club and married to Vivien Day who hosts the Crafting Group. JG and EWJ declared their involvement with Wittering Events.
26(06)39	Public Forum A representative from the Girl Guides asked re. agreement between the Girl Guides and WPC for the use of the container. LP to liaise with her now she has contact details. Funding Requests: The funding request submitted by the Junior/Senior football club for the levelling of the pitch at the far end of the playing field - £1,000-£1,500 with £500 being provided by the club towards the cost. BD advised he had not been able to make contact with the club prior to the meeting and would make contact a representative of the club to ascertain whether WPC is to obtain the services of the Grounds man or whether volunteers from the club are going to carry out the work. For either approach a risk

	assessment will need to be provided. RD to advise on wording once decision is made as to how works will be carried out. The funding was agreed in principle pending the outcome of discussions. Proposed by EWJ, seconded by JB and agreed by other councillors. Funding request by St George's Food Hub - £5,500 for initial 6-months. Unfortunately, a request for a more detailed breakdown of the funding request was not provided. A general discussion took place about other possible means of funding for the Food Hub. JG to speak with GE to ascertain whether local or PCC are responsible for funding and to check with GE whether funding is available from Community Funds. It was estimated 200 Wittering residents could benefit from this service with Wittering to be the first village to provide this service. EWJ asked whether the kitchen, once refurbished, could be used for the Hub to prepare and distribute food BD suggested it could be part of a Winter warm space provision. Jean Jackson advised they wanted the service to start July/August. RD advised WPC would need to have copies of insurance, food hygiene certificate, risk assessment, etc. Concerns were raised regarding sustainability and expectation of the Hub's customers after the initial 6 months. EWJ stated representatives from the Food Hub need to be present at the July WPC meeting if they wish their request to be taken further. New bus service – Julia Cunningham Jinks confirmed Centrebus is carrying out a leaflet drop to all local villages advertising the service. An email received by the Clerk from a Wittering resident raising concerns about the siting of a bus stop on Church Road, just after the Brock Close turning has meant the bus stop has been removed. A full risk assessment/survey needs to be carried out by CPCA and Cambs Council and the stop to be added to the NATPLAN database. Unfortunately, there is a resource shortage meaning a delay in carrying this forward. Jean Jackson also asked if it would be possible for a bench to be fixed inside the bus shelter on Church Road. RD to approach PCC to see if we can get an integrated bench fitted inside the shelter. Increase in school numbers from September 2027. The school is currently only at 65% of capacity with the 40 SEN students this will increase capacity to around 98%. Concerns have been raised in the Parish regarding the high increase in traffic on Church Road. WPC had not been officially advised prior to the notice going out on face book. GE was one of the consultees for this initiative. Other points raised: Would there be additional on-site parking for taxis. The reduced capacity to take additional pupils through normal intake may have an impact on the decision for the proposed development of west Wittering. Concerns regarding further traffic pressure along Church Road should the plans go ahead for the new build.
26(06)40	Minutes of the Meeting held on 28/05/2026 <i>The Minutes of the Meeting held on 28/05/26, were reviewed and approved as proposed by EWJ seconded by LP, agreed to by those present and signed by the Chair.</i>
26(06)41	Matters Arising from the Minutes of 28/05/26 Finance Subcommittee – see (26(06)39) re outcome of funding requests. Local Plan Subcommittee - see (26(06)39) re expansion of Wittering Primary School number. Next Cabinet meeting scheduled for 21/07. Linking closely with the Neighbourhood Plan – the sub-committee advised Peterborough Planning Team have confirmed 29 houses for Wittering need to be included in the Neighbourhood Plan. Possible sites for these houses need to be call out, possibly land near Harriers Rest.

	Local Plan Subcommittee needs to schedule a meeting before this date and report back at next WPC meeting on 23/07. Parish Council Owned Buildings & Land Subcommittee: Waiting for further quotes to be submitted so evaluation can take place. Only able to obtain 2 quotes for welding works for container as third contractor declined to quote as felt unable to quote competitively. Welding quotes circulated for voting with Active Electrics providing the winning quote. RD to publish on website. Roof repair quotes circulated for voting with CK4 providing the winning quote. RD to publish on website. Proposal from Leeton for removal of garages and concrete, plus provision of new 'cellar' for S&SC presented by BD. It was felt that the garages needed to be demolished and the underlying concrete broken up so that any problems could be identified and rectified before undertaken an additional works (new cellar/hall refurbishment). The Leeton quote can be broken down to obtain a cost for these works BD/RD to obtain two further quotes for evaluation. Previous minutes show that WPC own the footpath alongside the playing field, LP to check with the land registry to confirm WPC own the land currently occupied by the garages. JG suggested the best way forward now regarding the overgrown trees was for the subcommittee to request a f2f meeting with the Park Farm residents to find a way forward with this issue. David Standish Leigh had provided a written timescale for the history boards – the subcommittee to action with DSL. Police/Traffic Sub Committee: IW spoke about the recent meeting with the traffic wardens who came to the village recently. They suggested liaising with the school to set up a Safer School Zone – this would require additional signage and cameras. Subcommittee to liaise with school. The issue with the heat damage to the Old Oundle Road has been reported by LP. A! flyover not included in 25-30 Strategy. RD advised no response from Sam Carling's office to actions agreed at 11/05 meeting. RD to follow up. Policy & Procedures Subcommittee: IT Policy: JG had previously circulated comparisons for companies who are qualified/approved to support WPC with move to .gov.uk domain. JG to publish a Poll on WPC's WhatsApp group to get Councillors' views. Results to be published at next meeting. JG to speak with Jay Allsop regarding a contingency for updating the WPC website should he not be available. BD spoke about the need for a procurement policy when tendering for larger projects. WPC needs to ensure its GDPR policy is current and ready for publication on the WPC website. RD to check re advice from CAPALC.
26(06)42	Wittering Village Neighbourhood Plan: See comments in 26(06)41 above. Nikki Browne advised she needed to catch up with Maxine Palmer re drone quotes. Regarding 29 additional house – it was felt inappropriate to send out a questionnaire to gain residents views.
26(06)43	Village Events: EWJ confirmed plans for the Summer Fair were coming along nicely. Smaller groups such as the food hub and bus campaign could share the WPC stand. JB offered to man the WPC stand for a couple of hours on the Saturday. Concurrently there is a Beer and Cider festival in the S&SC with music, food is available. DH advised there would be a Rapid Response vehicle in attendance from 8am and could support other first aid provision although he could not guarantee attendance for the whole day.

	JG advised there was a charity quiz night on behalf of the Stroke Association being held in the S&SC on Thursday 02/07 and they were looking for teams of up to 6 people.
26(06)44	Bus Service Campaign See 26(06)39 above.
26(06)45	New Agenda Items Key Safe: It was agreed that WPC should review other makes/models of key safe for additional security.
26(06)46	Planning 26/00240/FUL – Grange Farm, PE8 6NR – change of use only therefore no issues raised by WPC.
26(06)47	Correspondence Already circulated
2(606)48	Finance To approve the payments for the month ended 31/05/2026, previously circulated to WPC. Proposed by JB, seconded by EWJ and approved by all.
26(06)49	Matters for Future Consideration There were no items raised for future discussion at the meeting on 23 July 2026
26(06)50	Date of the next meeting To confirm the date of the next meeting – 7.30 pm on 23 July 2026 in Wittering Parish Hall

Ruth Demagalski, Wittering Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

SIGNED

Chair

DATE 23/07/26