

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL



CLERK:

*Mrs S J Bell
17 Astley Close, Sutton
ELY, Cambs CB6 2PG
Tel: 01353 778147*

To All Members of the Council

MEMBERS: 6 QUORUM: 3

**Members are summoned to attend a Meeting of the
Parish Council to be held on Wednesday 13 November 2024
at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham,
for the purpose of transacting the following business:**

A G E N D A

- 24/171 To receive and accept any apologies for absence.
- 24/172 To receive declarations of interest from Councillors in respect of any items on this agenda in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct
- i) Pecuniary interests.
 - ii) Personal interests.
 - iii) Prejudicial interests (and to inform the Chairman if they wish to speak on the matter during public participation).
- 24/173 Dispensations:
To note any new Dispensations granted: Nil.
- 24/174 To note recent monthly reports from County and District Councillors (Nov)
- 24/175 Public Participation
To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public, and Councillors declaring the existence and nature of a prejudicial interest, to address the meeting in relation to the business to be transacted at this meeting.
At the close of this item, members of the public will no longer be permitted to address the Council unless invited to do so by the Chairman. (3 minutes each to combined maximum of 15 minutes total for this agenda item (Standing Orders 3f and 3g)).
Chairman to close meeting to public.
- 24/176 To approve and sign the minutes and confirm agenda of meeting of 9 October 2024.
- 24/177 Matters arising from previous minutes **(for information only)**.

24/178 Planning Matters

<https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/planning/current-planning-applications>

24/01094/TPO Bury Meadows Points A to B, Requirement to ensure a clear surface is maintained which is wide enough to be safely used by pedestrians, horse riders and vehicles, as is required by its status as a Public Byway Open to All Traffic. The current useable width of the public right of Way has been reduced to 1.5m in places, primarily by encroaching, briars, blackthorn and hawthorn.

The proposal is to clear back the emerging surface vegetation 2m either side of the current clear usable surface. This vegetation is primarily bramble and young blackthorn suckers. To enable safe use of the route by horse riders any encroaching vegetation / branches within this clearance width will be pruned to provide a clearance height of 4m from ground level. These works will have no impact on any mature trees growing within the boundary of the byway. Due to the density of the vegetation required clearing, this work will be carried out using a tractor mounted flail, ensuring the ground is firm on the date these works are carried out.

24/01052/FUL Magnolia Place 9 Silver Street Proposed ground floor front extension and loft conversion.

To note ECDC decision:

24/00826/FUL 24/00898/FUL Park House, The Slade First floor extension over existing flat roof. Approved

24/179 Finance and Administration Matters

Exclusion of Press and Public

To consider whether under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the special and confidential nature of the business about to be transacted at Agenda Items 24/179a) to 24/179f) listed below, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded from this meeting and they are herewith instructed to withdraw.

- a) To approve payment of NJC Salary award backdated to 1.4.24. (circulated)
- b) To consider quotes for Grass and Grounds Maintenance 2025/27 (to follow)
- c) To consider quotes - bus shelter repairs and signage Village Hall (Update).
- d) To receive update from solicitors on draft RSPB Lease.
- e) To receive update from regarding Deed Public Right of Way and Parking for Village Hall.

Chairman to re-open meeting to the public.

- f) To approve receipts and payments for November 2024 (to follow).
- g) To review and approve quarterly accounts to 30 September 2024. (circulated).
- h) To receive update regarding bank accounts.
- i) To review budgets and discuss draft 2025/6 Budget and Precept for approval. (circulated)
- j) Policies: To confirm adoption of Biodiversity Policy as amended Minute 24/162a). (circulated)

24/180 Neighbourhood Plan

- a) To receive monthly update from Witcham Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, and consider any recommendations.
- b) To approve proof-read copy of Neighbourhood Plan and note arrangements for Consultation process. **(WNPWG to circulate final copy after meeting with Consultant 7 November 2024).**

- 24/181 Consultations
- a) East Cambridgeshire District Council seeks views on updated Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy 2025-2028.
 - b) Government seeks comments on Enabling Remote Attendance and Proxy Voting at Local Authority Meetings.
- 24/182 Recreation Ground and Cemetery Matters
- a) To receive monthly report on weekly inspections of play equipment and recreation ground (MH).
 - b) To receive request from Ely City Cricket team to consider allowing use for matches in 2025 season.
 - c) To receive update regarding application from Witcham Events Committee for consent to use recreation ground for Christmas Tree and Lights Celebrations (Minute 24/164b). (MH)
- 24/183 Speedwatch and MVAS Monitoring
To receive updates from G Byrne and Chairman
- 24/184 Highways and Streetlighting
- a) To note any items reported to Highways Authority
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults>
 - b) To discuss making a response to the CCC Capitially Funded Highway Maintenance Scheme (circulated 6.11.24).
 - c) To receive and discuss report following joint meeting with representatives from Mepal Parish Council on 6 November 2024 for joint working for improvements for path and speed reduction measures between Witcham and Mepal. (GB/SW)
- 24/185 Correspondence
To receive and note the following items of information/interest and invites(circulated)
ECDC Rough Sleeper Count.
Notes - Witcham Conservation Group meeting 22 October 2024 (WNPWG).
ECDC Hedgehog Ecology and Management – free course (forwarded to Conservation group volunteers).
CAPALC AGM 31 October 2024 (MH).
East Cambs Net Zero Villages Grant (passed to Village Hall).
East Cambridgeshire Community Fund closes 9 December 2024.
ECDC Press Release Local Plan [Council 17.10.24 | East Cambridgeshire District Council \(eastcambs.gov.uk\)](#)
ECDC Section 106 Grants and Facilities Improvement Grants, and CIL Guidance.
ECDC new website plans.
ECDC Community Safety Project Newsletter.
East Cambs Community Coordinator (CCC) updates.
ECDC Meetings: Council, Planning, Audit.
ECDC Press releases: one-stop-shop for residents, East Cambs groups encouraged to apply for community grant, Avoid being a bonfire bandit this autumn, Remember hedgehogs this autumn, Council takes significant step to end homelessness, Council takes significant step to end rough sleeping, Rescue Me campaign launched for Recycle Week.
CCC Second Chemical Weed Treatment Programme.
CCC Highway Events.
NALC Bulletins, newsletters.

24/186 Date of next meeting: 8 January 2025

SJBell

SJ Bell
CLERK/RFO
6.11.24

Applications for Dispensations must be submitted to the Clerk on the application form at least 4 days prior to the meeting.

NOTES:

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting and there is provision for public participation. Details may be obtained from the Clerk or Chairman prior to commencement of the meeting.

If the Council wishes to exclude the public and press from the meeting a resolution in the following terms will be passed:

“It is hereby resolved in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the (*special*) (*confidential*) nature of the business about to be transacted at Agenda Item (*No*) namely (*state subject listed*) it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded from this meeting and they are herewith instructed to withdraw. (*Mr/Mrs/Cllr*) to be invited to remain.” (as applicable)

Code of Conduct para 12(2) ‘If a Councillor with a prejudicial interest wishes to speak on an agenda item then that interest and intention must be stated immediately after the first item of the Agenda. The public will be allowed a maximum of six speakers who may provide information for up to three minutes only and each person may only speak once. The Chairman will look to secure a balance of public speakers. The public participation is not to be a part of the debate but merely fact giving and answering questions in the same manner as the councillor with the prejudicial interest”.