

# 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 8 January 2025  
at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham,  
for the purpose of transacting the following business:**

## **A G E N D A**

- 25/001 To receive and accept any apologies for absence.
- 25/002 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).
- 25/003 Dispensations:  
To note any new Dispensations granted: Nil.
- 25/004 To note recent monthly reports from County and District Councillors
- 25/005 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.
- 25/006 To approve and sign the minutes and confirm agendas of meetings of 13 November and 12 December 2024.
- 25/007 Matters arising from previous minutes **(for information only)**.

- 25/008 Neighbourhood Plan  
To receive update on current consultation process and discuss next stage for final grant application to complete project. (circulated 2.1.25)
- 25/009 Recreation Ground and Cemetery Matters
- a) To receive monthly report on weekly inspections of play equipment and recreation ground (MH).
  - b) To note village sign repairs completed and sign re-erected
  - c) To receive report that ditch flooding adjacent Cemetery.
- 25/010 MVAS, Speed Watch and Speed Reduction Measures Mepal-Witcham
- a) To receive monthly speed data report (MH)
  - b) To further discuss work needed for Joint Working for Application under Local Highways Initiative Programme (Witcham and Mepal Parish Councils) – Extend 40mph speed limit for remainder of Mepal Road, Witcham and Witcham Road, Mepal (C127) and improvements for path verge to improve safety for pedestrians/horseriders/cyclists. (Reference Minute 24/192)
- 25/011 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 25/011 a) to 25/011 c) 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 receive update from solicitors on draft RSPB Lease (if any)
  - b) To receive update from regarding Deed Public Right of Way and Parking for Village Hall (if any)
  - c) To discuss payment of additional hours worked by Clerk
- Chairman to re-open meeting to the public.
- d) To consider renewal of ACRE membership £72
  - e) To approve receipts and payments for January 2025 and note payments made December 2024. (to follow).
- 25/012 Consultations
- a) ECDC Rural Settlement List for 2025/2026, to note Witcham included <https://eastcambs.gov.uk/about-council/consultations/rural-settlement-list-2025-2026>
  - b) CCC Business Planning and Budget Consultation (closes 9 January 2025).
  - c) SLCC seeking Parish/Town Council's views on consultations with statutory bodies which run into hundreds of pages that need to be examined by Councillors in order to respond, and to note that silence could be taken as support. Eg. Greater Cambridge initiatives, Bus Franchise etc. (circulated 12.12.24)
  - d) SLCC Strengthening the Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities in England' (circulated 30.12.24)
  - e) Modified Witchford Neighbourhood Plan (Submission Version) - comments invited by **14 January 2025**.
- 25/013 Highways and Streetlighting  
To note any items reported to Highways Authority  
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults>

25/014 Correspondence

To receive and note the following items of information/interest and invites (previously circulated):

Priors Field Surgery – St Marys Surgery to be awarded Alternative Provider Medical Services (APMS) contract to provide primary medical services from Priors Field Surgery

CAPALC webinar 30 January 2025 regarding **The Big Lunch 2025, Saturday 7 – Sunday 8 June**, complementing VE Day 80 activities in May.

CAPALC 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary VE Day 8 May 2025

CAPALC Bulletin

Cambs ACRE Rural Affordable Housing Programme

Cambs ACRE new local nature recovery project for local councils

East Cambs Parish Council Conference - 11th February 2025 at Littleport Leisure Centre

ECDC Meetings: Council, Planning <https://eastcambs.gov.uk/about-council/meetings-agendas-and-minutes>

ECDC Free event for East Cambs landlords

ECDC White Ribbon Campaign

CCC Highway Events

CCC Environment & Green Investment Committee – adopted Action Plan for supporting communities to develop Community Energy projects. [Community Energy | Cambridgeshire County Council](#).

NALC Bulletins, newsletters

OWS10 Stakeholder update Middle Level Barrier Bank as part of the Ouse Washes project.

25/015 Date of next meeting: 12 February 2025

SJBell

SJ Bell  
CLERK/RFO

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”.