

## WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 30 April 2025 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

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**Present:** M Housden (Chairman), G Byrne, L Holdaway, S Wilkin.

*In attendance* Parish Clerk/RFO

**25/073 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from K Mackender (work) and J Lucas (sick)

**25/074 To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on any items on the agenda**

Pecuniary interests - none

Personal interests: - none

Prejudicial interests (and to inform the Chairman if they wish to speak on the matter during public participation) – none

**25/075 Dispensations**

To note any new Dispensations granted: Nil

**25/076 Public Participation** Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed 3 representatives from the Witcham Neighbourhood Plan Working Group. They were invited to give their thoughts on policy WHM14. It was felt best to take the advice offered by the Consultant.

7.37pm S Wilkin arrived.

Chairman closed the meeting to the public at 6.40pm

**25/077 Neighbourhood Plan**

Consultants recommendations discussed.

**Resolved** to accept the proposed wording for WHM14 and point 10.7, which gave clarification regarding Ouse Washes Site of Special Scientific interest, Special Protection Area and Ramsar as detailed by the Consultant. Proposed Chairman, seconded S Wilkin and unanimously agreed.

*Clerk*

The three members of the public left the meeting

**25/078 Exclusion of the Press and Public:** It is hereby resolved that 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 confidential nature of the business about to be transacted at agenda items 25/078 RSPB lease, 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. Proposed Chair of meeting and agreed. There were no members of public present..

**RSPB Lease**

Latest correspondence and attachments from solicitors had been previously circulated. After discussion and careful consideration it was

**Resolved** that the Clerk should write to the solicitors regarding:

- a) Clause 4.6 - to ask about licence (for grazing) and establish what if any income RSPB receive for grazing.
- b) Clause 8 to be removed in entirety and the 2 new definitions. The Lease was too complicated, the matter had become protracted and everyone's costs increased.

25/078 **RSPB Lease**

- c) New document must be back with Council for Annual Council Meeting  
14 May 2025. Proposed Chairman, seconded L Holdaway

*Clerk*

Meeting closed at 6.55pm.

Signed..... Dated .....