

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 9 July 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

Present: M Housden (Chairman) G Byrne, S Wilkin

In attendance Parish Clerk/RFO

25/114 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from J Lucas (hols), K Mackender (work), L Holdaway (personal commitment). Apologies also received from County and District Councillor L Dupré and District Councillor M Inskip.

25/115 To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on any items on the agenda

Pecuniary interests - none
Personal interests – none
Prejudicial interests – none

25/116 Dispensations

To note any new Dispensations granted: Nil

25/117 Reports from District and County Councillors

Monthly County Council report had been previously circulated. District Council report awaited.

25/118 Public Participation There were no members of the public present.

25/119 Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting of 11 June 2025 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman, and the agenda of the same date was signed by the Chairman as confirmation of the business transacted at that meeting. Proposed Chairman, seconded S Wilkin.

25/120 Matters Arising

25/107d) *RSPB* - Clerk advised that documents were still awaited.
25/107f) *Bus Shelter* - Date for commencement of bus shelter repairs awaited.

25/121 Planning Matters

The following were noted:
25/00619/TRE Glebe Lodge High Street T1 Lime - Crown reduce by approximately 3-4 metres. T2&T3 Limes - Crown reduce by approximately 2-2.5 metres. Trees are in the rear garden.
25/00286/FUL Land South West Of Ely Model Aircraft Club Hive Road Retrospective change of use to mixed agricultural and straw thatching yard – ECDC approved.

25/122 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 25/122a) – 25/122d)), namely ECDC, Village Hall, Discretions Policy and staff, 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 the public present.

25/122 Exclusion of the Press and Public (cont)

- a) ECDC documents received and considered.
Resolved to respond as discussed. Proposed Chairman, seconded S Wilkin. *Clerk*
- b) Deed of Right of Way and Parking - Village Hall. Documents awaited.
- c) Discretions Policy. Amendments discussed.
Resolved to approve that revised draft be circulated to Councillors and forwarded to LGPS. Final copy to be approved at next meeting. Proposed S Wilkin, seconded G Byrne. *Clerk*
- d) Clerk's work and hours. Details circulated, to be reviewed after August recess.

8.45pm Chairman re-opened meeting to the public. No members of the public present.

25/123 Finance and Administration Matters

- e) Receipts and payments schedule – July 2025, previously circulated. Documents had been checked by G Byrne and Chairman.
Resolved to approve the receipts and payments for July 2025, and to approve that Clerk make the arrangements for August payments for reporting at September meeting, eg salaries, grasscutting and electric. Proposed G Byrne, seconded S Wilkin. *Clerk*
- f) RBL Poppy Wreath.
Resolved to approve the ordering of the wreath for Remembrance Sunday service. Donation £40, (Chairman's Allowance). Proposed G Byrne, seconded Chairman. *Clerk*
- g) Summer newsletter
Resolved to approve newsletter for printing (black & white) by local printer. Proposed Chairman, seconded G Byrne. *Clerk/ Cllrs*
- h) Arrangements for annual village inspection.
Resolved that the Chairman and G Byrne would undertake village inspection for reporting at next meeting. *Chairman/ GB*

25/124 Recreation Ground and Cemetery Matters

- a) Weekly inspections of play equipment and recreation ground had been completed by the Chairman. Repairs to picnic bench outstanding. Nothing else to report on equipment. Clerk and Chairman meeting ECDC Tree Officer 11 July. *Chairman Clerk*
- b) To rescind Minute 25/029b) regarding refusal to allow Christmas lights to be erected around infant play area. Item deferred to next meeting when more Councillors would be present to discuss. *Clerk*
- c) To reconsider granting consent for Witcham Events Committee to erect Christmas lights at the infant play area, provided that a full risk assessment is included with their application, which is acceptable to the Parish Council. Item deferred to next meeting when more Councillors would be present to discuss. *Clerk*

25/125 MVAS, Speed Watch and Speed Reduction Measures Mepal-Witcham

- a) The monthly speed data report had been circulated and a slight increase in people speeding was noted.
- b) Local Highways Initiative Programme – Update report circulated and agreed. Chairman, G Byrne, and Clerk to meet County Council representatives on 29 July regarding extending the 40mph speed limit on Mepal-Witcham road and reinstate footway on verge. *Chairman GB Clerk*

25/126 Highways and Street Lighting Matters

- a) TTRO Witcham – Mepal Road closure 4-8 August 2025 – BT works, noted.
There were no other items to be reported to the Highways Authority.

25/126 **Highways and Street Lighting Matters (cont)**

- b) There were no other items to be reported to the Highways Authority. However, it was noted that Mepal Bridge closures were still ongoing as additional work identified.
Next closures: Friday 11th July from 20.00hrs until Saturday 12th July at 20.00hrs. Friday 25th July from 20.00hrs until Monday 28th at 06.00hrs. A reserve set for 1st August to 4th August - should the weather delay the above. To be confirmed by CCC later.

25/127 **Consultations**

- a) ECDC Licensing Policy – 5 year review. No comments from the Parish Council.
- b) The Future of Local Councils – Local Government Reorganisation
Resolved that the Council supported Option A. Two Unitary Authorities comprising
 - 1 – Peterborough City Council, Huntingdonshire and Fenland District Councils along with County Council functions, and
 - 2 – Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire District Councils along with County Council functions.
 Proposed Chairman, seconded G Byrne.

Clerk

25/128 **Issues with Water Supply System**

Chairman had received complaints about low water pressure, in particular for Martins Lane residents during the last week of June.

Resolved Clerk to write to Anglian Water to confirm that the water pressure for the village was still sufficient for the increased number of dwellings in the village because reduction measures had been installed some years previously to deal with repeated bursts in the main at The Slade. Proposed G Byrne, seconded Chairman.

Clerk

25/129 **Reports Meetings attended by Councillors**

Chairman had circulated confidential report of presentation he had attended.

25/130 **Correspondence**

CCC Essential Maintenance to Mepal Viaduct Bridge - Weekend Closures.
ECDC Black bag deliveries July-August. Anyone missed to contact ECDC by end September. Also to note that during very hot weather bin collections are earlier in the day.

ECDC agendas and minutes, Licensing, Operational Services, Finance & Assets.

ECDC press release: Action on Climate Change.

ECDC Plans for Local Councils – Survey.

ECDC Food Waste Volunteer Project.

East Cambs Parish & Community Forum updates.

ECDC Youth Events Toolkit.

Sanctuary Housing Customer Focus Day 6.8.25 Haddenham Recreation Ground.

RBL 80 VJ Anniversary.

CAPALC – new AGAR terms for 2025/26 – Assertion 10, incl slides

TMC Incident Report.

Cambs ACRE newsletter – volunteers.

NALC newsletters, bulletins.

Cambridgeshire Community Archive Network – volunteers needed for the Executive Committee.

CCC Waterbeach Waste Education Centre Newsletter.

CCC Road Safety Education Newsletter “Way 2 Go”. Summer 2025 .

24/131 **Date of next meeting:** 10 September 2025

Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Schedule of Receipts and Payments

		£	£	£
Receipts:	VAT Refund	1346.32		1346.32
Payments:	b/c Lloyds Fees (Mar/Apr)	6.75		6.75
	b/c Lloyds Fees (Apr/May)	7.75		7.75
	c/p MS online services – 7 licences emails			
	May/June	32.20	6.44	38.64
	June/July	32.20	6.44	38.64
	002217 Truelink Jul	535.00	107.00	642.00
	002218/BACS Salary Expenses	551.04		551.04
	& reimbursement Clerks Expenses	106.39		106.39

Signed..... Dated