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 11 November 2026 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham, for the purpose of transacting the following business:

A G E N D A

26/140 To receive and accept any apologies for absence.

26/141 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).

26/142 Dispensations: To note any new Dispensations granted: Nil.

26/143 To note monthly reports from County and District Councillors. (previously circulated) Chairman to open meeting and invite County and District Councillors to speak.

26/144 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.

26/145 To approve and sign the minutes & confirm agenda of meeting of 14 October 2026

26/146 Matters arising from previous minutes **(for information only).**

26/147 Finance and Administration Matters
- a) To approve receipts and payments for November 2026 (to follow)
- b) To review and approve quarterly accounts and reconciliations to 30.9.26 together with budget report. (circulated 5.11.26)
- c) To review and approve 2027/28 Budget and Precept. (circulated 5.11.26).
- d) To approve policies due for review. (circulated 5.11.26)
- e) To approve the Data Audit. (circulated 5.11.26)

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 26/147f) to 26/147h) namely Village Hall Deed of Right of Way and Car Park, RSPB Lease, staff matters 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.

f) To approve and sign amended signature page - Deed of Right of Way and Parking – Village Hall.
g) To receive any update on RSPB lease.
h) To receive report from the working group (MH/GB/LH/KM) and discuss and approve next arrangements for the recruitment and selection process for the vacancy of Parish Clerk/RFO.

Chairman to re-open meeting to the public.

26/148 Planning

26/01043/FUL The Bungalow, Hive Road
Construction of a cart lodge with a kid's playroom and home office above
https://pa.eastcambs.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=TM8MF8GGH1E00

26/01079/TRE Witcham House, Headleys Lane T4 Sycamore - Remove as dead due to sooty bark disease
T20 Sycamore - Remove as dead due to sooty bark disease
https://pa.eastcambs.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=TMS78KGGHHN00

26/149 Recreation Ground and Cemetery Matters

a) To receive monthly report on weekly inspections of play equipment and recreation ground. (MH)
b) Review grass and ground maintenance contract (circulated 22.10.26).
c) To note that the Cemetery inspection is scheduled for February 2027.
d) To consider and approve application by Witcham Events Committee to use recreation ground for Xmas events 27.11.26 up to 4.1.27 (circulated 4.11.26).

26/150 Highways and Streetlighting

a) To note any items reported to Highways Authority.
b) To receive and note monthly speed data reports. (MH)
c) To receive update on recent Speedwatch sessions. (GB)
d) To note any response from CCC regarding unsuccessful application for LHI project, speed reduction measure on Mepal to Witcham Road.

26/151 Correspondence

To receive and note the following items of information/interest and invites (previously circulated):
Police community engagement evening 21.10.26 and survey.
CCC Highway Asset Management Strategy and Winter Readiness Briefing GB.
CCC Road Safety Education Newsletter “Way 2 Go". Autumn and Winter.
CCC Highway Events.
CCC TMC Roadworks & Events Bulletin 1st – 15.11.26 TMC Incident Report.
Cambs ACRE How Highways prioritises and responds: understanding decisions, maintenance and reporting.
Cambs ACRE Your invitation to "Future Rural Cambridgeshire: exploring the future of rural communities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough" on 17.11.26.
CCAN Community Sites: PHP vulnerability.
NALC Annual Conference 23.6.27.
NALC Chief Executives Bulletin, Events.
CAPALC Bulletins, Green time 17 toolkit. Crises and Resilience Fund.

CAPALC Training - Understanding the Planning System & Writing Effective Representations on 25.11.26.
Peterborough City Council - Fly-tipping in rural areas 30.10.26
ECDC Press Releases, Council calls on Government to justify Local Government Reorganisation plans – Motion. Council opposes Mepal and Shippea Hill wind farms
ECDC Agendas & Minutes/decisions: Audit Committee, Planning, Operational Services and full council.
ECDC Community Safety Forum Toolkit.
Care Network Cambridgeshire anniversary.

26/152 Date of next scheduled meeting: 13 January 2027

SJBell

SJ Bell
CLERK/RFO
5 November 2026
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".