

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 14 January 2026
at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham,
for the purpose of transacting the following business:**

A G E N D A

- 26/001 To receive and accept any apologies for absence.
- 26/002 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).
- 26/003 Dispensations:
To note any new Dispensations granted: Nil.
- 26/004 To note monthly reports (December and January) from County and District Councillors, including updates on Local Government Reorganisation. (Circulated 3 Dec, 15 Dec & 7 Jan).
- 26/005 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.
- 26/006 To approve and sign the minutes and confirm agenda of meeting of 12 November 2025.
- 26/007 Matters arising from previous minutes (**for information only**).

26/008 Planning Matters
To note:
25/00690/NMAA Raven Barn, Headleys Lane Non material amendment to previously approved 25/00690/FUL for garage conversion, along with front and side extension.
25/00286/DISA Land South West Of Ely Model Aircraft Club Hive Road
To discharge Condition 2 (biodiversity improvements) of decision dated 10 June 2025 for 25/00286/FUL. Retrospective change of use to mixed agricultural and straw thatching yard.

26/009 MVAS, Speed Watch and Speed Reduction Measures Mepal-Witcham
a) To receive and note monthly speed data reports, Nov and Dec. (MH)
b) Local Highways Initiative Programme proposed speed reduction measures for Mepal-Witcham road and reinstatement of footway on verge.
To receive confirmation of submission of application for speed reduction measures and any update. (Clerk/MH/GB)

26/010 Witcham Events Committee
To receive update from CCC regarding the Events Committee proposal to replace existing village name signs at entrances to village with new, which would also reference Witcham as home of the World Peashooting Championships. (PFHI application)

26/011 Neighbourhood Plan
To receive update following completion of Examiner's Report and to note that ECDC have scheduled the Referendum for 12 February 2026.

26/012 Finance and Administration Matters
a) To approve receipts and payments for December 2025 and January 2026.
(to follow).
b) To review and approve quarterly accounts and reconciliations to 31.12.25
(to follow)
c) To discuss new draft IT Policy for adoption, and review impact of Assertion 10 on 2025/6 AGAR. (circulated 8.1.26)
d) To discuss professional support for IT administration/emails.
e) To note preparations for 2025/6 year end accounts and audit arrangements.
f) To note reduction of .1% in interest rates on instant savings account.
g) To approve New Year Newsletter.
h) 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 26/012i) to 26/012k) 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.
i) To accept LGPS triennial valuation report. (circulated 11.11.25)
j) To receive update on RSPB Lease.
k) To receive update Deed of Right of Way and Parking for Village Hall for approval.

Chairman to re-open meeting to the public.

26/013 Consultations
To receive and respond to the following:
a) CCC RECAP Resource and Waste Strategy, and RECAP Design Guide Consultation (closes 26.1.25)
b) ECDC Proposed changes to the Rural Settlement List for 2026/2027.
(closes 6 March 2026) [Rural Settlement List 2026 to 2027 | East Cambridgeshire District Council](#)
c) ECDC Public Space Protection Order (12 Jan to 16 Feb) Vehicle related antisocial behaviour Elean (to follow)

26/014 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 note Temporary Road Closure A1101 – Outwell (alternative route) WTR06203PT 4 January 2026 – 13 February 2026 (long diversion route affecting many villages and towns) TRO
- c) To consider approving request for additional light to replace one removed at The Orchards.
- d) To receive complaint regarding car parking and vehicle damage at The Orchards/Westway Place, including the number of cars that are now parking on the road at Westway Place. (MH)
- e) To receive report of antisocial behaviour involving vehicles at Elean Business Park during Christmas period (MH)

26/015 Recreation Ground and Cemetery Matters
To receive monthly report on weekly inspections of play equipment and recreation ground (MH).

26/016 Report of Meetings
CAPALC Annual General Meeting 29 November 2025 (MH)

26/017 Correspondence
To receive and note the following items of information/interest and invites (previously circulated):
Police Funding 2026/7 £15pa Band D. Respond by 11 Jan.
Volunteer schools appeals panel member (on noticeboard).
Parish and Community forum 21 Jan 1.30pm at St Mary's Church Ely.
Cambridgeshire Fens Perspectives Workshop, 9 Dec 2025
Cambridgeshire County Council Budget Briefing with Town and Parish Councils webinar 11Dec25
Cambridgeshire Community Foundation New funding for water environment & communities – Anglian Water.
CCC Winter Edition - Waste Education Centre Newsletter
CCAN Annual Report Dec 25
Avian Bird Flu
Ely Bus Route Update – 9 and 10 wef 2.1.26
NALC Star Council Awards.
CAPALC Staff changes.
CCC Events newsletter.
ECDC agendas and minutes: Finance & Assets, Licensing, Operational Services, Planning, Full Council, <https://eastcambs.gov.uk/about-council/meetings-agendas-and-minutes/meetings-calendar-0>
ECDC Press Releases, White Ribbon Day, Neighbourhood Planning grants, CE retirement, Bin lorry fire – batteries.
CCC Ely Strategic Adaptation for Emergency Resilience – climate change for local communities, St Mary's Church Hall, 27 November 2025
Parish Community Forum notes, and next meeting 21 January 2026.
NALC Governance Elections, Events, Bulletins and Newsletters.
CAPALC new website.
Cambs ACRE newsletter.
TMC Incident Report.

26/018 Date of next meeting: 11 February 2026 (tbc)

SJ Bell

SJ Bell
CLERK/RFO
6.1.25

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".