

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

A G E N D A

- 26/126 To receive and accept any apologies for absence.
- 26/127 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).
- 26/128 Dispensations: To note any new Dispensations granted: Nil.
- 26/129 To note monthly reports from County and District Councillors. (previously circulated)
Chairman to open meeting and invite County and District Councillors to speak.
- 26/130 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.
- 26/131 To approve and sign the minutes & confirm agenda of meeting of 2 September '26
- 26/132 Matters arising from previous minutes **(for information only)**.
- 26/133 Finance and Administration Matter
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 26/133a) to 26/133d) namely Village Hall Deed of

Right of Way and Car Park, RSPB Lease, UKPN Lease rent review and 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.

- a) To approve and sign Deed of Right of Way and Parking – Village Hall. (circulated 6.10.26).
- b) To approve and sign RSPB lease. (circulated 2.10.26)
- c) To approve Rent Review Memorandum UK Power Networks Lease (Recreation Ground).
- d) To discuss staffing items.

Chairman to re-open meeting to the public.

- e) To approve receipts and payments for October 2026 (to follow)
- f) To approve donation for Poppy wreath for Remembrance Sunday.
- g) To note maturity of Fixed Rate Deposit and discuss reinvestment, and to note fall in savings rates.

26/134

Consultations

- a) Chatteris Wind Farm – proposed development.
The Applicant for the Proposed Development intends to make an application for Development Consent under Planning Act 2008. (Regulations 10 and 11) The applicant has sought a Scoping Opinion from the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, as to the scope and level of detail of the information to be provided within the Environmental Statement that will accompany the future application. Witcham Parish Council has been identified as a consultation body to inform the Scoping Opinion. The Planning Inspectorate therefore invites comments. (Circulated 29.9.26 (Closing date 27 October 2026)
- b) CCC Review of Cambridgeshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan – Stakeholder Engagement Survey, (extended closing date 18.10.26.) (circulated 31.8.26)
- c) Consultation on the Governance and Accountability of Category 2 Authorities in England (includes Parish Councils)
 - a) the Proper Practices Code for Category 2 Authorities (England) and
 - b) Code of Practice for Internal Audit of Category 2 Authorities (England) Proper Practices Framework(Closing date 31.10.26)(circulated 3.9.26 and 4.10.26)

26/135

NHS Healthy You: Free pop-up NHS Health Check clinic in local communities. 40-74 year olds.

To consider working with Healthy You for pop-up clinic at Witcham (Village Hall) and support promotion of the event.

26/136

Recreation Ground and Cemetery Matters

- a) To receive monthly report on weekly inspections of play equipment and recreation ground. (MH)
- b) To approve independent inspection of memorials at cemetery.
- c) To approve annual inspection of play equipment.
- d) To consider and approve application by Witcham Events Committee to use recreation ground for Remembrance Day display 1.11.26 to 15.11.26. (circulated 8.10.26)

26/137

Highways and Streetlighting

- a) To note any items reported to Highways Authority.
- b) To receive and note monthly speed data reports and the update on Speedwatch sessions (MH/GB).
- c) To note application for LHI speed reduction measures Mepal Road had not been selected by CCC October 2026. (circulated 2.10.26)
- d) 26-21690 Mepal Road, Witcham & Witcham Road, Mepal - Intends Notice: Proposed Closure
To note proposal of temporary closure Mepal Road for tele-

communications ducting and assoc. works proposed for 9 & 10
November 2026. (circulated 21.9.26)

26/138 Correspondence
To receive and note the following items of information/interest and invites
(previously circulated):

OPCC Community safety, policing and rural communities. A Staying Connected
Event, 13 October 2026.
CCC Preparing a Community Flood Plan webinar 30.9.26 by Flood Hub People
ECDC Parish Council Training Session: National Scheme of Delegation Changes
(circulated cllrs to indicate on poll their preference).
CAPALC Biodiversity duties for Parish Councils(Environment Act 2021)
CAPALC Local Council Projects seminar
CAPALC consultation on proposed new proper Practices Framework
CAPALC Access Crisis and Resilience Fund opens.
CAPALC Bulletins.
Cambs and Peterborough Combined Authority's Members' newsletter.
ECDC Agendas and Minutes – Licensing, Operational Services, Finance & Assets,
Planning
ECDC Press releases – Food waste, Local Government Reorganisation, Lake
View Bereavement Centre, Family fun and wellbeing event 13.9.26, Future support
for Ely Museum.
Charlotte Cane MP, Local Government Reorganisation.
Fenland Community News Care Network Cambs 40 years.
NALC bulletins and events.
CCC Highway events, TMC incident reports, Library Presents Autumn 2026.
Cambs ACRE Staying in touch newsletter.
Service of Remembrance Road Traffic Victims St Neots 15.11.26.

26/139 Date of next meeting: 11 November 2026.

SJBell

SJ Bell

CLERK/RFO

8 October 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".