

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 16 April 2025
at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham,
for the purpose of transacting the following business:**

A G E N D A

- 25/057 To receive and accept any apologies for absence.
- 25/058 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).
- 25/059 Dispensations:
To note any new Dispensations granted: Nil.
- 25/060 To note recent monthly reports and the Annual reports from County and District Councillors. (Circulated 31 March, 8 & 10 April)
- 25/061 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.
- 25/062 To approve and sign the minutes and confirm agendas of meetings of 12 March and 19 March 2025.
- 25/063 Matters arising from previous minutes **(for information only)**.

25/064 Finance and Administration Matters

- a) To approve receipts and payments for April 2025. (to follow)
- b) To note changes in calculation of energy charges for street lights (Half hourly rate instead of non-half hourly rate – industry wide P434 Programme) (circulated 1.4.25)
- c) To approve renewal of subscription to Cambridgeshire Community Archive Network. £100pa. (circulated 8.4.25)
- d) To receive and consider for approval the year-end accounts including reconciliations and associated documents, together with draft 2024/5 Annual Governance and Accounts Reports (circulated 10.4.25).
- e) To receive and adopt revised Finance Regulations (recent Procurement Act and Regulations). (circulated 10.4.25).
- f) To approve final draft Annual Report.
- g) To finalise arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting on 30 April 2025.

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 25/064h) to 25/064i) 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.

- h) To receive update from solicitors on draft RSPB Lease. (circulated 8.4.25)
- i) To receive any update from regarding Deed Public Right of Way and Parking for Village Hall. (MH)

Chairman to re-open meeting to the public.

25/065 Planning Matters (LH&GB)

<https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/planning/current-planning-applications>

To consider:

25/00286/FUL Land South West of Ely Model Aircraft Club, Hive Road, Witcham. Retrospective change of use to mixed agricultural and straw thatching yard.
25/00285/CLP Magnolia Place 9 Silver Street Loft conversion within permitted development rights.

25/066 Neighbourhood Plan

To receive update on progress, and review WHM14 Public Rights of Way (circulated 8.4.25). (MH)

25/067 MVAS, Speed Watch and Speed Reduction Measures Mepal-Witcham

- a) To receive and note monthly speed data report. (MH)
- b) To discuss response from CCC regarding extending 40mph speed limit on the Mepal-Witcham road. (Joint Working for Application under Local Highways Initiative Programme (Witcham and Mepal Parish Councils)). (Report circulated 8.4.25. Next meeting with Mepal 22.4.25).

25/068 Recreation Ground and Cemetery Matters

- a) To receive monthly report on weekly inspections of play equipment and recreation ground, including removal of cricket mats and to thank Witcham Events Committee for the display of Spring bulbs. (MH).
- b) To note the Ely City Cricket team do not require use of Witcham ground this year.

25/069 Agricultural Reservoirs in East Cambridgeshire

To receive notification of ECDC project to assess potential for developing agricultural reservoirs. (Circulated 8.4.25)

25/070 Highways and Streetlighting

- a) To receive and note CCC Response for Highway Investment 2025/6 bid (circulated 8.4.25)
- b) To note any progress by CCC with removal posts/hedge - boundary at northern end of Headleys Lane and cutting back verge on Mepal-Witcham Road to facilitate safe area for walkers and riders.
- c) To receive report that trees had been planted on verge at Gravel End.
- d) To note any items reported to Highways Authority

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults>

25/071 Correspondence

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

Mayor and County Council Elections 1 May 2025 – noticeboard 10.4.25

NALC/CAPALC LGA72 – S.137 £11.10 per elector wef 1.4.25 (from £10.81)

House of Commons Transport Select Committee Survey (extended to 6.4.25)

Cambs Constabulary – Pegasus Scheme

CCC Asset Data Strategy Capital Highways Maintenance Programme

CCC TMC Incident Report

CCC Highway Events

ECDC Agendas, Decisions/Minutes – Planning, Operational Services, Audit

Committee, Finance and Assets, Licensing, Special Council meeting,

ECDC press releases: Community and Public transport, Safe Space offered to report hate crimes, Local Government Re-organisation.

Local MP – meeting at Sutton 4.4.25

Cambs Community Foundation – Learning and Skills Fund

Parish and Community Forum notes March 2025. Next meeting 21.5.25

CAPALC - Undergraduate Empirical Research Project – survey request

CAPALC 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe (8.5.25)

NALC and CAPALC Bulletins and newsletters

East Cambs Climate Action Network – reducing home emissions

HMRC Spring Statement

Arthurs Shed

25/072 Date of next meeting: 14 May – Annual Meeting of the Council
(30 April – Annual Parish Meeting)

SJBell

SJ Bell

CLERK/RFO

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".