

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

April 2022



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Witcham Village Hall
Wednesday 27 April 2022
at 7.30PM

We extend a warm welcome to all our residents who would like to attend the meeting of the parish this year.

Agenda items so far – annual reports from Parish, District and County Councillors and village organisations

Discuss doing Neighbourhood Plan and a First Responder Service
Update on Play and Recreation Ground

Do come along and support your village
We do want to hear about your ideas for the future and any concerns

Final agenda will be posted on the noticeboards

We look forward to welcoming you

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First Responder Volunteers Required

The East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust is looking for volunteers to come on board as Community First Responders who live or work in Mepal, Sutton and Witcham.

Community First Responders (CFRs) volunteer in groups, and are activated by the service to attend 999 emergency calls within the community they live or work in.

They receive free training to help them provide vital basic life saving skills which can make the difference in a life or death situation before the

arrival of an ambulance resource. Volunteers take it in turn to be 'on call' and carry basic first aid equipment and a simple-to-use automated external defibrillator (AED). The emergency operations centre sends them to the scene of category A (immediately life threatening) 999 calls. First Responders are despatched at the same time as the ambulance crew, but often arrive beforehand because they are based so locally. The First Responder then provides care until the ambulance arrives, usually only a few minutes later.

AED used within the first minute of a cardiac arrest, the survival rate can be as high as 90%. Used within the first 3 to 5 minutes, the survival rate is between 50-70%. Therefore, it is important for Community First Responders to exist, especially around these parts, when an ambulance could take some time to reach.

Anyone living or working within this community can get involved with the scheme either as a First Responder, or to help with other vital aspects of the scheme as scheme co-ordinator, fundraising or general admin help to the group. Volunteers say "It's an incredibly rewarding experience and something which demonstrates great community spirit."

The EEAST's Community partnership manager Jonathan Needles said: "As with any voluntary group, we need people to join up so that we can keep this life-saving scheme running. "The more members we can recruit, the more cover we can give. People can be on call for as little or as much time as they're able; what's important is that they want to contribute something worthwhile to our local community in a positive way." For more information on the group, email mepalsuttoncfr@gmail.com or visit [Community first responders \(eastamb.nhs.uk\)](http://Communityfirstresponders(eastamb.nhs.uk))

Recreation Ground, Play, Outdoor Fitness Facilities – update on consultation

As residents are aware, the Parish Council has been undertaking an extensive consultation with residents in relation to plans to refurbish the play park equipment. The current equipment is now over 20 years old and is showing signs of wear and tear.

In September 2020 we issued a questionnaire seeking views on replacement equipment and facilities to suit all age groups. The result of the survey was published on our website and discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting in April 2021. We have since obtained a number of example schemes from providers and put on two consultation meetings on 21 and 22 January 2022 where ideas were displayed and discussed. The Parish Council were delighted to see so many of you at the meetings and have considered and taken into account all feedback received.

There was overwhelming support for the Wicksteed scheme (with the suggestion that a train/tractor item was added to give some additional interest to younger children) and also for the idea of providing some adult leisure equipment. It is essential to maximise chances of funding success to show that any new equipment is open and available to as many residents as possible and, we hope, by incorporating some additional leisure equipment this will assist us to satisfy this requirement. Whilst there was some limited report for the timber option, it was generally recognised that this is more expensive and would require more maintenance.

The next stage in the process is to clear any procurement requirements with suppliers and then proceed to apply for funding support. The Parish Council is aiming to make the funding application in June this year and if successful this will enable us to proceed later in the year.

FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS

13 APRIL 2022

27 APRIL 2022 – ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 7.30PM

11 MAY 2022 (COUNCIL AGM)

8 JUNE 2022

13 JULY 2022

All items for the agenda must be received by the Clerk at least 1 week prior to the scheduled meeting.

The meetings start at 7.30pm. There is an opportunity for the electorate to attend these meetings and provision is made for public participation/question time, (15 minutes) at each meeting.

Please contact the Clerk prior to the meeting. Tel 01353 778147

Dogs

Dogs are not allowed up on to the recreation ground/village green area.

We are fortunate to have a good network of green lanes (public rights of way). Owners must clear up after their pets wherever it occurs and deposit dog waste bags in the dog bins provided at various points around the village. Residents are invited to report all incidents of dog fouling immediately to East Cambs District Council on 01353 665555.

PLEASE DO NOT MOVE THE FOOTBALL GOALPOSTS

FOOTBALLERS

Please be aware the goalposts on the recreation ground must only be moved by the Council or the Witcham Cricket Club.

Spot anything unusual or suspicious

For emergencies dial 999, non-emergencies: www.cambs.police.uk/report on-line reporting and live webchat, or <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/pre-form>

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCILLORS

M Housden – Chairman

mick.housden@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

K Mackender – Vice-Chairman

karl.mackender@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

J Bibby

julia.bibby@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

L Holdaway

laura.holdaway@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

J Lucas

jane.lucas@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

S Wilkin

sally.wilkin@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Clerk – S Bell

clerk@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk