

# WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL *NEWSLETTER*

1 December 2023



Dear residents,

## **New Play Facilities – Phase 1**

Despite much chasing, we have been unable to obtain a firm date from the contractors to complete outstanding works at the play park. Current indications are week commencing 11th December, which we hope will be confirmed very soon.

Although the park looks ready for use, there is currently no safety flooring under the train and the fencing needs to be replaced. Most importantly, the independent safety sign off report has not been finally signed off. The Parish Council must put safety of the equipment first and this is why the park has not re-opened.

As soon as the last stages of work are completed, and on receipt of the safety report, the play park will be opened for the children. We are still planning to organise an official opening, to take place later, sometime in the New Year, which we hope residents and their families will attend. We will keep you informed via usual channels – village noticeboards at the crossroads, on-site and website [www.witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

We do thank you for your patience.

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## **Chairmans Report**

Another year gone and it's nearly Christmas already. It has been a very busy year, including the new play facilities (update above) and Neighbourhood Plan. We are awaiting final details on our application to Grantscape for Phase 2 – older children and fitness equipment and will keep you posted on village noticeboards and the Council's website.

A problem that has not gone away is the problem of dogs fouling footpaths, the green and surrounding area, particularly around the bus shelter. Please use the bins provided.

The spring and autumn litter picks were well supported and the rubbish collected is getting less each time partly, due to a dedicated few who continue to pick it up whilst out on walks throughout the village. Thanks to village co-

ordinator for organising these and everyone who helped.

Special thanks to the new editor who has resurrected the "What's On" in a new easy to read colour format. Remember to let her know of any items that you would like included. [whatsoninwitcham@gmail.com](mailto:whatsoninwitcham@gmail.com)

We also thank the Lead and all the members of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party for composing and distributing the questionnaire which will help provide the future planning strategy for the village.

The village hall committee members have decided that they do not want to run the Peashoot anymore and a new Social Committee is being formed to take over this and arrange other social events, including the Xmas tree.

After many years Julie Bibby decided to retire as a Parish Councillor. During the 1980s she was Parish Clerk. She and her family have helped maintain the village green and have donated trees and shrubs to improve the outlook. We will miss her knowledge of the village history.

We still have vacancies for the Speedwatch Co-ordinator and Parish Councillor. Please contact the Parish Clerk or any of the Councillors for details.

I thank all my fellow Councillors and our Parish Clerk for their help and support throughout the year.

We all wish you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Mick Housden,*

Chairman Witcham Parish Council

## **Neighbourhood Plan**

The Witcham Neighbourhood Plan Working Group report that over 100 surveys were returned and its good to see strong interest from residents. They will be examining this information and hope to publish preliminary report in the new year – at a cake and coffee morning on **Saturday 27 January, 10am at Village Hall** Pop the date in your diary and do come along.

## Cemetery

Inspection of headstones has taken place. Sadly some failed and had to be laid down to make safe, others need levelling. We are trying to trace family members where stones need work, please contact Parish Clerk if you can help.

[clerk@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## STREET LIGHTS

If you notice a faulty street light please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk or any member of the Council quoting street light number and name of street.

County Council owned lights maintained by Balfour Beatty should be reported direct to the County Council

together with any concerns about potholes, verges, footpaths - in or out of the village

<https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>

## Witcham Parish Council Contact details:

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(The Slade)

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Karl Mackender – Vice-Chairman

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Sally Wilkin

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Parish Clerk – Sue Bell

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<http://witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk>

## DOG FOULING

Please report all incidents of dog fouling on the footways immediately to

ECDC 01353 665555

They will cleanse and visit the dog owners!

Fines may be issued

**In the interests of health and hygiene for users of the recreation ground playing sport and children using the equipment, dogs are not permitted on our Recreation Ground/Village Green whatsoever.**

## FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS

10 January 2024 (Budget/Precept)

14 February 2024

13 March 2024

All items for the agenda must be received by the Clerk at least one 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 for details.

Visit our website

[www.witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk) to view agendas and approved minutes, news and updates on Parish Council activities. Notices and Draft minutes are also posted on the noticeboards at the bus shelter and corner of Silver Street/The Slade

## 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.