

# WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL *NEWSLETTER*

September 2023



Welcome to our Autumn newsletter, which we hope you will find informative and useful about what is going on in the village, including the latest about the Witcham Neighbourhood Plan. We have a Parish Councillor vacancy – if you'd like to apply; or may be you would like to volunteer to help with Speedwatch? Council meets usually on the second Wednesday of the month and members of the village are welcome to attend. Information about our work is published on the village crossroads noticeboard and [www.witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

In any event don't hesitate to contact the Clerk or any of the Councillors who will do their best to help.

## **Councillor Vacancy**

Following publication of results of uncontested Election in May, we still have a Parish Councillor vacancy we urgently need to fill.

Do you reside/work in the parish? Interested in serving the community? Care about what happens at Witcham?

Could you

- **Attend** a monthly meeting of the Full Council where Councillors decide on strategies, what activities to support and on what to spend money locally, including helping with the Witcham Neighbourhood Plan?
- **Participate** in monitoring and ensuring effective provision of services from local authorities, eg waste, highways, transport, buses, public rights of way, speeding, leisure facilities?
- be a **local representative** of the community, work with local authorities and local organisations, and have responsibilities towards local people and organisations?
- Spare 8 or so hours a month to help make Witcham a better place?

Contact [clerk@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk) by 2 October for details and application pack.

**Closing date** for receipt of letters of expression setting out interest, skills and abilities to contribute to the role of the Council (up to 500 words): **Noon – Monday 9 October 2023**

## **New Play Facilities**

We got the grant! Wicksteed expect to be installing phase 1 (young children's equipment) at the recreation ground week commencing Monday 25 September 2023. Works are expected to take 3-4 weeks. Further details will be on website and village noticeboards. Outcome of grant application for Phase 2, older children and fitness equipment, still awaited.

## **Witcham Neighbourhood Plan**

The Survey to gauge what people want for Witcham in terms of housing, transport, preserving the character of the village and protecting 'green' spaces for the future, recreational/leisure facilities etc. will be delivered very soon and electronically available on [www.witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Everyone is urged to complete this so that the Witcham Neighbourhood Plan Working Group has clear guidance for working with the Consultant on producing the Plan, which will shape Witcham for the future. It will also help the Parish Council to plan activities and see what to focus resources on to help provide amenities and services that the community need and desire. Should take 15-20 minutes to complete. Funds have been raised by the Group for prize money for completing the survey and the winner of the photographic competition was declared at the Coffee morning held on 9 September at the Village Hall.

The AECOM Support Team are working on the Design Code for the Plan, ie sorts of buildings etc desired. The Plan will be an input for the local Planning Authority to consider when determining planning applications in the parish.

We do need everyone's support/views on this project please. The Group meets at the Village Hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. Details posted on village crossroads noticeboards.

## **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)

### Best Kept Gardens

It was really disappointing that people didn't come forward to take part in this year's event, having had to cancel ever since Covid. New classes had been introduced so as to include children, organic gardeners and small gardens, and our judge and Julie were looking forward to making their visits. So, what should we do next year? Feedback would be really most welcome.

### Public Rights of Way (Byways) The Drovers

Concerns, eg encroachments, obstructions, on any of the public rights of way – report on <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults>

### SPEEDWATCH VOLUNTEERS and VILLAGE CO-ORDINATOR required.

MVAS equipment at The Slade and Martins Lane is picking up speeds of up to 60mph. Can you help?. Training provided. Contact Parish Clerk or a Councillor.

### 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 COUNCILLORS

M Housden – Chairman

[mick.housden@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:mick.housden@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

K Mackender – Vice-Chairman

[karl.mackender@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:karl.mackender@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

L Holdaway

[laura.holdaway@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:laura.holdaway@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

J Lucas

[jane.lucas@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:jane.lucas@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

S Wilkin

[sally.wilkin@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:sally.wilkin@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Parish Clerk – S Bell

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

<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

11 October 2023

8 November 2023

No meeting in December unless urgent business, eg planning

10 January 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.

### 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.