



WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER - June 2021

PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday 7 July 2021 at 7.30 pm

in the Village Hall

Now that Covid-19 restrictions are easing and the Council should be able to return to holding face to face meetings at the Village Hall*, we are inviting residents to attend a public meeting as a follow-up to the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) held in April. Unfortunately, with the APM having to be held remotely by Zoom, attendance was very low so Councillors are hoping that a meeting in July will better suit residents.

Councillors want to share with residents, information on a number of projects they have been busy with over the past year.

1. Tree Maintenance and Replacements at the Recreation Ground.

Over winter, extensive but essential works were undertaken on the trees around the recreation ground, with some trees unfortunately having to be removed due to disease and instability. The Council intends to now undertake a replacement programme and has taken advice from the tree officer and nurserymen as to what species of trees would be suitable. If you would like to be involved with this project please do come along to the meeting for further information. The Council may be able to tie in with the Queens Green Canopy Project, which encourages tree planting to commemorate the upcoming Jubilee.

2. Witcham Archive Group

Have you visited the Witcham Archive Group's webpage <https://witcham.ccan.co.uk> which is hosted by the County Council?

The group needs help to ensure all these brilliant pictures and snippets of information of Witcham's history and events are maintained for the future. They also need people to keep finding more to go on the website – events of today make history for future generations to enjoy tomorrow!

3. Movable Vehicle Activated Speed Sign

The Council is extremely grateful for the contribution from Patsy's Fund to enable setting this system up. It went live in April and data is being lifted which will be shared at the meeting. We look forward to hearing your views.

4. Play Equipment – Recreation Ground

The black tiles and some pieces of equipment are past their best. For some time the Council has been making provision in the Precept to set aside funds in reserves to finance a refurbishment project covering all age groups. Last year's survey results have been published and the Council hopes to secure further grant funding to support the project. The next steps involve obtaining some proposals and estimates from play providers for replacement equipment, which will then be shared with residents for further comment.

5. Parish Council Website

The Council's new website is nearly ready for launch. The new site has been professionally designed for us to maintain and meet statutory requirements, and to make it more accessible to keep residents informed. It will give information about important events and information, agendas, minutes, finance and will include links to the Village Hall, Witcham Archive Group, County Council, District Council (including information on current planning applications for Witcham - upon which the Council (and residents) are invited to comment), water, electricity, gas, telephone etc. We encourage all residents to contact us via email/the new website, ie the Parish Clerk, rather than using social media (as comments may not be passed on to the right person).

If you would like to join us on 7 July 2021, please kindly contact the Clerk
email witchamparishc@btinternet.com or phone 01353 778147
to register your attendance and allow us to make the necessary arrangements to
comply with any Covid-19 restrictions that may be applicable.

Defibrillator

The defibrillator, which was kindly provided by a local resident, is available on the wall by the front entrance at the Village Hall on the recreation ground/village green. We understand the Village Hall did arrange a training session for residents when it was installed. Enquiries should be addressed to the Village Hall Management Committee Chairman for further information.

M Housden
Chairman Witcham Parish Council

*The Coronavirus Act 2020 s.78 and The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, which permitted various local authorities, including Parish Councils, to meet remotely on platforms such as Zoom, Teams etc, expired last month. We are now intending to return to holding meetings at the Village Hall – subject to any further advice from the Government on the Covid-19 restrictions over the coming weeks and months. **Any further updates and agendas will be published on the village noticeboard at the crossroads and on the website www.witcham.org.uk**