

## CONTACT DETAILS

CHAIRMAN Ashley Bamforth	01353 777453	4 Silver Street Witcham Ely CB6 2LF <i>Responsibilities: Village Hall Committee, Cambs &amp; Peterborough Assoc'n Local Councils, East Cambs Parish Forum, Citizens Advice Bureau, Cemetery</i>
VICE-CHAIRMAN David Saberton	01353 778309	Ivy House, Wardy Hill Road Witcham Ely Cambs CB6 2LN <i>Responsibilities: Play Area, Mepal Outdoor Centre, Strawburner Parish Forum, Cemetery</i>
Allistair Berry	01353 778081	Fern House 32High Street Witcham Ely CB6 2LQ <i>Responsibilities: Parish Paths Scheme, Neighbourhood Panel, Heavy Commercial Vehicle Joint Committee, Cambs &amp; Peterborough Assoc'n of Local Councils, Cemetery</i>
Julia Bibby	01353 777267	26 Martins Lane Witcham Ely CB6 2LB <i>Responsibilities: Village Hall Committee, Youth &amp; Community Team, Cemetery</i>
Karl Mackender	01353 777640	19High Street Witcham Ely CB6 2LQ <i>Responsibilities: Heavy Commercial Vehicle Joint Committee, East Cambs Parish Forum, Speedwatch Scheme, Cemetery</i>
Chris Watson (Retiring May 2011) VACANCY	01353 776394	2 The Orchards Witcham Ely CB6 2LR <i>Responsibilities: Ely Sector Police Local Liaison Group, Cemetery</i>
PCSO J Halls	0845 456 4564	Police <a href="http://www.cambs.police.uk/signup/ecops/">www.cambs.police.uk/signup/ecops/</a>



## WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT & SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS 2010/11

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2011

As election time approaches and the Parish Council comes to the end of its four year term of office, I would like to pay tribute to all the members of the Council who have worked so hard over the last four years. Chris Watson has decided not to stand again due to an increase in work commitments and I would particularly like to thank him for his loyal service to Witcham. The rest of the present Councillors have submitted nomination papers for the next term and are returned unopposed as fewer people came forward than there are places on the Council. Arrangements will be put in place to fill the vacancy once the new Council is in place.

Able guided by Sue Bell, our Clerk, we became a "Quality Parish Council" four years ago by meeting a set of standards about how we publicise and record our meetings and keep the community informed by publishing quarterly newsletters among a host of other things. In the future it is likely that Councils with the "Q" mark will have much greater credibility and be considered capable of operating at a higher level than those without. We will be considering renewing the accreditation once the new Council meets.

At the present time the Parish Council has few direct responsibilities, these are mainly to do with the maintenance of the Green, the play areas and the cemetery. However an important part of our role is to work with other people and agencies for the benefit of the Village. To this end we have supported the Village Hall Committee in its bid to develop the facilities at the Hall and increase the range of activities on offer and we have maintained our support for the weekly provision of a youth club. Not as visible is the work of the Parish Council in representing the village to other organisations where we strive to ensure that Witcham is treated fairly and sympathetically and continues to develop in a way that maintains our quality of life. For example we regularly make representations to the Countryside Access Team whose responsibility it is to keep open the network of highways which we know as droves. Beyond this we remain an important voice for the people of Witcham and are regularly asked for our views on a very diverse range of initiatives at District, County and National levels. However with the new political scene I see signs that the focus of local Government is changing and fear this is going to affect the role

of the Parish Council. As the District and County Councils start to suffer budget cuts and the National Government continues to spread its localism agenda, Parish Councils are being asked to take on more of the jobs that other bodies are no longer able to undertake. Just how far these new responsibilities will go is not yet clear and for the most part I suspect there will be no commensurate increase in resources. It is therefore essential that Witcham Parish Council is able to accept these challenges and work with others to find (sometimes novel) ways to maintain the services on which we have come to rely. We are a small Parish with small resources and will be looking to the community. The buck stops here, there is no one below to whom we can pass things. We either pull together as a community and work for the benefit of each other or give up caring in these most difficult of times. It seems to me that working together is the very essence of village life with each supporting the other; we are not just a dormitory; we are a community and we will all benefit by showing a degree of responsibility towards each other. Collectively I hope that we can all rise to the challenge that is being thrust upon us.

*Ashley Bamforth*  
Chairman Witcham Parish Council

## ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The Annual Accounts for 2010/11 were approved by the Parish Council at its meeting on 12 April 2011 and are subject to external audit on 6 June 2011 by Moore Stephens of Peterborough. In accordance with The Accounts and Audit Regulations electors have the right to inspect the accounts, available between 5 May and 2 June 2011. On completion of the external audit a copy of the Annual Return will be deposited on the parish noticeboard. The Internal Auditor for the year is Mr G Whitfield.

## PRECEPT 2011/12

The Precept has been set at £10600

## ABOUT WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL\*

6 elected Councillors, serve a term of 4 years, representing an electorate of about 350.

Councillors have opted not to claim the Parish Basic Allowance for elected Councillors. Expenses for travel and subsistence may be reimbursed in accordance with the provisions of the Report of the Parish Remuneration Panel 2007.

Employs - Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer  
- Groundsman (grasscutting/maintenance of Councils property)

Auditors - Moore Stephens, Peterborough (External) and Mr G Whitfield (internal)

Meetings, normally second Tuesday of the month, (Dates issued after Annual Meeting) 15 minutes public forum at start of each meeting. Agendas and minutes displayed on the noticeboards at the centre of the village. Information is also published on the website [www.witcham.org.uk](http://www.witcham.org.uk) which is very kindly maintained on a voluntary basis by John and June Wells.

Members represent the Council on a number of bodies, see back page. The Council enlists the help and support of the public on working parties for some projects, eg. Parish Plan, who report back to the Council. There is no Committee system.

Financed by the Precept, which is collected via the District Council through the Council Tax system. Main source of income is rent on some droves at the Ouse Washes, which is currently let to the RSPB for £698.75 pa. Otherwise our projects are funded by grant aid from a number of different organisations.

The Parish Council is responsible for

- infant play area and facilities for older children at recreation ground
- bus shelter
- the Cemetery
- 2 noticeboards
- village sign
- interpretation board
- seats at recreation ground and cemetery.
- 5 Street lights (the remainder having been adopted by the County Council)
- saltbins and 3 dog bins
- Red telephone kiosk conservation area (adopted 2010)(No longer in service)

**CLERK/RFO** Sue Bell  
17 Astley Close,  
Sutton, Ely, Cambs CB6 2PG. Tel 01353 778147  
[www.witcham.org.uk](http://www.witcham.org.uk)

\* Established 1894 (the old minutes are in the Archives at Cambridgeshire County Council, Shire Hall, Cambridge)

In 2010/11 we have

- Continued to support the local community: Village Hall Committee in further development and provision of facilities to ensure its future as a sustainable village amenity. Planning application for extensions submitted
- Continued our partnership with Sutton and Mepal Parish Councils for the provision of Community and Youth Services
- In partnership with the County Council, Sustrans and Neighbourhood Panel continued to pursue the completion of a cycleway between Witcham Toll and Wentworth
- In partnership with County Council worked to promote use and protect condition of droves and other public rights of ways. Host meeting regarding management of Drovers with CCC and local Parish Councils. P3 Parish Path Scheme
- In partnership with the County Council under the Jointly Funded Minor Improvements Scheme built more passing places on the first stretch of road between Witcham Hive and Wardy Hill
- Adopted the red telephone box in the conservation area of the High Street
- Developed tree maintenance programme for recreation ground with ECDC Tree Officer
- Member of local Speedwatch Scheme
- Member of Neighbourhood Panel
- Member of Heavy Commercial Vehicles Working Group
- Reviewed - Financial Regulations, Standing Orders, Cemetery Guidelines and Clerk's contract

The new Council will be formed at the first meeting in May. Plans for 2011/12 will include:

- To the best of our ability and resources embrace the changes brought about by the proposed Localism Agenda
- Work in partnerships with other appropriate bodies and agencies to improve facilities and enhance the quality of life for people in Witcham.
- Participate in consultation process of ECDC review of the Core Strategy Document for future development of the parish and district
- Continue to provide opportunity and encourage people to take an interest in community life in Witcham
- Continue to support the Village Hall Committee in pursuance of developing facilities at the Village Hall
- Continue to work with Sutton and Mepal Parish Councils in the provision of Community and Youth Services
- Work with Cambridgeshire County Council to add more passing places between Hive Road and Jerusalem Drove
- Continue to push for cycleway between Witcham Toll and Wentworth
- Continue to work with Cambridgeshire County Council on the management of the Public Rights of Way
- Continue to represent Witcham on the local Neighbourhood Panels
- Continue to represent Witcham on the Heavy Commercial Vehicles Working Group
- Continue to participate in the Speedwatch scheme
- Participate in the consultation processes at national and local level.

THIS PAGE FOR SUMMARY OF 2010/11 ACCOUNTS

See separate document "summary of accounts for 2011 Annual Report"