

Pebworth Parish Council
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held on Monday 25th April 2022 at Pebworth Village Hall

Present: Councillors: Richard Weller (Chairman), Denise Meynell, James Pearson, John Hyde, Simon Shiers, Sam Parkins & David Cranage

In attendance: County Councillor Adams, District Councillor Havemann-Mart, Mrs D Bowles (Clerk)

Also in attendance: 11 members of the public.

1.	The Chairman, Cllr Richard Weller, welcomed everyone present.
2.	Pebworth Parish Council's Annual Report Presented by Chairman, Cllr Richard Weller; the report is appended to the minutes.
3.	Cllr James Pearson spoke about the playground initiative on The Close: The timber play equipment on the Close was installed and opened May 2004 with the costs being met by a combination of fundraising in the Parish and grants. The zipwire had to be taken out of operation just over 2 years ago as a safety inspection at the time detailed that the timber supports were decaying, with the balance beam also having to be removed. There are still several pieces of timber equipment which are also showing signs of timber decay. The Parish Council has been looking at the costs of replacing the zipwire and is mindful that any replacement needs to have a longer lifespan than the current timber equipment which comes at a significant cost. To replace the remaining pieces of equipment would cost in the region of £80,000. Whilst the Parish Council does not have the available funding for a project of that size, we are fortunate that we have the opportunity to make an application for funding as part of the latest round of the Wychavon Community Legacy Grant. The Parish Council thinks that the replacement of the timber play equipment fits with the aims of the grant, and we have already had initial discussions with both Wychavon and with our District Councillor, Thomas Havemann-Mart, which have been well received. As part of the application, it was decided to split the consultation/research into 2 phases – the first one has provided the information as to what people in the parish are actually looking for, this information has been used to produce a Parish-wide consultation document which is being delivered to all residents, this week, as well as making it available online. Once all responses have been assessed the application form will be completed. Fingers crossed it will have a favourable response and the play equipment can be updated for future generations.
4.	Parish Organisations : Reports were received from: PIB – Yvonne Rose WI – Elizabeth Spencer Village Hall – Jane Cromack St Peter's Church – Elizabeth Spencer Pebworth Rural Cinema is going very strong. Pebworth CAPV - Graham Fowles All reports are appended to the minutes.
5.	Reports were received from County Councillor Adams & District Councillor Havemann-Mart which are appended to the minutes.
6.	Minutes: The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24th May 2021 were circulated to the meeting. The minutes were confirmed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.
7.	There being no further business: The Chairman closed the meeting at 20:10 and thanked all those present for attending.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

Pebworth Parish Council Annual Report 2021-22

As you will know we were able to restart physical meetings last year and although this annual report will not cover any Covid matters, unlike last years one, we are respectful that Covid remains with us and has affected many of the parishioners. It is therefore our pleasure to welcome you back to the Annual Parish Meeting and thankful that we can again meet in person.

Parish Council

You may have noticed some new faces on the Parish Council and following the resignation of SJ Morrow, the co opting process was initiated and 3 strong candidates for the casual vacancy applied. In March this year, we voted Samantha Parkins onto the council, welcome to Sam. Thanks are given to SJ Morrow for her time and work with the council, and to the other candidates that applied for the position.

You will also notice that Donna Bowles is with us, Donna is our very able Parish Clerk and was appointed last year following the resignation of John Stedman – welcome Donna.

For those new to the Parish or haven't met us before, the full members of the council are:

- Donna Bowles – Parish Clerk
- Richard Weller – Chair
- James Pearson – Vice Chair
- Denise Meynell - Member
- Samantha Parkin – Member
- Dave Cranage – Member
- John Hyde – Member
- Simon Shiers – Member

We continue to meet in person here at the Village Hall, on the first Monday of every month, except when a bank holiday. We welcome all members of the public and the beginning of the meeting is set aside for members of the public to raise questions or provide advice.

The role of Parish Lengthsman and Handyman continues to be held by Cllr John Hyde and he carries out maintenance of Parish assets (play equipment, fencing, etc) as well as clearing vegetation, pruning and removal of tree branches and dead trees, weed spraying on pavements and gutters, and numerous other jobs which keep the Parish running. As I did last year, we should like to thank John for his continued hard work and support.

I would also like to take this opportunity to pass on our most grateful thanks to Alastair and Thomas for all they have done for us as our ward members.

Achievements

The Parish Council continues to provide its support to the community across a range of issues large and small and these are some of the achievements since our last Annual Parish Meeting:

Village Hall extension & renovation. The Village Hall project was completed since we last met and we are very lucky to have such a wonderful and versatile asset in the village; no doubt you will have noticed the many events that are taking place now, from weddings, fund raising events, parties and even Guinea Pig shows!

Installation of outside Trim Trail Equipment. You may have noticed alongside the MUGA on the recreation field, we installed a series of physical activity items as a “trim trail”. This was following a successful application to Wychavon Council for the funding of “outdoor activity” equipment. The rules around this grant were quite specific and hope that the parish enjoy the benefits.

Streetlight upgrade. The project to upgrade the streetlights in Pebworth for energy efficient LED units is almost complete with the final phase having just been ordered for installation in various areas including; Chapel Road, Little Meadows and Elm Close. We see the benefits of this project as being, saving in energy costs (especially with

current trend in costs), enhanced aesthetics, improved lighting, consistency and safer columns, having replaced the failed concrete columns.

New Play Equipment Consultation. As you may know the older playground equipment on The Close is in need of replacement due to deterioration of the timber components and in fact the zipwire has been taken out of commission following the H&S inspection. The playground is a valued feature of our village and the Parish Council have applied for a grant to replace some of the equipment and had agreement in principle. The current stage of the process is to consult with the village to obtain information on usage and types of equipment that would be preferable and you have seen the recent communication and our members canvassing opinion. It is our intention to replace the zipwire as we have received overwhelming support for this attraction!

The Masons Arms Asset of Community Value. The Parish Council applied for The Masons Arms to be considered as an "Asset of Community Value" following the expiry of the previous agreement. This was once again agreed by the Communities and Funding Advisory Panel and renewed until 2027 under the Community Right to Bid.

Jubilee Memorial Planting on the Recreation Field. With the many events of the jubilee this year, we were very pleased to collaborate with PiB to plant the Jubilee Canopy over at the Recreation Field and I'm sure that PiB will provide further detail.

Supporting Flood alleviation initiatives. This year we played a part in supporting the various initiatives to reduce the effect of flooding in the village and especially by the bridge at Broad Marston; thanks to Alastair and many other people that have invested much time in flooding matters.

Objectives

The aforementioned items are some of the achievements of the last year, some of which are ongoing, however I would like to speak about the key objectives and some of the initiatives that the Parish Council are focused on.

From our various discussions with the village members, we believe the following to be important to the parishioners and therefore should be reflected in our objectives, they are:

- **Safety & Security.** This includes addressing the speeding issues on the main routes in and out of the village. The council have placed an order for a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) with a delivery date imminent, which shall be placed in various locations around the village on a rotation basis. The VAS is a radar activated device and warns of over speeding as vehicles approach it. In terms of security around the village, we are monitoring the occasional issues of anti social behaviour and contacting the Rural Police team as appropriate and whilst we do not have any authority in this regard, we shall support complaints of such incidents.
- **Connecting with Parishioners.** With a diverse range of age groups in the village, we are reviewing our methods of communication with a view to embracing digital platforms such as Facebook. Of course, we will continue to post our notices in hard copy format and engage directly with parishioners through conversation and meetings. Now that the new build properties at Meon Gardens (Sims metal site) are being occupied, we have initiated communication with some of the residents and the with the adjacent Meon Vale group. It should be considered that the Meon Gardens site is part of the Pebworth Parish and we therefore have a responsibility to our new parishioners.
- **Planning & Amenities.** The Parish Council receive many planning applications for review and we continue to ensure that the needs of the parish are served and the applications are in accordance with the adopted Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). Through public consultation we shall continue to maintain and improve the village amenities such as the play areas, allotments and the general upkeep of the Parish Council Assets.
- **Support to Village Groups.** The council is committed to supporting the various groups for the good and benefit of the village and its residents, and especially this year with support to the Platinum Party group.

I trust that you recognise the support that the Parish Council provides to the village and please continue to advise us of your concerns and offer ideas as you see fit.

Thank you to all parishioners who support us and we look forward to maintaining the quality of our wonderful village.

CLlr Richard Weller
Chairman Pebworth Parish Council

Pebworth in Bloom 2021/22 report to the Annual Parish Meeting 25/4

Despite the challenges and restrictions of another year of Covid the work of Pebworth in Bloom continued apace, delivering some notable achievements for the parish over the past twelve months.

These highlights include the Open Gardens weekend last May, where record numbers of visitors to the village enjoyed two wonderful days of sunshine in some of the best gardens in the County and of course sampled the lovely afternoon teas provided by our very supportive WI.

Volunteers repainted all the railings around the Recreation Ground, installed the donated bench in front of the village hall, including the reinstatement of the George VI commemorative plaque, and along with WI members undertook the annual parish litter pick which again, unfortunately, resulted in vast quantities of rubbish which had to be collected from Fibrex Nurseries by Wychavon District Council.

On going maintenance and development of all the key community gardens and areas continued throughout the year including the Town Pool Car park, the WW1 Memorial area, the Churchyard, Pipers Corner, the community orchard, the Close and the Mound. We held the annual big leaf clear in and around the Churchyard where trailer loads of rotting vegetation were cleared up and disposed of and the volunteer mowing gangs continued to do a sterling job keeping the key verges and various communal areas mown and looking good throughout the village. Following the completion of the village hall extension and refurbishment PIB volunteers undertook the new outside landscaping and planting needed, including the installation of a number of specially selected climbers to help create living walls around the new build.

Our fundraisers and 'all village' community events also continued throughout the year and attracted record numbers of residents. Organised events, many of which now form part of Pebworth's annual calendar, included the highly competitive potato challenge and BBQ breakfast, the Remembrance Day service at the Memorial site, the Christmas Tree Lighting, the plant sale, a PIB display stand at the village hall summer event to welcome new residents and the judging of the Scarecrow competition. Our 2021 challenge for the best frontage floral display saw the Les Tustin memorial cup awarded to Maggie Stedman for her beautiful planting scheme in Wesley Gardens.

One of our key remits is the promotion of conservation and biodiversity projects and awareness raising within the parish. To this end we carried out an extensive survey of the Churchyard trees which was shared with the PCC, worked with the school to install new bird feeders and hedgehog boxes, actively campaigned nationally to raise the plight of our hedgehog population, promoted the RSPB's Big Bird Watch and installed more natural habitats around the village ensuring that all of our new planting is insect and wildlife friendly. In February we held our annual conservation seminar at the village hall with the theme of 'Gardening for Wildlife' which was really well attended and very informative.

In June, Bishop Robert visited the village to award St Peter's Church an Eco Award largely in recognition of the PIB conservation and biodiversity work which has taken place in the churchyard over the past eleven years.

In the Spring the RHS suggested that the BBC's Country File team visit Pebworth for a contribution towards their flagship 'Plant Britain Campaign' program. The film crew, including John Craven were with us filming for a couple of days and the program was aired on the 23rd of May where Pebworth went national, unfortunately with not as much film footage as we expected!

By far our most challenging project this year has been the installation of the Queen's Canopy on the Recreation Ground. In December volunteers planted seven semi mature native deciduous trees which I'm pleased to say are growing well and have now been registered onto the national Queen's Green Canopy map. We have commissioned a rather lovely commemorative stone which will be unveiled and dedicated on the 4th June to recognise and celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The stone has been funded by donations from Pebworth residents and

with a grant from the County Council to the tune of £2,475 which is absolutely amazing.

In total our fundraising efforts this financial year have raised £7,454 and we've spent a whopping £6,225 on numerous 'in Bloom' village projects throughout the parish, the changing results of which can be seen constantly. This Spring the village looked absolutely amazing and so spirit raising, we've received many positive and appreciative comments and emails, with visitors to Pebworth often remarking on what a wonderful village we're privileged to live in.

It only remains for me to thank all the marvellous hard working volunteers and sponsors who have contributed in what ever way towards the work of PIB and the bringing together of the community. Special thanks must go to Nick Holdsworth at Little Meadows Farm, he accepts and disposes of the tons of green waste generated by PIB activities throughout the year, without Nick's support we would find it very difficult to continue.

We look forward to the Heart of England in Bloom judges coming to assess our efforts in the second week of July.

Yvonne Rose
Chair of Pebworth in Bloom

PEBworth AND DISTRICT WI REPORT 8/9/2021- EVESHAM VALE GROUP

Like many of us I am sure a challenging 12/18 months as we adjusted to Lockdowns and Government restrictions with Covid pandemic.

Our Committee decided we would do our very best to keep in touch with members and offer support to each other as a community.

A regular Monthly newsletter was produced with interesting articles, local history, recipes, puzzles and TV/Book suggestions. These were well received with many thank you notes and emails and we also delivered Christmas Goodie Bags and the Easter Bunnies delivered plants at Easter with lots of chats on doorstops. Many book clubs continued to discuss on- line too!

We obtained a Grant from our local Worcestershire Councillor for an Annual Zoom licence and started regular monthly Zoom meetings and after a slow start of about 10 members moved to a regular 25 plus attendance with a variety of speakers and assisted people on training to access the new technology which people grew in confidence with over the months.

We had some excellent speakers over Zoom and whilst not the same as meeting together was lovely to be together on a regular basis.

Sunny Omeronde who plays Lillian Bellamy from BBC Radio 4 The Archers on the challenges of producing a programme through lockdown and many fun snippets of recording under a curtain in her bedroom.

Who are the women in St Peters Churchyard- a look at their lives- was a fascinating talk by Jenny McLeish member and former President which had many of us on our daily walks peering at headstones when we had heard of their challenging lives through the ages of Pebworth village.

A lively studio session from Devon Mayson of acoustic guitar and signing made more poignant that Devon was working as a care assistant as her work had dried up as a singer and artiste.

The incredible story of the life and works of Rudyard Kipling – writer of Britain's favourite poem by Mike Bottomley was fascinating and thought provoking.

Jennifer Rigby an actor and former guide at Mary Arden Farm and the Shakespeare birthplace gave us a lively performance of her experiences as an actor and many fun moments as a guide including the ability to be able to recite a verse from every play or sonnet!!

June saw a talk on Fire Safety by Hereford and Worcestershire fire department and then in July we were able to meet for the first time for a Meet and Greet with prosecco- to celebrate being together again in our newly

refurbished village hall.

We have a lively Autumn programme kicked off last week by Robert Bone on The History of Magic including some magic tricks which was enjoyed with lots of laughter. We will be entertained in the next few months on a Travel Journey through The Panama Canal, a Mosaic Christmas decoration workshop and a Gala Christmas celebration joined by Sunny Omeronde entertaining us with The Archers at Christmas alongside our famous Christmas Buffet spread made by members.

We participated in a Village Event on 28th August where clubs and societies had stands so the village could welcome new folk who had moved to the village in lockdown or to welcome back residents who wanted to explore the wonderful choice of events, clubs and societies on offer. This was very successful and we have had a number of enquires from new members and are pleased that our membership has grown to 41 members in the last year.

We have distributed Worcestershire WI News electronically to our members and will continue to do this so our members have easy access to Worcestershire events.

We also now post on Instagram and update the Pebworth Village Events Board to increase our visibility.

PEBworth VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chair's Report 2022

During the year as we were allowed, we had what is referred to as a soft re-opening of the Hall and settled into our re-vamped space – responding to the needs of the community as to how they wanted to use the building. We worked pragmatically with hirers so that they were able to meet safely and legally and at the end of the summer we were able to hold a Grand Re-Opening and used the event to invite all the different Village Groups and societies to represent themselves and remind residents (new and more familiar) how much normally goes on in the Village. It was also wonderful to have Peter Harrison attend and formally open Mary's Room, which has quickly become a beloved space.

From the Autumn to Spring the Hall has been busy particularly with 'catch-up' parties and one-off events. Regular Groups have returned, and we have welcomed some new ones attracted by the Hall's refreshed facilities and Wi-fi. However, attendance for them has been stop start due in no small part to Covid and we still have last minute cancellations and rearrangements. Hopefully that will settle down as we move forward. We are mindful of the role of the Hall as a Community Hub and are looking for opportunities and events to encourage local connections and networks such as the weekly Community Coffee on the Close.

We have the year end March accounts and with the benefit of a further Covid Grant from Wychavon, some fund-raising events, the 100 Club and a sum from the Divisional Fund we have covered costs and further capital spend. We have a robust contingency however as for everyone we will be carefully monitoring our utility costs and anticipate we will need to review our base line hire costs before the Autumn and continue to seek opportunities for energy efficiencies and renewables.

We have some changes to the management committee with members moving on and hope to welcome new members to help share the work to maintain and run the building both inside and outside. Best wishes to Cathrin who hopes to return to the Committee when other commitments allow and to Chris for his next adventure. And finally, we are allowing Barrie to step down as Treasurer after 18 years – his dogged attention to taking care of the numbers and upkeep of the building will be missed. Thank you, Barrie, for seeing us through all those years, the revamp, and the changeover to a C.I.O. It has felt a disjointed year for us as a management team and it has been difficult to guarantee plans and complete projects but overall, I hope we can feel optimistic for the year ahead, that through our teamwork the Hall will enable and support the needs of the Community

Jane Cromack
Chair
April 2022

St Peter's, Pebworth

Report for APM on St Peter's Church April 2022

The replacement of roof tiles to the Chancel of St. Peter's Pebworth was completed on 18th May 2021.

Plaster repair to inside of Chancel ceiling. David Arnold has visited site and write specification for repair and replacement, (Possible grant source under investigation for replacement of plaster ceiling and professional costs. Also, VAT reclaimable).

The Rainwater goods: -

- The rainwater goods were painted whilst the scaffolding was in place. Loxstone's matched the existing rainwater goods in type and colour of paint; - RAL ref 7001. Cost £339.

Stained-glass window in the Chancel: -

- The need for repair to the window is listed in the quinquennial report.
- A grant is available for such work but a formal report from a specialist is required.
- A medieval stained-glass specialist who happened to be visiting Guiting Power Church visited Pebworth on 17th May, we are still awaiting his Report. Cost £ 350 +VAT.

The Lady Chapel roof windows: -

- The lady chapel roof windows are of Victorian construction. The frames have deteriorated, and water is beginning to leak onto the pews below. This is listed in the quinquennial report, and ought to be completed by 2024.
- No funding, report, specification, or prices have been sought, but an educated assessment suggests in excess of £50,000.00.

The Bell Tower roof access:

- The quinquennial report lists the access as unsafe.
- No unauthorised persons are permitted access. The outgoing Tower Captain has signed a waiver. The incoming Tower Captain has agreed to do the same.
- The Bell Ringers fund raised and provided a removable platform to improve safer access.

William & Ann Shekel Monument: - Grant Applied for Conservator's Report from John Webster. Grant of £3,000 received, stipulation Sally Strachey to carry out the repair work. Four surviving relatives granted permission for the repair & will fund the shortfall of £400 for the conservation report and the shortfall for the repairs. Grant accepted before the offer expired on 21st May. Grant of £3,000. received and £6,400 from relatives received to date, making £9,400 available. A member of the family has agreed to make good the shortfall. The Report compiled by Sally Strachey Historic Conservation; estimates the cost of repair at £10,737. Faculty applied for and Sally Strachey notified to pencil in the repair work once Faculty approved.

Future Expenditure: Dormer windows £75,000, Chancel plaster £30,000 and toilet facilities.

A huge thank you to all the Holy Dusters and Holy Flower Arranges keep St Peter's looking clean and beautiful during the year.

Martin Penny, captain has decided to retire after seven years, during which time he has recruited a full band of ringers for the 10 bells in St Peter's Tower. He has decorated and refurbished the ringing chamber and under his guidance, our ringers have won several trophies. The incoming Tower Captain, Neil Garner has already completed his safeguarding training, revamped the page on the village website, and shared his plans for recruiting new members. We are extremely grateful to Martin for his leadership and look forward to working with Neil in the future.

At the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting, Churchwardens Michael Veal and Elizabeth Spencer were duly re-elected. The other members of the PCC include Pamela Veal John Ilott and Jenny McLeish. Rachel Jarrett continues as electoral roll officer.

it is with great sadness that I have to tell you that our Vicar Scott will be leaving at the end of July. After five years Scott is moving to Cambridge to take up the Deputy Chaplaincy of five University Hospitals. This is clearly

a post that will make full use of his special pastoral gifts and talents. He will be greatly missed.

On 31 May at 7 PM in the village hall there will be a meeting to discuss the future of St Peter's Pebworth. It will be your opportunity to listen to Scott and have your say. St Peter's is a wonderful historical building of great significance to the village and whether or not one chooses to worship at the church it is important that this vital piece of our heritage is preserved for future generations.

County Councillor Report
Month: Annual Parish Meeting Report 2021/22
Prepared by Alastair Adams
Littletons Division, Worcestershire County Council

I always think it is beneficial to stand back once a year and review what has happened and what has been achieved in the last 12 months for our village and surrounding area.

2021/22 was an unusual year dominated globally by COVID and lockdowns, BUT lots still happened, and lots of improvements have occurred in our village and surrounding villages. Here is a reminder of some of them;-

Flood alleviation in Broad Marston

The good news – the flood plain in the Heart of England's field was built in October 2021. Designed by WDC engineers, built by Henson Plant hire and paid for by Ellie Goulding. I thank all of them for their help and the even better news is it worked this winter! There was no flooding under the bridge on Broad Marston Rd following the heavy rain after Christmas – see photo below taken on morning of 28th December. You can see the bund holding back the water from flowing onto the road.



There are still more to do including fitting non-return valves on any road gully outlet into the Noleham Brook. Also a telemetry device has been fitted into the brook that feeds live information about the level of the brook back to the control centre in Pershore.

Flooding under Honeybourne Bridges

WCC engineers visited the entrance of Grove Farm to investigate the cause of the huge amounts of water flowing down Stratford Rd and collecting underneath the bridges. Strangely there is a ditch but no apparent outlet so the water was simply running off the field and the ditch and down the drive straight onto the road. The Drain Jetting Services (contractor) then followed up and found the ditch was connected to the other side of the road via 2 culverts further up Stratford Rd. The 2 culverts were all jetted and cleared. Also the ditch on the other side of the road had a blocked culvert to the field entrance; this too was jetted. The good news is the standing water in both ditches cleared. The farmer at Grove Farm then organised on the same day to dig out the ditches. This seems to have worked to a certain extent as on the 28th December with the heavy rain, there was no flooding under the bridges. However further work is still needed – the road drain on the corner is blocked and the drainage pipe is collapsed so this needs replacing. Secondly the culvert in the ditch nearest Grove farm needs a proper cover /grate to protect it getting blocked. Ideally a bund also needs to be built in the corner of the field by the bridges to stop water pouring off the field onto the road. Finally, the ditch further downstream has a partially collapsed culvert so that too needs fixing.

Flood Alleviation Scheme at the Gate in Honeybourne

Fantastic progress has been made by the farmer Mr Mansfield in building the flood plain upstream of The Gate pub. Wychavon District Engineers visited the site and took drone photos and video of the site . See photo below showing the extent of the earth moving. Although there is still some more work to be done, in its current form it will definitely help alleviate the flooding in Honeybourne. The rough calculations, is it will hold back in excess of 2000m³. Again no flooding occurred at the Gate this Winter.



New Village Hall at Honeybourne – opened by Sue Barker in September 2021



New Zebra Crossing in Honeybourne



Re-furbished village hall in Pebworth with an amazing refurbish wooden floor !



COVID and help given to businesses and employees in Worcestershire:

- 17,000 grants given to business totalling £140m
- 39,700 employees furloughed = 14.7% of working population
- 753 Coronavirus Business Interruption Loans totalling £200m
- 12,228 bounce back loans totalling £353m

New Railway Station Worcestershire Parkway opened that links the Cotswold Line to the Cross Country Line so you can get on at Honeybourne and travel all the way to Cardiff or Nottingham, London to Worcestershire



Highway Improvements in Pebworth

Besides the routine of patching roads, filling potholes, cleansing gullies, winter gritting, replacing signs, repairing kerbs, street sweeping, the BIG improvement is:-

1. Pavement along Broad Marston Rd from the Mason Arms to the Old Fire

County Council Divisional grants paid in 2021/22

1. Pebworth Village Hall – grant for refurbishing the wooden floor
2. Offenham Cricket Club – grant requested for playing and coaching equipment for 17 juniors
3. Honeybourne primary School – grant for use of village hall for dance, drama and PE
4. Littleton Scout Group – grant to help refurbishment of village hall
5. Pebworth Village Hall – grant for new blinds
6. Badsey Flower Show – grant to help buy a storage container
7. Honeybourne Harriers – grant requested for more flood lights
8. Honeybourne PROW & ditch clearing voluntary group – grant requested for some tools
9. Littletons Link – grant requested to restart printing the village magazine
10. Littleton village hall – grant requested for new cooker
11. Littleton Juniors football team – hire of hall
12. Pebworth Bowls Club – grant for new mat and storage stand
13. Honeybourne Village Hall – grant for a defibrillator
14. Honeybourne Bowls Club – grant for new equipment
15. Pebworth in Bloom – grant for the York Stone for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
16. Evesham Abbey Trust – grant for their music project.

And FINALLY, I must not forget the County Council Elections in May 2021 when I stood for re-election and was elected with 69.24% of the vote. So THANK YOU for your support.

So in SUMMARY, a lot happened in 2021/22 and it is worth looking back and appreciating, even when the world is in turmoil, we live in a wonderful part of the world.

Your County Councillor, Alastair Adams can be contacted on adams.pebworth@gmail.com or mobile 07725 979 277 or www.alastairadams.org

Countryside Access – Pebworth Volunteers (CAPV)

Annual Report April 2022

Background

Now in our 5th year of activity, the CAPV was established in early 2018 following a determined effort by Pebworth In Bloom committee & Evesham Ramblers with vigorous support from Alastair Adams, to trigger action to improve condition of PROW around Pebworth & Broad Marston.

The volunteer group comprises of around 17 village volunteers and can always rely on a turnout of at least 6 to 8 for any particular project which can include building and installing ditch crossings, pathway clearance and installation of hedge gap gates to enable access for as many of our village residents as possible. It is quite unusual being one of only a few such groups who are able to carry out footpath improvements autonomously with all materials & tools provided by WCC. Over 22 gates and 8 ditch crossings have been built/repared since inception and this work continues and has been of particular importance over the last couple of years to provide more access for the village onto the path network.

Progress Over the Last Year

This year has been another unusual year measured against previous standards but has seen us continue to return to more normal levels of activity, although still with some level of caution following Covid restrictions. With 5 gates installations, 1 ditch crossing and numerous smaller tasks related to clearance and waymarking.

We re-opened our full range of activities on 17th May 2021 last year after WCC approved new working methods and risk assessments for the activities concerned enabling us all to maintain appropriate levels of safety. Our first task in this new environment was completed on 17th May with 8 volunteers split into two groups completing 2 gate installations on the Little Meadows pathway leading out of the village down from the Church in place of previously installed but damaged stiles. This was followed by opening up a path in Ullington with hedge clearance where a path opening had completely disappeared in the hedgerow. Our more recent activity has been focussed in the area bounded by Back Lane/Dorsington Lane/Long Marston Lane where we are attempting to open up the field path network to all by replacing stiles with field gates.

So far we have installed 3 new gates in this area as well as a new ditch crossing at the 'Slinget' although further stile replacements are planned to complete this area of work to enable full access and before moving on to other areas of the Parish. The two photographs below show some of our more recent works.

The less enjoyable but still essential aspect of waymarking and vegetation clearance continues but is becoming easier with continued attention and support of parishioners who maintain their part of the network where paths cross or are adjacent to their land. The following photographs show two of our most recent installations.



New Gate & Ditch Crossing Installation – 'The Slinget'



Latest Kissing Gate installation beyond Back Lane

Challenges for the group continue and we are currently liaising with WCC footpath team to complete the work in the Back Lane area, completion of a new ditch crossing by the Field House, more gate installations beyond Little Meadows Farm and of course continued clearance work as spring hedgerow growth accelerates.

We still have many improvements to make to meet our ambitions of completing the original listing generated by PIB (if you want to join us please sign up to CAPV). Our desire is to replace as many stiles with gates as is possible. Future projects will also include regular clearance of paths/stiles, with safety related repairs always a priority but if any concerns are noted by residents please get in touch and we will try to ensure

issues are addressed promptly. (graham.fowles@btinternet.com). We are regular contributors to The Piper so our activities can be followed there and are always looking for new members so if interested please get in touch.

In summary I'd just like to thank the members of the CAPV for the hard work completed and also the land owners involved for allowing continued access. Obviously thanks also to PIB and the Parish Council for their enthusiastic support & to Alastair (one of our volunteers) for his ongoing support in gaining increased funding and support from WCC for this essential activity.

Graham Fowles
Pebworth Footpath Warden

DRAFT