

**Pebworth Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council**

Held as a virtual meeting via the internet at 7:00 pm on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

**Present:** Cllrs. Simon Shiers (Chairman), Richard Weller, Denise Meynell, James Pearson, SJ Morrow, John Hyde & David Cranage

**In attendance:** Cllr Thomas Havemann-Mart, J Stedman (Clerk) and one member of the public

**410. Apologies:** All members present.

**411. Disclosures of Interests:**

Members were reminded of the need to keep their register of interests updated. Members were asked to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary or other Interests in Items considered in virtual meetings and their nature.

**Cllr Denise Meynell** declared a personal interest in planning, minute 414a

**Open Forum -**

The chairman suspended the formal meeting for the ward member and public participation.

Mrs Rosemary Kidd, the chairman of the Meon Vale Residents Association gave a presentation on the association's setup and activities. She wished to make contact with Pebworth as part of the Meon Vale development is in Pebworth parish. The association has been in contact with all other local authorities as it currently represents over 1000 new residents. One objective of the association is to ensure the environmental protection of Meon Woods. The association will promote local activities and events. A survey of the new residents will take place shortly to ascertain their wishes and add value to the new community. The association wishes to be informed of parish council matters and meeting agendas and minutes will be made available to them by the Clerk. Members requested association meeting note be sent to the parish Clerk.

The chairman thanked Mrs Kidd for her attendance and informing the council of the association's aspirations.

- County Councillor Alastair Adams was not in attendance.
- Cllr Thomas Havemann-Mart presented his report which is appended to the minutes.  
Chairman re-convened the meeting at 7:30.

**412. Clerks Report noted**

- a) Letter sent to a parishioner regarding dog fouling.
- b) Correspondence regarding an alleged dangerous tree near Elm Close.
- c) Traffic speed data collection in Middlesex is arranged for W/C April 19th for 7 days.
- d) Swing repair parts received for Wicksteed and delivered to the Handyman.
- e) Defibrillator maintenance checks and reports forwarded to Defib Central as requested.
- f) Inspection carried out following a report of an unattended bonfire on the path from Friday street to the field at the end on New Road.

**413. Minutes:**

- a) Members considered and approved the wording of the minutes from the March 2021 Parish Council meeting which will be signed by the chairman.

**414. Planning matters**

**Note:** Cllr Denise Meynell left the meeting for the following item.

- a) **21/00459/HP:** Location: Sandford House, 6 Mill Field, Pebworth, Description of Proposal: Erection of single storey infill extension, replacement French doors, new door and window to garage and new gate Applicant: Mr & Mrs Chaloner  
The council has no objection or comments on the application

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- b) 21/00281/FUL** Location: Ashmead, Buckle Street, Ullington: Description of Proposal: Creation of manage (retrospective); demolition of existing barn; erection of replacement barn; installation of horse walker. Applicant: Mr & Mrs Martin & Dawn Evans  
 Comment submitted: - The Parish Council request a drainage engineer visit the site to ensure the proposed drainage scheme is suitable for the physical ground conditions to prevent flooding of neighbouring properties.
- c) Policy-** it was agreed a planning consultation procedural policy will be considered at a later meeting.
- d) SWDP review** - Members considered any representation to the SWDP review and declined to respond as it is a technical survey.

#### 415. Flooding

- a)** Council noted the report from Cllr Alistair Adams on flood alleviation works carried out and members agreed the local landowners have done a good job in watercourse clearance.
- b)** Cllr Hyde reported on the clearance of mud and debris from the non-return valve in the drainage ditch at Broad Marston. Matter resolved

#### 416. Finance:

- a)** Members noted the Clerk's report on payments made since the last meeting.
- b)** Council approved the March schedule of payments to be made by internet banking.
- c)** Council agreed the fourth quarterly bank reconciliation and account balances as issued by the clerk. Cllr Meynell confirmed the bank account balance reconciles with the accounts.

#### 417. Community & Council Matters:

- a) PSPO** - Members considered report from the District Council solicitor regarding a PSPO (Public Spaces Protection Order) to help prevent dogs on The Close. Information received indicated the PSPO was not appropriate for the proposal and therefore declined.
- b) Sheep worrying** - Members noted correspondence regarding the sheep worrying incident at Baldwins Farm and agreed there is no appropriate action the council can take to help.
- c) Railway proposals** - The Stratford - Worcester / Oxford Strategic Outline Business Case questions for the Stratford to Honeybourne railway line proposals will be placed on the APM agenda for public consultation.
- d) Paint for railings** - A request from PIB to fund the supply of paint and equipment to paint the metal railings around the War Memorial was considered and it was agreed to fund the project to a limit of £300.00.
- e) Audit-** Council agreed to appoint Mr Geoff Bradley as the internal auditor for 2020-21
- f)** Cllr John Hyde reported the replacement of the broken village planted trough in Broad Marston is now completed and it is planted with spring flowers.
- g)** Members noted the newsletter from Heart of England in Bloom received from PIB.

#### 418. Village Hall:

- a) Report:** Cllr James Pearson reported the handover should take place by the end of May. The holdup in the supply of glazing is now resolved. There is one final payment to be made followed by the retention payment at a later date. The construction warranty is in place and the hall will be used for the May elections. Public booking will commence at the end of May.
- b) Payments:** The Clerk reported on the payment of the March invoice received from Arden Construction.

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### 419. The Close and Recreation Field

- a) The monthly safety inspection found no new safety matter of concern.

Cllr John Hyde issued the following report: -

#### John Hyde report April 2021

I have read through the ROSPA report and there is nothing new in it that we we're not already aware of. Apart from the Zip wire and balance scales that we have already taken out of action there are no risk levels above 8 (bottom of the medium level) and most are lower than that. I notice there is no mention of the extra chain links or bushes on the swings this time even though the report is dated before I did the work.

The rocking horse corrosion is on the underside and virtually inaccessible and only surface not structural. The finger trap mentioned was not mentioned in the last report and is also on the underside and virtually inaccessible.

I will continue with repairs as agreed after schools go back.

Should we consider removing the remains of the zip wire?

The goal posts have been completed.

The golf net is where it is and nothing to be done about that.

The missing bolt is one of 12 on the same length therefore not critical. Those bolts usually come as pack of several. I may move a bolt from a less conspicuous position.

It seems we are required to put up a sign telling users not to climb fences, hang on netball hoops or wear jewellery while on court.

- b) The consideration for the Zipwire will be extended until other play equipment matters are resolved.
- c) It was agreed to obtain a permanent safety notice for the MUGA as suggested by the RoSPA report- Clerk to action the notice.
- d) **Dogs-** Council agreed not to post notices stating, "Dogs to be kept on leads while on The Close" as the dog mess campaign posters have considerably reduced the problem. Allowing dogs on the recreation field will be considered at the next council meeting.
- e) **Gym equipment -** Expenditure of the available Sec 106 funds of £5,953 for build sport and leisure –  
Having a majority of consultation respondents in favour of Gym equipment it was agreed to progress the project within a budget of £7k for the purchase and installation of Gym equipment on The Close. It was also agreed to delegate the progress of the project to the Clerk as the end date for using the funding is August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Options and three quotations to be considered at the next council meeting.
- f) **Seat-** Council agreed to fitting a tree trunk tabletop/seat to the cut off legs of the dismantled balance scale. Limebridge Rural Services Ltd offered to supply the tree trunk for £45.00 and the Handyman will secure it to the cut off legs.

### 420. Allotments

- a) The Clerk reported the tenancy of allotment ½ plot #7 has changed and two parishioners are on the waiting list.
- b) Council considered a review of allotment rents and resolved to continue the £20 per annum rental charge for 2021-22. Clerk will issue invoices to tenants

### 421. Street Lighting:

- a) Faulty lights to be reported for repair. – no new faults
- b) The Clerk reported on updating the streetlight inventory and the ongoing process of renewing the energy supply contract with Npower. All matters now resolved.

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### 422. Highway Matters:

- a) Members noted the report on footway repairs on Broad Marston Road being pursued by Cllr Alistair Adams and agreed the Clerk should report the problem to WCC to try and get the resurfacing underway.

### 423. Lengthsman or Handyman Matters.

- a) New highway or maintenance matters in need of attention. – none at this time  
 b) Works carried out in March: -  
 i) Fit bollard on Front Street.  
 ii) Clear The Close ditch growth.  
 iii) Weed spray footways around the Village.  
 c) Council agreed to renew the formal Lengthsman agreement for 2021 with WCC

### 424. Public Rights of Way:

- a) Reports of any new PROW matters in need of attention. – None.  
 b) Cllr John Hyde reported the PROW from The Close to Friday Street has been referred to WCC for their consideration, their report awaited. He also confirmed the local PROW volunteers will be re-starting their works next week.

### 425. Matters Raised by Members: for consideration and or items for future agendas. - The Chairman – Plastic flowers on the cemetery memorials.

### 426. Meeting Dates:

- a) It was confirmed the next council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday May 4<sup>th</sup> via Zoom.  
 b) It was agreed that all Parish Council meeting will not be held on any public holidays.  
 c) It was confirmed the Annual Parish Meeting date will be considered in May to allow the meeting to take place in the Village Hall if possible.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 9:10 pm

### 427. Finance Report

	Bank Accounts	Verified and Confirmed Account Balances	
Statement	12/03/21	Current Account Balance	£45,672.32
Date	09/03/21	Deposit Account Balance	£38,136.14

#### Payments Authorised

Cheque Number	Payee	Details	Gross Payment	Net Payment
80	Wicksteed Leisure Ltd	Swing parts	83.88	69.90
81	Play safety Ltd	RoSPA inspections	198.00	165.00
82	John Hyde	Lengthsman Works	64.50	64.50
83	John Hyde	Handyman Works	138.75	138.75
84	J Stedman	Clerk's Salary and expenses	***	***
85	HMRC	PAYE for Clerks salary	387.33	387.33
86	E-on	Streetlight maintenance	429.00	357.50

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### Cllr Thomas Havemann-Mart's full report

Pebworth parish council April 2021 Dear Pebworth parish council, I hope everyone remembered to fill in their census. Wychavon have developed a 'Let's get back to what we love safely' campaign to support the lockdown easing process including the reopening of non-essential retail on 12 April. This will encourage people, vaccinated or not, to only do as much as they are allowed at each stage of lockdown easing to make sure we keep this virus under control. Vaccine rollout data is now being published by Worcestershire County Council at a local level. This shows in Wychavon 61,054 people have received at least one dose of the vaccine. Data is also available at ward level but be wary of comparing data between wards. If one ward has a lower percentage of vaccine completions than another it may not necessarily mean there is an issue in that ward with demand or supply but could be due to other factors such as the a particular ward having more older people in it than another. The message from our NHS locally is that vaccine supply issues mean the rollout will slow down in Herefordshire and Worcestershire during April. It means the next stage of the rollout – to the over 40s – will not begin until May. Our local NHS though remains on track to meet the deadline of offering a first dose to everyone 50 and over by 15 April and to all adults by July. They want to reassure people that there is enough supply to make sure they give second doses to all staff and patients due them. People aged 50 and over can now book their vaccine without needing to wait for an invite but the NHS will send you one anyway. The NHS will be contacting this group by text (some may get letters as well or instead of). The text will come from NHS Vaccine. A genuine text will not ask you for your bank details or payment as the vaccine is free. Business Support Since the November lockdown we have paid out: £14.1m ( 85% of allocation ) of grants to businesses who have been forced to close £3.1m (84% of allocation) of grants to businesses who may have been allowed to stay open but have seen a significant impact on their revenue. We have now received guidance for the next tranche of funding "restart" grants, and we will start paying this out to businesses in early April as directed by the Government. Most of the existing business support schemes end on 31 March for new applications, except for the February extension payment which closes for new applicants in May. High Street reopening fund The Government has announced a new round of funding to help councils encourage people back into town centres as restrictions are eased. Wychavon has received £115,000 and the money can be used for:

- Street planting, parks, green spaces and seating areas to make high streets beautiful and welcoming
- Publicity campaigns and events such as street markets and festivals
- Floor signage and floor markings to encourage social distancing
- Planting flowers in town centres or removing graffiti.

The attached letter from Housing, Communities and Local Government Secretary Robert Jenrick has more detail. Support for our leisure centres We have received £288,537 from the Government's National Leisure Recovery Fund. This money supports the recovery of publicly owned leisure centres and gyms and allows them to prepare for reopening from 12 April. Support for those self-isolating £132,000 in payments of £500 have been made to residents who have lost money through having to self-isolate. The Government has announced the scheme is being extended so parents and carers of children who have been advised to self-isolate by their school or NHS Test and Trace can now apply for a support payment if they meet the eligibility criteria. In other news... Decarbonisation funding announced The Government announced this week that Wychavon is one of 10 West Midlands councils – and 200 in the country – to receive money to retrofit homes to improve their energy efficiency, cut carbon emissions and save householders money. We have been given £5.8million which will be used to install energy efficient solar and solar thermal panels, external wall insulation and loft insulation. Work will be targeted at low income households. Not all of the money will be spent in Wychavon as it was a joint bid between us, Rooftop Housing Group, Trent and Dove Housing Group, Citizen Housing Group and Trident Group, so residents in Staffordshire and Birmingham will also benefit from the funding. Anti-litter campaign update We continue to see a surge in litter across the district and expect that to get

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even worse (if that is possible) as restrictions start to ease. Despite the restrictions imposed by lockdown we continue to make progress on our anti-litter campaign. Some recent actions we have taken:

- Our Adopt a Street volunteer litter picking scheme now has more than 600 individuals and organisations signed up to it. Demand continues to be high. The Great British Spring Clean takes place from 28 May to 13 June and we will be encouraging existing volunteers to get out and about and pick in support of this campaign as well as promoting the scheme to ask for more sign ups. If you would like to sign up then visit [www.wychavon.gov.uk/adopt-a-street](http://www.wychavon.gov.uk/adopt-a-street)
- We have launched our new litter education sessions in schools. This involves an outdoor, Covid-19 secure, interactive litter picking session. A lesson plan is then given to the teacher to follow up afterwards. We have commissioned Little Litter Warriors to run these sessions. Early feedback has been very positive. To support this scheme, 50 virtual toolkits have been created and will be distributed to schools as well.
- Additional 'Don't be a tosser' signage has been created. We are now using our Adopt a Street data and local knowledge to identify areas where it can be installed to make the biggest difference.
- We have been trialling different types of lay-by bins in parts of the district. Traditionally we haven't put bins in lay-bys. The early analysis is they have been successful at encouraging people to put their litter in the bin rather than on the ground, but the recycling bins have still been heavily contaminated. We are now working on installing more bins in additional lay-bys around the district.
- We have some new on-the-go recycling bins ready to be installed for our town centres. These provide separate compartments for recyclable material rather than just a single mixed recycling container. The hope is this will encourage people to use the recycling bins correctly and reduce contamination.

Changes to Bird Flu restrictions (Parish and Town Councils) The Government has confirmed that the requirement for keepers of birds and poultry, including in private gardens, to keep them housed will be lifted on 31 March. Biosecurity measures will remain in place though and keepers of birds are asked to spend the next few days making preparations should they wish to allow their birds to wander around again. Details are available here [Database of outdoor event spaces](https://www.severnarts.org.uk/open-spaces-directory) Severn Arts is compiling a database of as many sites as possible across Worcestershire which can be used to host a range of managed public outdoor cultural events, from small community fetes to larger festivals. Here is a link to their website [https:// www.severnarts.org.uk/open-spaces-directory](https://www.severnarts.org.uk/open-spaces-directory) where there is a bit of information and a link to a webform for any non-council owned sites/landowners. If you have time please can you send this onto any contacts or groups who may have knowledge of sites. If they submit a form it will be treated as an expression of interest and there will be a follow up call or email.

Avon Meadows Please see links below to two recent art projects at Avon Meadows as part of the Floodplain Meadows Partnership scheme, which continues to showcase this wonderful resource in Pershore. Blog – Melanie Woodhead ([wordpress.com](https://www.wordpress.com)) No Time Like the Present | A visual art projects journal by Andrew Howe ([wordpress.com](https://www.wordpress.com)) Rainfall record Analysis of local rainfall data going back to 1961 by our engineers provides further evidence (if needed) that our climate is changing. The years 19/20 and 20/21 are the two wettest consecutive years recorded in the last 60 years. Total rainfall for December 2020 was over 200mm. The highest total prior to this was 128mm, therefore December 2020 saw over 50% more rainfall than the next highest total over the same 60-year period. Although the frequency and intensity of rainfall for these two periods is not enough to establish a pattern, experts predict that intensity of winter rainfall will increase significantly over the next 30 years. Kind regards, Tommy. **Your District Councillor, Thomas Havemann-Mart can be contacted on [Thomas.Havemann Mart@Wychavon.net](mailto:Thomas.HavemannMart@Wychavon.net) or mobile 07817 873 054**