

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 1st March 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 two members of the public

393. Apologies: All members present, Cllr Alistair Adams sent his apologies

394. 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. **None declared**

Open Forum -

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

The two members of the public present gave their views and comments on the Cider Mill Barns planning application, one in support and one opposed to the application.

- County Councillor Alastair Adams emailed his report which is appended to the minutes.
- Cllr Thomas Havemann-Mart presented his report which is appended to the minutes.

395. Clerks Report noted

- a) Public notices created for dog fouling on placed on The Close and around the village
- b) Ordering five oak bollards 100 x 100 and 800mm long for Front Street Verge
- c) Publication of the parish consultation for the use of Sec 106 funds
- d) Publication of several highway closures and works notices from WCC
- e) Enquiries from Broad Marston residents into a member's conduct and declaration of interest at the February meeting regarding the Orchard Dene Hall appeal debate, the enquiry is now resolved.

396. Minutes:

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

397. Planning matters

- a) **21/00029/FUL:** Location: Cider Mill Barns, Long Marston Road, Pebworth,
Description of Proposal: Demolition of industrial building (unit 3) and erection of a live-work unit. Applicant: Mr Adrian Roberts:
The council agreed the following response to the consultation
The Council has no objections in principle as the application meets the NDP and SWDP local policy requirements for the creation of live work units and small-scale rural employment opportunities. The visual impact of the proposal on the near neighbour's environment was noted and mitigating measures should be considered to reduce visual intrusion of the large plain wall facing the neighbouring property.
Consideration should also be given to a landscaping scheme to reduce the visual impact on the rural area.
- b) Council noted the submission to the planning inspectorate regarding Orchard Dene Hall.

Pebworth Parish Council

- c) The Clerk reported on the enquiry into a possible issue with waste tipping at Nolan Brook Farm and following an inspection of the farm from the roadside no evidence of waste tipping was found only materials possibly related to the recent construction of a farm building.
- d) **20/01958/FUL:** Persimmon Homes Ltd (South Midlands) Proposal: Detailed planning permission for the erection of substation and gas governor associated with residential development (W/16/01618/RM & W/17/01269/RM). Location: Land Adjacent To, Sims Metals **Application Granted**

398. Flooding

- a) Members noted parishioner's correspondence regarding flooding matters and confirmed flood alleviation works are ongoing and coordinated by Cllr Alistair Adams who reported that Nolan Brook had been cleared of fallen trees and further clearance works are ongoing. It was noted that the Environment Agency's policy is to hold back flood water on farmland by not clearing brooks to mitigate flooding of other villages.

399. Finance:

- a) Members noted the Clerk's report on payments made since the last meeting.
- b) Council approved the February schedule of payments to be made by internet banking.

400. Community & Council Matters:

- a) Council considered parishioner's correspondence and reports on dog fouling matters whereby an individual was identified for alleged dog fouling. Council agreed the Clerk to write to the person identified bringing the matter to his attention. Members also reported that many more dogs were being exercised in all part of the village and the dog mess problem has greatly increased over the last year. Further measures to help relieve the problem will be considered at the next council meeting including the possibility that dogs should be kept on leads while on The Close where loose dogs and irresponsible owners are causing a problem.
- b) Council considered a parishioner's report on speeding issues in Little Meadows and the council resolved to ask the local police to carry out speed enforcement in Middlesex, consider a VAS device in the next budget review, consider the cost of installing white gates at the approaches to Middlesex and to request the WCC to carry out a traffic speed survey to enable an accurate speeding report for encouraging the County Council to install traffic calming measures in the area. It was noted that all approach roads into the village are relatively straight and traffic speeds are excessive on all approaches.
- c) The Chairman made the following statement on Communication with parishioners: – Members are reminded to ensure that all communication with parishioners regarding the content of Parish Council meetings and decisions made is factual and not open to misinterpretation. If in doubt, please refer to the minutes or check with the Clerk. Parishioners wishing to comment or raise questions on Parish Council matters are reminded to contact the Clerk in the first instance. Anyone approaching the Parish Council to represent a specific group of residents should ensure that all residents within that group are aware that they are being represented and are in agreement with the views or opinions being put forward.
- d) Council considered a parishioner's report of dangerous trees on the boundary of the field north of Elm Close allegedly causing damage to property. The Clerk confirmed that the landowner had a tree surgeon very recently inspect the trees and confirmed that they were in good condition and no action was required as only very small branches had been dislodged in recent storm conditions. A further inspection carried out by the Handyman

Pebworth Parish Council

reported there is not a visible problem with the trees.

- e) Council considered the following matters raised by PIB: –
 - i) The verge Front St. One of the bollards has been broken off; new bollards are now ready to be installed by the Lengthsman.
 - ii) All of the steps leading down from the actual footpath to the road on Front Street; these will be inspected by the Clerk and any remedial works carried out in the summer in conjunction with the verge restoration on School Road.
 - iii) Remedial work on the Front Street verge: the Lengthsman will inspect the verge and top up the soil levels as considered necessary.
 - iv) The verge opposite the school; this will be inspected by the Clerk to create a verge restoration works specification using a substantial hardcore fill to prevent ruts forming in the wet winter conditions.
 - v) Friday Street. At least five trees have been recently removed; the County Council removed the trees as the land is highway verge, the Parish Council support the planting of trees on the verge and suggest PIB undertake the planting with the consent of the County Council.
 - vi) The footpath from Elm Close to Friday Street outside the Mason Arms; this was reported to County Highways and pothole patching has been carried out. The poor surface conditions will be reported to Cllr Alistair Adams to request further resurfacing works are carried out over the entire length of Broad Marston Road.
- f) Council agreed to correspond with the Meon Vale Residents' Association and attend any public meeting they arrange. It was also agreed a welcome letter would be posted to each new household informing new residents of contacts with Pebworth Parish Council and community.
- g) **Broken Planter:** Cllr John Hyde confirmed the broken parish owned planted trough in Broad Marston is being investigated by the person responsible for a replacement planter of similar size and design.

401. Village Hall:

- a) Report: Cllr James Pearson reported the handover should take place in mid-March. He circulated an analysis of the receipts for the VH project (which include a donation from the Pebworth Rural Cinema which came in this week) and the expenditure on the project (excluding VAT as we recover that) – the expenditure is analysed between what we have spent to date and the billing to come in (some of which and the final retention payment for Arden will not be due for payment for a considerable period of time).
In summary terms we will have received £263,229 from various sources (Public Works Loan, Legacy funding etc) and will spend £263,300, a shortfall of £71 which personally I do not think is a bad result.
- b) Payments: The Clerk reported on the payment of the February invoice received from Arden Construction.
- c) The Clerk reported on receiving the final WDC legacy grant funding payment of £20,000.

402. The Close and Recreation Field

- a) The monthly safety inspection found no new safety matter of concern.
Cllr John Hyde issued the following report: -
 - i) Outstanding maintenance jobs will be carried out later in March and further inspections of timbers will also take place.

Pebworth Parish Council

- ii) I have replaced the worst of the rotted wood on the platform of the piece of multi play equipment and it may be completed by Monday.
- iii) Being able to see the wooden frame beneath there is the beginnings of wood rot in the frame. There is no immediate danger but clearly there is a time limit on the life of the equipment. In my opinion in about 5 years replacement of all will become imminent the balance scales may be sooner. My suggestion would be to consider continuing the money set aside for streetlamp replacement in the budget after the completion of streetlamps and build a reserve for the play area.
- iv) I have repaired the door to the notice board and will refit it when the polycarbonate arrives, I have new hinges and black bolts to fit on both doors.
- v) The trees mentioned by the Elm Close resident are on the field side of the fence therefore the responsibility of the landowner. That may be true of the stone slabs on the PROW also. I would note that most walk to the side of the stones.
- b) The Clerk reported on responses to the public consultation on Sec 106 fund expenditure and confirmed that Gym equipment was a majority supported suggestion. The council agreed to further investigate a Petanque/Boule area for the Close or recreation field as it fits the requirement for the fund's expenditure. The Clerk will consult further with residents regarding the Petanque option.
- c) A request to have the goalposts on the recreation field reinstalled was agreed – Handyman to carry out the works.
- d) A request to have the new growth of brambles controlled on the banks of the watercourse on The Close was agreed – Handyman to carry out the works.
- e) The School's banner on The Close is in very poor condition and will be removed by the Handyman, the school will be informed of the removal.
- f) Council agreed a quotation for swing maintenance parts from Wicksteed, Clerk to order the parts. The quotation for safety matting was declined and will be reviewed to confirm the area of matting now required.

403. Allotments

- a) The tenancy of allotment ½ plot 7 has been transferred to an existing tenant who was on the waiting list for a ½ plot – transfer to take place on April 1st

404. 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.

405. Highway Matters:

- a) The cracked condition of the wall on Front Street on the curtilage of Norton Hall has been reported to County Council engineers as it is a potential hazard to footway users.
- b) The request to repair the footway on Broad Marston Road has been attended to as some small potholes have been patched with tarmac. It was agreed to refer the poor surface conditions to the County Council ward member Cllr Alistair Adams requesting the whole footway is resurfaced.

Pebworth Parish Council

406. Lengthsman or Handyman Matters.

- a) New highway or maintenance matters in need of attention.
 - i) The Handyman was instructed to repair the wind damaged door on the noticeboard near the Village Hall.
 - ii) A request to spray the weeds on Back Lane footway was agreed for later in the month

407. Public Rights of Way:

- a) Reports of any new PROW matters in need of attention.
 - i) The PROW from Friday Street to The Close was reported to be a problem as the steppingstones are very wobbly and slippery. The matter to be referred to Mr Graham Fowles for investigation.
- b) Members noted the report from Cllr Alistair Adams on extra PROW funding from WCC and an email from Graham Fowles regarding PROW funding.

408. Matters Raised by Members: for consideration and or items for future agendas. - None

409. Meeting Dates

- a) It was confirmed the next council meeting is scheduled for April 5th venue to be announced.
- b) It was confirmed the Annual Parish Meeting will be on April 12th

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

410. Finance Report

Bank Accounts		Verified and Confirmed Account Balances	
Statement	04/02/21	Current Account Balance	£57,531.85
Date	09/12/20	Deposit Account Balance	£38,135.85

Payments Authorised

Cheque Number	Payee	Details	Gross Payment	Net Payment
74	Npower	Streetlight Energy	579.40	551.81
75	Arden Construction Ltd	Village Hall contract works	23,940.00	19,950.00
76	Hartwell & Co	Oak bollards ect	231.18	192.65
77	John Hyde	Lengthsman Works	69.80	69.80
77	John Hyde	Handyman Works	98.75	98.75
77	John Hyde	Handyman Works	55.00	45.83
78	J Stedman	Clerk's salary and expenses	***	***

25,671.33 21,606.04

Receipts	Received from	Description	Amount	Date Banked
	WDC	Comm grant Legacy payment	20000.00	02-Feb
	HMRC	VAT Claim	19704.79	27-Jan

Pebworth Parish CouncilCosecha Ltd Response
group

Response group refund

856.69

01-Feb

Cllr Thomas Havemann-Mart's summarised report**Pebworth parish council March 2021**

Dear Pebworth parish council, I hope everyone is doing as well as can be expected and happy to see that we now have a roadmap out of lockdown and back to normal. Boundary review Wychavon has had word back from their boundary review and looks like we will be reducing the total number of councillors by 2. These will most likely be from the town areas that have less residents per councillor than the rural ones.

Communications We are now working with Worcestershire County Council on messaging to help guide people through the lockdown easing stages. It is crucially important people do not relax or do more than the rules allow at each stage as it may put the easing timetable at risk. We are working with the Economic Development team on a new campaign to support the reopening of non-essential retail and personal care services on 12 April and the reopening of indoor hospitality on 17 May. We are working on how we can mark the first year anniversary of lockdown on 23 March using material submitted to our Covid-19 Memory Bank.

Road map out of lockdown – what it means for us The Prime Minister announced his road map out of lockdown on Monday. We are considering the details and how they will impact on our services. There was no specific mention in the briefing about when office working would be allowed. Although the Stay at Home message will be legally lifted on 29 March, this will be replaced with Stay Local and minimise travel. The guidance will still be for people to work from home if they can. The Prime Minister also announced a review of social distancing which would set out when measures such as 2m distance, face coverings, hand sanitising etc could be relaxed. We don't have a date yet for when that will report. Until we get further information we are not planning on having staff return to the office in significant numbers until after 21 June when it is proposed all legal limits on social contact are dropped. Similarly, our buildings will remain closed to councillors and council meetings will continue to be held virtually until we get an update from the Government on what the regulations and arrangements will be in the future. We do intend to reopen our reception at the Civic Centre in Pershore for pre-booked urgent face to face appointments from 12 April, when non-essential retail reopens. Although libraries can reopen from that date it will still be with social distancing restrictions in place so we will keep the reopening of our hubs in Droitwich and Evesham under review and await further guidance. The full reopening of our reception may have to wait until staff return to the office but again we will keep this under review.

Census 2021 A reminder that Census day 2021 is fast approaching. This year it will take place on 21 March and mainly online. An invitation with a unique code to fill out the census will be sent to every household in early March. Find out more about the Census at <https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/community-and-living/census-2021-information>

Kind regards, Tommy.

Your District Councillor, Thomas Havemann-Mart can be contacted on Thomas. Havemann Mart@Wychavon.net or mobile 07817 873 054

County Councillor summarised Report -

Month: March 2021

Prepared by Alastair Adams,

Littletons Division, Worcestershire County Council

More Investment in our County's infrastructure. This month the County Council confirmed the budget for 2021/22. There is a small increase in the County Council's share of the council tax of 1% for Adult Social Care levy and 1.5% to support new investments that the public have requested in areas like Footways & Highways, but this still keeps Worcestershire as having one of the lowest council tax in the UK.

The new budget promises to provide extra Capital Investment as follows:- (This is on top of the normal budget)

- An extra £6m on Highways for 2021/22 (Worcestershire Roads are already some of the best maintained in the UK)
- An extra £4m on footways & cycleways for 2021/22.
- An extra £2.5m on smaller flood mitigation in 2021/22 and I have already asked for some of this for our area!
- An extra £2.5m for Street lighting (converting street lighting to LEDS)
- An extra £1m to help the 3% in Worcestershire who still do not have Superfast Broadband

ALSO more investment into PROW = Great news –Worcestershire County Council will more than double the capital investment in to PROW so more gates/stiles/bridges can be bought.

Last year the capital spend for PROW was £319K, and in the next 12 months it has been increased to £800K.

Partly the reason behind this decision has been the success of the Countryside Access Volunteers, and realisation that if more gates, stiles and bridges could be funded, then a lot more could be done across the whole county.

Broad Marston Flooding update – meeting with Highways Drainage Officer 15/02/2021

It was agreed to look at the following:-

1. Build a headwall at the end of the ditch behind Cotswold View. This ditch in normal times takes the water off the road to the brook, but in flood situations the brook fills up the ditch and pours water onto the road. A sandbag headwall level with the wooden footbridge with a small pipe and non-return flap would prevent this occurring
2. The 2 road gullies between the Manor entrance and the entrance to Ruby House looks like they go into the roadside ditch, but the stone headwall in the ditch which looks like the outflow from the gullies looks too big. Instead this headwall could be the outflow from the ditch to the brook. WCC to investigate, and survey all the drains along this section of Broad Marston Rd.
3. The 2 road gullies by the bridge were also visited, and WCC to investigate fitting non return flaps on their outlet into the brook?
4. The manhole cover (currently plastic) at the bottom of the little lane down Priory Lane was opened in recent floods to allow flood water at the end of Priory Lane to escape into the field. It was agreed that a vented manhole cover, or a simple iron bar grate would be fitted over this manhole cover.
5. At the junction of Priory Lane and Broad Marston Rd, a major highways drainage scheme was built a few years ago that takes a pipe from the ditch across the back garden of the White

Pebworth Parish Council

Cottage, and into the ditch by the old fire station. WCC to jet this pipe as residents think it may have silted up as water takes along time to seep through it.

Highways:

There are quite a lot of roadworks in the area over the next month, so please visit <https://one.network/> to see all the details.

1. Road closure Stratford Rd/ Honeybourne Rd , and in Station Rd/ High Street Honeybourne in early March for patching works
 2. Honeybourne pedestrian crossing on Station Rd – week commencing 22nd March.
 3. A46 night time closure from Junction 9 M5 Tewkesbury to Teddington Hands roundabout - from 8 February 2021 to 19 March 2021. Work will be carried out overnight when traffic counts are lower between 8pm and 6am, Monday to Friday.
 4. REMINDER to clear all brooks, gullies and ditches and gullies before winter flood season – a reminder to all land owners and Parish councils to check all ditches, gullies and brooks NOW to ensure no obstructions that could make things worse in flood situations.
- As always, if you have any issues on any Highways matters, please report it on the WCC website http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/homepage/98/report_it
- Also remember a photo of the Highways problem is as good as “a thousand words” so always take a photo where possible.
- Pebworth WI – grant requested for Zoom annual charges so the members can continue to meet over the internet in these COVID times - Paid
 - Evesham Vale Rail Trails for Cyclists – grant requested for a software programme that shows the cycle routes. – grant paid
 - Pebworth Village Hall – a grant request to renovate the wooden hall floor. Paid
- The fund is now closed until June 2021

Support Community Projects

The County Council has launched a new round of funding for charities and organisations to make a real difference in their communities. The County Council, along with Malvern and Wychavon district councils, has set up Crowdfund Worcestershire .

The scheme gives residents who have ideas about how to improve their community, the opportunity to gain much needed funding. The deadline to submit an idea for the Spring round of funding is April 21st 2021. The County Council is putting in £85,000, and the District Councils are putting in £159,000, so there is significant money available to help community projects.

To find out more and see examples of some of the community projects already being supported go to: <https://www.spacehive.com/movement/worcs>

Are you getting slow broadband?

If you are getting less than 10Mb/s then you can demand faster broadband under the “Universal Service Obligation”.

So check your broadband speed using the following;

<https://www.broadbandspeedchecker.co.uk/>

If you are getting less than 10Mb/s then visit the Ofcom website and follow the instructions

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/broadband-usage-need-to-know>

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