

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 2nd November 2020.

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

In attendance: Cllr Alistair Adams, Cllr Thomas Havemann-Mart, and J Stedman (Clerk),

Apologies: were agreed for Cllr Richard Weller

- **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 -

- County Councillor Alastair Adams and District Councillor Thomas Havemann-Mart presented their reports which are appended to the minutes.
- The matter of the alleged change of use to holiday lets in various buildings at Norton Hall was raised by the Clerk and Councillor Thomas Havemann-Mart agreed to pursue the allegations with the planning enforcement officers at WDC

329. Clerks Report

Members noted the following reports

- a) Purchase order sent to Mark Rawling for the culvert and ditch works in Broad Marston.
- b) Trip hazard on Broad Marston footway reported to County Highways. Members reported the matter is now resolved.
- c) Letters sent to residents in Broad Marston informing them of the pending culvert works.
- d) Letter sent to Mr Rainbow requesting his field culvert is cleared of debris
- e) Letter sent to Broad Marston Manor and the Priory requesting the watercourse is cleared
- f) Letter sent to Mr Longford confirming the council's agreement not to fund any street signage for the Priory Farm properties
- g) Emails sent to allotment tenants requesting the heap of manure is removed from the access track – Members reported the matter is now resolved.
- h) Response sent regarding SDC planning consultation for 300 new homes at Long Marston
- i) Further funding request sent to Persimmon Homes charity via their website had received no response. The Clerk is not to pursue the matter.

330. Minutes:

- a) Members considered and approved the wording of the minutes from the 5th October Parish Council meeting which will be signed by the chairman.

331. Planning matters noted

- a) 20/02233/HP Location: 8 Wesley Gardens, Proposal: Proposed garden studio to rear of garage Applicant: Mr Jones; The council has no objection or comments on the application
- b) Stratford-on-Avon District Council Site Allocations Plan - Preferred Options Notification of Public Consultation: It was agreed to respond to the consultation reaffirming the potential increase of commuter traffic through Pebworth and other rural villages.

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332. Finance:

- a) Members noted the Clerk's report on payments made since the last meeting.
- b) Council agreed the schedule of payments to be made by internet banking as appended.
- c) Council agreed to a proposed gift of a bottle of wine and a thank you letter to Mr Clive Warren for carrying out the extensive tree survey. Cllr SJ Morrow to liaise with the Clerk to action the gift.

333. Community & Council Matters:

- a) **Pebworth response group:** Cllr James Pearson reported on the Pebworth response group's activities and financial analysis and confirmed the financial accounting for the council's funding was not adequate for analysis and coloration of income and expenditure. Invoices will be calculated from the existing data to enable the expenditure to be reconciled and expenses reimbursed. Cllr James Pearson will pursue the audit of accounts, and information will be available at the next meeting. It was agreed no further funding would be made available at the present time.
- b) **Stratford CAB:** The Clerk reported on 3 attempts to pay the agreed £50 to the Stratford CAB, no response has been received to date. Council agreed to decline the offer of support.
- c) **Tree Labels:** Members considered a proposal to label significant parish trees with their species and variety; Cllr SJ Morrow agreed to investigate the availability of suitable labels and the costs involved for consideration at the council's budget meeting.
- d) **Dumped furniture:** Two armchairs dumped in a front garden on School Road were reported to be inappropriate as they have remained there for some time. Clerk to inform Rooftop Housing Association requesting their removal from their property.

334. Flooding Matters:

- a) The Clerk reported the culvert works at Orchard Dene and Broad Marston ditch clearance are to commence on November 3rd. All near neighbours have received a letter informing them of the start date and the intended works. Cllr John Hyde will liaise with the contractor and neighbours to help resolve any issues arising.

335. Village Hall:

- a) **Report:** Cllr James Pearson reported on the progress of the Village Hall refurbishment works after attending a site meeting with all concerned. He confirmed the works are making good progress albeit a bit slow and the works completion is now promised for mid-January as there is a lot of interior works to be completed.
- b) **Payments:** The Clerk reported on the payment of the October invoice received from Arden Construction.
- c) **Grants:** Members requested the Clerk to confirm the financial support grants from WDC have all been received and if any further funds are due for drawdown.
- d) **Structural inspections:** The Clerk reported on issuing a purchase order to Birmingham university for structural analysis of the concrete beams in the Village Hall.

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336. The Close and Recreation Field

- a) The monthly safety inspection found no new safety matter of concern.
- b) **Safety inspection:** Members considered the annual safety inspection report from Wicksteed and the further analysis of the 3 reports from ROSPA, Wicksteed and Timberplay which have been compiled as a working spreadsheet by Cllrs Denise Meynell, SJ Morrow, and John Hyde. The main recommendations were noted, this is now considered the basis for planning and implementing an ongoing maintenance programme.
It was further agreed all the minor items in need of attention can be rectified by the Handyman, the Zipwire is in need of all its timbers being replaced or the whole apparatus replaced. Cost for the necessary works to be considered at the November budget meeting, Clerk to obtain costs for the Zipwire repair or replacement. It was also agreed Cllrs. SJ Marrow, Denise Meynell and John Hyde will carry out quarterly safety inspection of all the play equipment.
- c) **Tree survey:** It was agreed Cllr John Hyde will carry out a further inspection of the urgent matters arising from the tree survey carried out by Mr Clive Warren – full report to be considered at the December meeting.
- d) **Litterbin:** Cllr John Hyde reported the litterbin on the recreation field is overfilled and there is no formal arrangement for emptying it or disposing of the waste. He offered to empty the bin on this occasion and request a formal policy is considered at the next council meeting to have a regular emptying and waste disposal carried out.
- e) **Golf Mat:** The synthetic grass mat in the golf practice net was reported missing as there is a bare patch of soil where it was sited. Cllr James Pearson confirmed the mat was moved forward into the net area as it was placed too far back from the net potentially allowing golf balls to stray outside of the catchment net. He has temporarily removed it for cleaning and will then replace it in the correct position. Matter resolved.

337. Cemetery:

- a) **Interment:** Council noted the interment of Mrs Joan Jordan in the pre-purchased grave 877.
- b) **Memorial safety:** Members considered any action required to ensure leaning cemetery memorials are safe and compliant with regulations. It was agreed the Chairman and Clerk will carry out an inspection of the memorial stones and create a risk assessment and an inspection record. Regular safety inspection to be carried out annually.
- c) **Plastic flowers:** Council considered a report on the alleged damaged litter bin at the cemetery and the untidy state of the litter bin area. It was agreed the Chairman and Clerk will carry out an inspection of the litter bin site and remove any plastic flowers from the cemetery in accordance with the cemetery regulations.

338. Street Lighting:

- a) Faulty lights to be reported for repair. – none reported.
- b) Members reported Candela's contractors have not completed the streetlight installation as some new columns are awaiting painting. It was noted the contractors have left concrete debris in a ditch and refixed the bus timetable some 3 metres up a lamppost well out of view. Cllr John Hyde offered to rectify the issues.

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339. Highway Matters: New highway matters reported – none reported.

340. Lengthsman or Handyman Matters.

- a) New highway or maintenance matters in need of attention. None reported
- b) Works completed from last month.
 - i) Leaf clearance from road gullies.
 - ii) Trip hazards to be resolved on The Close

341. Public Rights of Way:

- a) Reports of any new PROW matters in need of attention. None reported.

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

343. Meeting Dates

- a) It was confirmed the next council meeting is scheduled for December 7th venue to be announced and the budget meeting date will be confirmed for later in November.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 8.55

Finance Report

Bank Accounts		Verified and Confirmed Account Balances	
Statement	15/10/20	Current Account Balance	£27,116.61
Date	09/10/20	Deposit Account Balance	£98,133.97

Payments Authorised				
Cheque Number	Payee	Details	Gross Payment	Net Payment
DD	Npower	Streetlight energy	90.63	86.31
DD	Npower	Streetlight energy	529.03	503.84
48	HMRC	PAYE for the Clerk's Salary	326.46	326.46
49	Arden Construction Ltd	Village Hall contract works	8,886.01	7,405.01
50	John Hyde	Lengthsman Works	103.90	103.90
51	Limebridge RS	Amenity mowing contract	852.00	710.00
52	J Stedman	Clerk's salary and expenses	***	***
53	Wicksteed Leisure Ltd	Playground RoSPA inspection	206.40	172.00

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Cllr Thomas Havemann-Mart reported on the following topic

Planning system reform: The first consultation has closed with the 3 districts Wychavon, Malvern and Worcester City, sending a joint response to add weight.

The proposed new method of calculating housing would have completely changed the numbers in the SWDP.

The new formula for setting targets on the number of homes to be built in council areas focus on housing in London, Midlands and South with the North seeing fewer houses built.

It disproportionately impacted rural areas.

The second consultation closing date 29th October covers the suggestion on zoning land for growth, renewal and protection. No one knows how it would work but it is a suggestion which seems to remove democratic rights- councillors and officers are not happy with the proposal.

Also on Thursday the 8th there was a briefing for parishes on New Homes bonus changes, Legacy Grant and Wychavon's intelligently Green Strategy. Outcome - spend any outstanding NHB monies

County Councillor Report- Pebworth Month: November 2020

Prepared by Alastair Adams

Littletons Division, Worcestershire County Council

COVID-19 STATISTICS IN WORCESTERSHIRE (as of 26th October)

- The number of cases in Worcestershire stands at 165 cases per 100,000. The England rate is 212 per 100,000. There were 29 people in total in Worcestershire's hospitals with Covid-19, and 5 people in intensive care (ITU).
- Every publicly funded school in Worcestershire is open and 90% of pupils in Worcestershire are in school which is much better than the national average.
- There are 2,817 pupils currently self-isolating from a school population of more than 84,000.

Official statistics and information are available on the links below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-track-coronavirus-cases>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-covid-19-surveillance-reports#history>

WHERE CAN I GET FURTHER INFORMATION, HELP AND ADVICE?

Reminder that the Here2Help website www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help is the first point of contact if people want to offer assistance or gain support. The other option is the telephone contact number which is staffed 8am-6pm 6 days a week – 01905 768053.

Carers who support a family member or friend who require support should contact the Worcestershire Association of Carers on www.carersworcs.org.uk or call the Helpline 0300 012 4272.

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/coronavirus>

NHS Website for information on Coronavirus

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Financial support for you

If you are struggling financially then the advice is to make a claim for Universal Credit, Council Tax Support and other benefits you may be eligible for.

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There is more information on the coronavirus employments and benefits page.

Help paying your Council Tax

If you are of working age and already receiving Council Tax Support, you will get a one off reduction of up to £150. This will be applied automatically to your bill. New bills will be issued in the next few weeks.

You can apply online for Council Tax Support if you are struggling to pay your bill.

More information is available on our Benefits and Council Tax page.

Even if you are not eligible for Council Tax Support, you still may be able to defer your payments for a short period or spread them over 12 months instead of ten.

Please contact the Council's team by emailing

Revenues@southworcestershirerevenues.gov.uk or call 03004 560560 to discuss your circumstances and they will do their best to help you.

Help to find a job

If you have been made redundant, are facing redundancy or are looking for work then the Worcestershire Jobs Match scheme can help. It has been created to help match businesses struggling to fill vacancies with individuals who have lost their jobs as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak.

We are also supporting the Pick for Britain campaign, to find thousands of workers to help support farmers to harvest fruit and vegetables and help feed the nation.

You can find out more about job opportunities available on our local farms, and other opportunities, on our Local Job Opportunities page.

Support for businesses

The Council's new business support programme, Here2Help Business is live

http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20807/here2help_business

It is a £3m programme designed to assist local Worcestershire Businesses to recover, adapt, develop and support future resilience as lockdown measures reduce

Also see the Government website www.businesssupport.gov.uk which has details of all the support available to businesses.

Highways:

To keep up to date on the roads affected see

http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20602/roadworks_in_worcestershire

Or look at the national roadworks website below, and type in Pebworth in the top right box to search. www.roadworks.org

1. Pavement Front Street has been repaired and re-tarmacked
2. Road drains/gullies have been jetted.
3. New "Narrow Road" sign to be erected before the bend (coming in from Little Meadows) between St Peter's Church and Corner Cottage
4. School Rd re-tarmacked and new higher kerbs installed.
5. Speed limit in Ullington –West Mercia Safer Road Partnerships and WCC Highways have carried out a traffic speed survey but also wants to carry out a radar speed check too.
6. Stratford Rd Honeybourne Road Closure - 2/11/20 for Bridge inspection by Network Rail
7. Honeybourne pedestrian crossing on Station Rd –Western Power are installing the electricity in November. The anti-skid surfacing can not be laid in cold weather and is planned for March 2021.
8. Hardcore laid by Severn Trent last year on field entrance off Friday Street causing flood water to travel down Friday Street. – reported to Severn Trent. Simple solution to dig a channel to right of gate to divert flood water back into the ditch. Awaiting response from Severn Trent.

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9. Flood alleviation scheme at back entrance to Orchard Dene Hall – culvert to be widened. Quote received from contractor. Parish liaising with contractor.
10. 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.

Broadband in Broad Marston – NOW LIVE

As from 26th October Fibre to the premises has arrived in Broad Marston with speeds up to 100Mbps.

Broadband in Honeybourne Rd/Stratford Rd

There are 12 houses on the above street that have problems with their Broadband, and are looking for improvements to their Broadband. Therefore I have suggested to the residents to club together and take advantage of the grants available to get fibre to the premises (FTTP). This is 100Mbps speed where the fibre optic goes straight to your house. See <https://www.bt.com/broadband/full-fibre> for more details. There is a government grant of £1,500 per house if you want to FTTP, see below;

Rural Gigabit Connectivity Programme

Following the success of the Gigabit Voucher scheme, the UK Government announced a new scheme in April 2019 called the Rural Gigabit Connectivity Scheme (RGC.)

As part of the Government's RGC programme, businesses and residents in some of the hardest to reach places in the UK are eligible for additional funding towards the installation costs of a gigabit-capable connection to their premises.

The key characteristics of the RGC voucher eligibility are:

- available in defined rural areas (by postcode in all parts of the UK)
- available to those with existing broadband speeds of less than 30Mbps (download)
- up to £3500 available for eligible SMEs (including self-employed) and up to £1500 for residents
- applications must include a minimum of 2 residential of SME premises (single connections are not eligible)

Whether you live or work in an area with little broadband service or are looking to upgrade to ultrafast speeds to future-proof your home or business, more information can be found here: gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk.

Here's how the process works (more information is available in FAQ28:

<https://www.superfastworcestershire.com/#faqs>).

1. Contact our team on superfast@worcestershire.gov.uk to check if there is already a scheme underway in your area
2. If not, use the Gigabit postcode checker to find a supplier in your area: gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/for-residents/suppliers/
3. Contact your chosen supplier to confirm your eligibility (rural classification)
4. Identify premises to be included in the project - you may wish to check your premises' status on our website #where-when There's a helpful guide to forming a community project here: www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-led-broadband-schemes/guidance#before-you-start-forming-a-community-group-and-deciding-on-the-best-solution
5. Register with your chosen supplier
6. Supplier provides a quote, group accepts and is given a build timescale

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The Superfast Worcestershire team would be really happy to support you and we'd love to keep in touch with you about your Community-led broadband scheme. The Project manager is

Robert Stepniewski, Senior Project Manager, Broadband & Connectivity Team
Strategic Commissioning

Office: 01905 846432

Email: rstepniewski@worcestershire.gov.uk

Flooding Update

Good meeting occurred in Broad Marston/ Mickleton Rd on 21st August with the WCC and WDC to consider the Heart of England proposal to build a wetland and a flood plain upstream of Broad Marston to help alleviate flooding. Very positive meeting, so I am keeping my fingers crossed. The WDC have now surveyed the HoEF field. Awaiting feedback.

Also, we had a meeting on looking at ways to solve the flooding at the crossroads near the Gate Inn in Honeybourne. Again WDC have also surveyed the land upstream in Honeybourne and the farmer has started to create a flood plain

County Council Divisional Fund

- Bretforton Allotments – grant requested for a strimmer.
- Honeybourne Harriers – grant for portable flood lights so the youngsters can continue training on the Honeybourne Sports Field during the dark evenings.
- Pebworth In Bloom have applied for a grant to help cover the cost of the bedding plants and hanging baskets planted around the village.

If you run a community organisation that needs a little support to buy equipment or some essential service, then please apply for a Divisional Fund by contacting me.

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