

Pebworth Parish Council
Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held
At the Village Hall, Pebworth on Monday 1st November 2021

Present: Councillors: Richard Weller (Chairman), Simon Shiers, Denise Meynell, James Pearson, SJ Morrow & David Cranage

In attendance: County Councillor Adams, District Councillor Thomas Havemann-Mart, Mrs D Bowles (Clerk)(via Facetime due to Covid)

Also in attendance: 3 members of the public.

128.	Apologies accepted for absence: Cllr J Hyde
129.	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
130.	Open Forum: The Chairman suspended the formal meeting for the Ward Members and public participation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of the public reported that whilst the culvert is flowing by the fire station, it is restricted. • Report by PIB was forwarded in advance of the meeting. A member of PIB explained the reasons as to why the area and types of trees had been selected, the area had been marked out to show the space that would be between the trees. A detailed discussion took place. PIB confirmed there will be enough space behind the trees to enable a tractor access to trim the hedge. Thanks were given for their detailed report. The Chairman closed the open forum and reconvened the meeting at 19:33
131.	To consider any matters in the Ward Member's reports circulated from County Councillor Alastair Adams & District Councillor Thomas Havemann-Mart <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Councillor Alastair Adams talked through his report which is appended to the minutes. • District Councillor Havemann-Mart's report is appended to the minutes. • A formal vote of thanks was given to County Councillor Adams for his considerable work in reducing flooding to the village.
	It was agreed to bring agenda item 137 (a) forward. <p>a) Following a detailed discussion of the proposal from PIB for planting 7 semi-mature trees on the Recreation Ground, with views being heard from Members for and against the proposal, a vote was taken with 3 in favour, 2 abstentions and 1 against. It was therefore resolved to approve the planting scheme. Clerk to inform PIB of the decision.</p> <p>b) Members noted Rooftop Housing has confirmed the hedge fronting The Close is the responsibility of the tenant who is not in a position to replace the hedge with a fence.</p>
132.	Acceptance of Minutes: The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 4 th October 2021 at the Village Hall, Pebworth were considered and approved by the Council to be a true record of the meeting and will be signed by the Chairman at the December meeting.
133.	Planning Matters: Considered via email: 21/01999/FUL – Change of use of land for the stationing of two static caravans (lodges) for holiday accommodation at Cider Mill Barns, Long Marston Rd, Pebworth, CV37 8GF. Following consultation via email it was decided for Clerk to respond with “Whilst the Parish Council has no objection to this planning application it would like to draw the following to the Planning Department’s attention: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Throughout the planning application ‘static caravans’ are mentioned however these are clearly log cabins and of a size and scale to appear permanent. 2. How will the applicant ensure that visitors to the proposed ‘static caravans’ use the agreed route on to the site? (via Long Marston Rd)” Decisions: <p>a) 21/01313/HP -Proposed extension to provide new first floor accommodation at Charnwood, Back Lane, Pebworth, Stratford Upon Avon, CV37 8XA. Planning approved subject to conditions.</p> <p>b) 21/01426/HP - Extension to side elevation at Southbyre, Priory Barns, Priory Lane, Broad Marston, Pebworth, Stratford Upon Avon, CV37 8XZ. Planning approved subject to conditions.</p>

	<p>c) 21/01999/FUL – change of use of land for the stationing of two static caravans (lodges) for holiday accommodation at Cider Mill Barns, Long Marston Rd, Pebworth, CV37 8GF. Planning approved subject to conditions.</p> <p>Appeal: To note Planning comments have been re-iterated to the Inspectorate regarding the appeal at Cider Mill Barns.</p>						
134.	<p>Finance:</p> <p>a) Council approved the November schedule of payments to be made by internet banking as appended to the minutes.</p> <p>b) Members noted Clerk now has access to online banking. Arrangements are being made to remove Mr J Stedman from the account and add Cllr Pearson as a signatory with access to online banking.</p> <p>c) Members noted the Bank balances as at 12th October 2021:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Treasurers Account</td> <td>2,963.18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Business Bank Instant</td> <td>73,639.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>76,602.43</td> </tr> </table>	Treasurers Account	2,963.18	Business Bank Instant	73,639.25	Total	76,602.43
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135.	<p>Mowing & Amenity Contract: Members noted that four tenders have been received and will be reviewed at the December meeting. Clerk has contacted the Companies concerned informing them of the delay.</p>						
136.	<p>Council & Community Matters:</p> <p>a) Members noted discussions regarding security measures at the Village Hall are ongoing.</p> <p>b) Members noted a new defibrillator battery has been ordered with delivery expected in November. Clerk to advise residents the battery has expired. Cllr Weller to inform the various WhatsApp groups. Following the meeting, advice has been sought from Stryker (original suppliers) who have confirmed the device is safe to be left in operation until the new battery arrives</p>						
137.	<p>Pebworth In Bloom: These items were discussed earlier in the meeting.</p>						
138.	<p>The Close & Recreation Field</p> <p>a) Members noted the tennis net posts have now been repaired. It has been decided to leave the nets down and allow the area to be used for football/other ball sports. Clerk to advise Lengthsman to put the net away for the winter period.</p> <p>b) Consider regulations for car parking on The Close and The Recreation Ground – this to be carried forward to the December meeting.</p>						
139.	<p>Cemetery :</p> <p>a) Members noted £165 has been received for the purchase of plot numbered 957.</p> <p>b) Members considered the revised Cemetery rules. It was resolved to accept the new rules with the Parish Council providing a gravedigger for future burials/ashes interments.</p>						
140.	<p>Allotments: Nothing to report.</p>						
141.	<p>Street Lighting:</p> <p>a) Members noted Candela are waiting on Western Power Distribution to issue MPAN numbers to allow the engineers to work on the network. It is hoped they will be on site for the end of November.</p> <p>b) Members noted a new 3 year fixed contract has been signed with Yu Energy for the streetlight energy. This will save £600 over the term of the contract.</p>						
142.	<p>Highway Matters:</p> <p>a) Members noted Highways have confirmed the blue stone can be used to repair the steps on Front St although no date has yet been set for the works to be completed.</p> <p>b) Members noted Clerk has contacted Barry Barnes regarding issues with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several potholes from Little Meadows to the crossroads – work orders have been raised for patch and infill repairs. • A crack in the pavement outside the Village Hall – an engineer will be surveying either a large patch or resurfacing a section of the footway. • Drainage culvert outside the fire station – this is the responsibility of the Riparian landowner. 						
143.	<p>Lengthsman/Maintenance Matters:</p> <p>a) Future tasks to be issued to the Lengthsman:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair floor on the lower slide of the multi-play area • Re-attach grill on bridge to multi-play area 						

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put the tennis nets away for the winter period Re-install bollards on Friday St Grip clearance
144.	<p>Public Rights of Way: Members noted</p> <p>a) the PROW sign on Broad Marston Rd has been re-instated.</p> <p>b) an email has been received regarding footpaths between Pebworth & Long Marston being blocked with locked gates, stiles blocked, entrances wired or just impassable. Clerk has re-iterated discussions with the landowner is ongoing and for all PROW issues to be reported using the online reporting system for Worcestershire County Council.</p>
145.	<p>Matters Raised by Members: The following matters were raised by Council Members for consideration for future agendas:</p> <p>a) Community assets</p> <p>b) Clerk to investigate planning query on Long Marston Rd.</p>
146.	<p>Staffing: Clerk has now been issued a 42 hours per month contract. Members formally offered the Government's National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) pension scheme. The Council will contribute 3% of qualifying earnings in year 1, which will rise to 5% in year 2 and 8% in year 3. Clerk confirmed she was happy with this and will arrange for it to be set up.</p>
147.	<p>Date of Next Meeting: Council confirmed the date of the next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on Monday 6th December 2021 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall, Pebworth. Council confirmed the date of the budget meeting to be held on Tuesday 30th November, 7pm village hall.</p>
148.	<p>Closure of Meeting: The Chairman closed the meeting at 20:55 hrs</p>

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

FINANCE

PAYMENT	PAYEE	DETAILS	TOTAL	VAT	NET
BACS	HMRC	Clerk's Tax	88.80		88.80
BACS	Mrs D Bowles	Clerk's Salary & Expenses	*****		*****
BACS	1&1 IONOS Ltd	Ionos Email	1.20	0.20	1.00
BACS	Wychavon District Council	Annual charge dog bin emptying	93.11	15.52	93.11
BACS	WALC	Cemetery Course	36.00		36.00
DD	O2	Mobile Phone	13.20	2.20	11.00

County Councillor Adams Report

Update on flooding alleviation/wetlands nature reserve in Broad Marston

EXCELLENT NEWS - the Environment Agency eventually issued a permit for the works to begin, and work started on 6th October. AND IT IS ALL BUILT.



See photo below

Not only will this scheme hold water back from entering Broad Marston in flood situations, it will also be an all year round wetlands nature reserve with fantastic wild-life and wild flowers. Big thank you to Heart of England Forest, Henson Plant Hire, and Ellie Goulding.

On the weekend of 30/31st October we had a lot of rain, and the bund worked; no water on the road under the bridge!

REMINDER 2022 School Admissions in Worcestershire open

Applications for school places in Worcestershire for 2022 opened on 1 September 2021. The applications are open for any child due to start school for the first time, or transitioning to a Middle or High School in September 2022.

- For children applying for a place at High school, the deadline to apply is the 31 October 2021.
- For Primary, First, Infant, Junior and Middle schools, parents will have until 15 January 2022.

Parents and carers can apply for their child's school place via a secure online portal any time before 12 midnight on the relevant deadline day.

If they do not have access to the internet, parents can get online at any Worcestershire library or if they require additional assistance they are advised to talk to their school or to call School Admissions on 01905 822700. The online system also includes guides on starting school or transitioning to a new school.

The school admissions system can be accessed at: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions

NEW GIGABIT BROADBAND

See this month's announcement by Full Fibre Ltd regarding their roll out plans in your area:

<https://www.ispreview.co.uk/index.php/2021/10/fullfibre-ltd-list-19-new-towns-in-england-for-ftp-broadband.html>

If it is of interest to you, please register your interest <https://www.fibreheroes.co.uk/> to demonstrating local demand. Although you will get a message saying "We aren't currently building in your area", please register. There is no cost to register, and the more that do register, then the higher probability that FTTP (Fibre to the Premises) will be installed in Pebworth. Some properties in Broad Marston and Ullington already have it and it gives up to 1000Mbps – so very fast!

COVID-19 Update

Although most legal restrictions have been lifted, and the majority of the population have been vaccinated, it is still possible to catch and spread COVID-19, even if you are fully vaccinated.

COVID-19 will be a feature of our lives for the foreseeable future, so we need to learn to live with it and manage the risk to ourselves and others.

It is important that we all use personal judgement to manage our own risk. All of us can play our part by exercising common sense and considering the risks. While no situation is risk free, there are actions we can take to protect ourselves and others around us. Following this guidance will help you stay safe and

protect others by controlling the spread. Every action to help reduce the spread will reduce any further resurgence of the virus in the coming months.

Most legal restrictions to control COVID-19 have been lifted. See link for full details

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do>

COVID statistics and information are available on the links below:

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

See <https://herefordshireandworcestershircg.nhs.uk/covid-19-vaccine> for more up to date information showing where you can be vaccinated and what to expect when you arrive.

To see the latest statistics on vaccinations – see

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/homepage/648/worcestershire-covid-19-vaccinations-dashboard>

NHS Website for information on Coronavirus

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

Another useful site if you need help and/information because of COVID is

<https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/community-and-living/coronavirus-covid-19-update>

Highways:

To see roadworks in the area over the next month, please visit <https://one.network/> to see all the details.

1. **Pavement along Broad Marston Rd from the Mason Arms to the Old Fire Station** – I am keeping pressure on Highways to resurface this stretch of pavement but if you can add your voice to the campaign, please report on defects on <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/Report>. Click on the “Other Road or Pavement Issues” and add photos if you can. Highways have now inspected it, and have confirmed repairs will be made, but still no date for when it will be fully retarmacked
2. **Bidford Bridge closed for repairs from 25/10/21 to 14/11/21**

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.

Section 278 Scrutiny

I have started a scrutiny on Highways section 278 on ways to get developer funded infrastructure built quicker.

Use your lengthsman to clear leaves and debris off the top of the gullies grates

At this time of the year, lots of leaves fall and can cover the road gullies grates preventing water flowing easily into the drain and thus causing road flooding. So please use your lengthsman to regularly check all your village road gullies and remove any leaves/debris from the top of the grate.

Winter Gritting programme will start next month.

To learn more see:-

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20007/travel-and-roads/381/gritting-ice-and-snow/3>

The Winter Service team also work very closely with WCC Communications team and provide daily updates on our gritting news. You may wish to look at these

Twitter Feed: [@WorcsTravel](https://twitter.com/WorcsHighways&Travel) / [Twitter](https://twitter.com/WorcsTravel) look out for #GritterTwitter.

EnviroSort – Recycling

Last month I took a group of councillors to see where all the waste in our green bins is recycled. To learn more see <https://www.severnwaste.com/envirosort/the-process/>

The SAD FACT is people are still putting the wrong things into their green bins. Things that cannot be recycled by EnviroSort.. All the rubbish from the green bins goes on conveyor belts, and there are about 30 people that have to sort out the wrong items which are rejected into a skip which then goes into landfill. About 10-13% of items are rejected.

To see what you can and cannot put into your green bin; <https://www.severnwaste.com/envirosort/what-can-i-recycle/>

Following that visit, Wychavon circulated an “A-Z Recycling Guide” to every house in our area. If you want an electronic version, go to the following website and download a copy - <https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/recycling-guide>

So please only put items into your recycle bin that are detailed in this A-Z list.

Carbon emissions

Carbon emissions from energy use in street lighting across Worcestershire have reduced by 56% since 2009/10. This is despite an increase in the number of street lights across the county supporting further housing and development. These carbon reductions have been realised through:

- targeted replacement of street lighting assets with energy efficient LEDs (approx. 46% and counting)
- part-night switch-off of streetlights on some roads
- de-illumination of some traffic signs
- switching traffic lights to LED

To date, the Council has installed 27,700 LED street lights, which have replaced old energy in-efficient and unmaintainable lights. This has saved approximately 2.15 million kWhs since April 2018. Replacing street lights with long-life LEDs reduces energy consumption by up to 59% and significantly reduces ongoing maintenance costs. All new traffic lights and upgrades to older traffic lights across the county are carried out using LED technology.

Discover more

Visit Worcestershire is inviting residents to discover more about the county they live in. The ‘Discover More’ campaign has now launched and it aims to get residents to find out more about the county they call home – as well as attracting more visitors to this beautiful and diverse part of the country. Worcestershire may be near the middle of the country, but the Visit Worcestershire team are determined to prove that the county is certainly not middle of the road. You can find out more about the campaign by visiting the <https://www.visitworcestershire.org/explore/>

County Council Divisional Fund

Hurry up and send in your applications from local community organisations that are manned by volunteers and require a little help to buy equipment or services. To apply, please contact me. Fund closes early in 2022.

I have received the following applications

1. Offenham Cricket Club – grant requested for playing and coaching equipment for 17 juniors
2. Honeybourne primary School – grant for use of village hall for dance, drama and PE
3. Littleton Scout Group – grant to help refurbishment of village hall
4. Pebworth Village Hall – grant for new blinds
5. Badsey Flower Show – grant to help buy a storage container
6. Honeybourne Harriers – grant requested for more flood lights

And finally, it is sad news that our neighbouring District Councillor, Richard Lasota has died suddenly from cancer. I worked with Richard for over 8 years and he helped Pebworth in many ways to prevent unwanted development, and supported our village. I will miss him.

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

District Councillor Havemann-Mart's report

Pebworth Village Gap

David Cranage and I had a meeting with the head of Wychavon's planning department, Holly Jones, Chief executive, Vic Allison and council leader Bradley Thomas. During this meeting it was explained at length how important the village gap was to the Pebworth NDP and why we feel it must remain. During the meeting it was disclosed that the criteria for village gaps published by Wychavon's planning team was flawed and all village gaps across Wychavon's SWDPR are now being reviewed. When the planning officer is visiting Pebworth we will be able to join them and hear their views.

Coronavirus update

Our infection rate continues to climb and is above both the England and West Midlands average. This is largely being driven by infections in younger age school children but infection rates in older adults are now starting to go up which poses a risk to more vulnerable people. Hospitalisations in Worcestershire remain stable and relatively low as do deaths. The public are encouraged to follow the safety measures set out in the Government's winter response plan. This includes meeting outdoors if possible, letting fresh air in when meeting indoors, wearing face coverings in enclosed settings when mixing with people they would not normally do, getting tested if they have symptoms and staying at home if they feel unwell. View the latest infection rate data on the Coronavirus dashboard.

Vaccine rollout data

View the Worcestershire Vaccine dashboard for the latest information.

Update on FCC staffing situation

There has been no major change since our last update. The situation remains fragile, but FCC are managing to maintain essential collection services, with the exception of bulky waste, as well as increase the amount of highway litter picking and mechanical sweeping taking place through the use of agency staff. Redditch Borough Council last week announced it was suspending its garden waste collection service which is a reminder of how difficult the current situation is for all councils. If residents ask about alternative ways to dispose of bulky waste while our service is suspended, please direct them to our bulky waste page on our website where we have listed some options.

Green Flag success

I am delighted to report that our five parks and Droitwich Community Woods have retained Green Flag Status. This is an incredible achievement and huge thanks and congratulations must go to our parks team and contractors Continental and Smart Cut for all their hard work. People now have the chance to vote for their favourite park for a People's Choice Award, which recognises the most popular parks on the planet. To find out more and to vote for your favourite park visit www.wychavon.gov.uk/parks

Evesham COP 26 Festival and Intelligently Green Challenge

The Greening Evesham group – which is linked to the town council – is holding a week-long greener living fair in the run up to the COP 26 event. The programme is attached. We are supporting this event by taking part in talks, running litter hunts through our anti-litter education partner Little Litter Warriors and promoting the Wychavon Intelligently Green Challenge. The challenge is aimed at showing people the small things they can do to reduce their carbon footprint and play their part in tackling climate change. You can sign up to the challenge and find out more at www.wychavon.gov.uk/intelligentlygreen. Pershore Town Council held a similar event recently which we also supported with information on recycling, waste reduction and active travel.

Household Support Fund

Our share of the £500 million Government fund to help vulnerable households with food, clothing and utility costs over the coming months has been confirmed as £204,000. This will be distributed to voluntary and community groups that are best placed to identify households in their community that could benefit from this support. Worcestershire has been given £4 million. £945,000 will go to supporting families on Free School Meals, £203,000 to support care leavers, £1.5 million to Act on Energy and the districts will receive £1.1 million overall with £200,000 as a contingency fund. Power for people campaign At our last Council meeting we gave our backing to the Power for People campaign which is calling for the introduction of a Local Electricity Bill to

make it cheaper and easier for people to sell surplus renewable electricity to local people. The campaign has been in touch with the leader Cllr Thomas this week to thank him for our support and are planning some publicity to promote their gratitude. Your District Councillor, Thomas Havemann-Mart can be contacted on Thomas.Havemann-Mart@Wychavon.net or mobile 07817 873 054