

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 7th September 2020.

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

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

Apologies none all members present

297. Disclosures of Interests:

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

None declared

298. Open Forum No members of the public present. County Councillor Alastair Adams and District Councillor Thomas Havemann-Mart attended to provide their reports and take questions.

Ward members report

Cllr Alistair Adams informed the council of concerns raised by parishioners over noise nuisance emanating from Norton Hall as the properties on the site are used for Air-B&B holiday lets. Cllr Alistair Adams suggested a formal letter is sent to Norton Hall bringing the noise nuisance to the attention of the owners' and requestion mitigating actions are taken immediately. Furthermore, to make an enquiry to WDC planning enforcement to confirm if the letting of the properties for holiday use is permitted. Council agreed to these suggestions being actioned by the Clerk.

299. Clerks Report

- a) All business matters were circulated to all members by email and all the documents required for consideration at the virtual meeting were circulated by email.

300. Minutes:

- a) Members considered and approved the wording of the minutes the 3rd August Parish Council meeting which will be signed by the chairman.

301. Planning matters noted

- a) **20/01465/LB** Associated Ref:20/01464/HP Location: Broad Marston Manor, Broad Marston Road, Broad Marston, Description of Proposal: Demolition and rebuilding of lean-to of Tythe Barn to provide bat accommodation. **Granted with conditions.**
- b) **ENF/20/0269:** Chapel Road works: WDC planning enforcement officer has confirmed no enforcement action will be taken for the hedge removal and replace with hardcore for parking on Chapel Road as the works fall within the permitted development regulation. **Matter resolved.**
- c) **Street naming for the Simms Metal site:** The list of street names offer by members has been forwarded to the planning officer for their consideration.
- d) **20/01617/GPPA:** Having received a request from a parishioner to comment on this application for change of use at Low Furrow, it was reported to the meeting the application is withdrawn.

302. Audit

- a) Council noted the completion of the 2019-20 annual return and confirm no matters of public interest have been raised by the external auditor.

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b) The audit closure notice and the AGAR are posted on the parish noticeboards and the council's website.

303. Finance:

- a) Council noted the Clerk's report on payments made since the last meeting as all were due before the meeting date.

payment Number	Payee	Details	Gross Payment	Net Payment
33	BPS	Play area notices supports	14.98	12.48
34	BPS	Play area notices supports	14.32	11.93
35	BHIB	Insurance renewal	618.09	618.09
36	Arden Construction Ltd	Village Hall contract works	25,875.43	21,562.86
37	PKF Littlejohn LLP	Audit Fees	360.00	300.00

- b) Council approved the schedule of payments to be made by internet banking – Clerk to action the payments

38	Limebridge RS	Amenity mowing contract	852.00	710.00
39	J Stedman	Clerk's salary and expenses	***	***
40	John Hyde	Lengthsman Works	83.15	83.15
40	John Hyde	Handyman Works	71.25	71.25

304. Village Hall:

Cllr James Pearson reported on the progress of the Village Hall refurbishment works: -

The build program is some four weeks behind due to material delays and labour problem; some materials are still awaited. The workmanship is good but the whole project is very slow. A site meeting will be attended next week, and a question will be put as to how the works timescale can be recovered, a full progress report will be issued at the next Parish Council meeting.

- a) The Clerk reported on the payment made by BACS within the due date for the second invoice received from Arden Construction for the Village Hall works.

305. Community & Council Matters:

- a) Report on the Pebworth response group's activities and finances; Cllr James Pearson reported he had attempted to analyse the spreadsheet of accounts for the group and found more information is needed to collate a full report and this is ongoing. The full analysis of the income and expenditure to be reported at the next meeting.
- b) Council considered the reported problems that some residents are experiencing with traffic routing and deliveries on Priory Lane, Broad Marston as address are difficult to find. Cllr Alistair Adams informed the council the problem is on a private road therefore the County Council would not provide any signage; he suggested the residents arrange any appropriate signage themselves and gain permission of the land owner to install any signs. Clerk to liaise with Mr Longford as he is the landowner where any signage needs to be located.
- c) The dead tree on the green in School Road were reported to Rooftop Housing Association who have confirmed the removal is in hand. Matter resolved

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- d) BHIB has confirmed the receipt of payment and the renewal of the council's insurance for 2020-21.

306. The Close and Recreation Field

- a) The monthly safety inspection found no safety matter of concern.
- b) Cllr John Hyde reported on reopening of the play equipment area under the latest Government regulation and the regular inspections to ensure regulation compliance. The Covid-19 regulatory signage was partly destroyed in the recent storms and has now been replaced, no other issues were reported.
- c) A consideration was put to improve public seating near the play equipment and an option to move the youth shelter will be considered at the next meeting
- d) The annual safety inspection by Wicksteed has been requested, the request is for an accompanied inspection but no inspection date has been issues.
- e) Timberplay have been requested to carry out an inspection of the Zip Wire and confirmed the inspection is in hand.
- f) Member's reported on condition of the wooden picnic tables on The Close and confirmed one is not fit for public use and needs to be removed and one is satisfactory. Clerk to instruct PIB to remove the unsafe bench as soon as possible as the benches are their property.

307. Cemetery:

- a) Members confirmed additional and amended cemetery regulations numbers 11 & 12 to prohibit any artificial flowers or plastic items being placed in the cemetery.
- b) The Clerk reported the new regulations and an information notices have been placed in the cemetery noticeboard and the village noticeboards.
- c) It was agreed any amendments to the cemetery schedule of fees will be considered at the November precept and budget meeting.
- d) Members reported a public notice in the cemetery was in in place and needs to be reinstalled, the Handyman will investigate and resolved the matter

308. Street Lighting:

- a) Faulty lights to be reported for repair. – none reported.
- b) The Clerk reported there is no progress with the streetlight upgrade installation. The installation contractor has again requested a list of streetlights to be refurbished. The Chairman will contact Candela to try and expedite the installation

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

- a) The Clerk reported on pursuing funding possibilities or grants for a portable VAS and confirmed the WDC community funding officer advised no funding is available for the Parish Council and such expenses would be for the precept to fund. The funding for a VAS and any traffic calming will be considered at the Precept meeting in November. It also proposed to ask Persimmon homes for a donation form their development at the Sims metals site towards traffic calming in the parish.
- b) The Clerk reported the blocked gullies by the Church and in Back Lane have been reported to WCC for jetting and will be attended too before winter.

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- c) Traffic calming between St Peter's Church and Corner Cottage – It was confirmed that the County Highways will be installing new “Road Narrows” signs to help slow traffic through the section.

310. Lengthsman or Handyman Matters.

- a) New highway or maintenance matters in need of attention. None reported
- b) Works completed from last month
 - i) Checking the non-return valve in the ditch on Priory Lane
 - ii) Missing Oak bollard on Front Street is replaced

311. Public Rights of Way:

- a) Reports of any new PROW matters in need of attention. None reported
 - i) The footpath gate locked shut on PROW 532C off Long Marston is being dealt with by WCC PROW officers as access problems have arisen and need resolving.
 - ii) PROW 538B from The Close to Friday Street was reported as overgrown with weeds and requires cutting back. Following an inspection, the path was considered to be passable and no further action will be taken at this time, monitoring will take place to ensure its accessibility in future.
 - iii) Cllr John Hyde confirmed the PROW volunteers intend to restart their maintenance works on 21st September.

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

313. Meeting Dates

- a) It was confirmed the next council meeting is scheduled for October 5th venue to be announced.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 8.00

Ward Members Reports

Cllr Thomas Havemann-Mart

Pebworth parish report September 2020

August is a slow month normally with everyone on holiday but 2020 is continuing to be exceptional and we actually held a planning committee this past month and the district has been working hard to get recovery plans in place.

The following names from the parishes recommendation have been used in the new Persimmons development.

BENTON ROW	WHEAT CLOSE	LANGATE FIELDS
BENNETTS RISE	COOPER CRESCENT	GREEN HILL CLOSE
UPPER CLOSE	COLEMAN CROFT	GODFREYS PIECE
PETTIPHER MEWS	TAPLINS CLOSE	ROBERTS CORNER
MILLARD DRIVE	GRAYS WALK	MARSTON WALK
MARTINS WAY	WILKINS CLOSE	LONG HILL FIELDS

There is a consultation going on regarding planning and how it is done.

WDC would encourage all parish councils to have a look at the consultation and put forward their thoughts. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907215/200805_Changes_to_the_current_planning_system_FINAL_version.pdf)

907215/200805_Changes_to_the_current_planning_system_FINAL_v ersion.pdf

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Changes to the current planning system
 Consultation on changes to planning policy and regulations August 2020
 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

We still aren't going into the council building and I don't have a timeframe for when Cllr's will be back but we have all more or less got the hang of zoom and committee meetings (including licensing) are continuing as "the new normal" now.

The asbestos reported along broad Marston road has been cleared by WDC.

As always if there is anything I can look into for the parish or do to help please just let me know.

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 Report- Pebworth

Month: September 2020

Prepared by Alastair Adams

Littletons Division, Worcestershire County Council

Update on COVID-19 outbreak in Blackminster

Since my last report in August, the update from Worcestershire County is as follows:

"Worcestershire County Council continues to work with Public Health England (PHE) Midlands to support Evesham Vale Growers Limited, at Blackminster near Evesham, following an outbreak of COVID-19 among their workforce.

Key workers at EVG were re-swabbed on Friday 7th August. This is a routine practice, at the end of the 14 day isolation period to check if there are any new cases in the incubation period.

All of those tested received negative results.

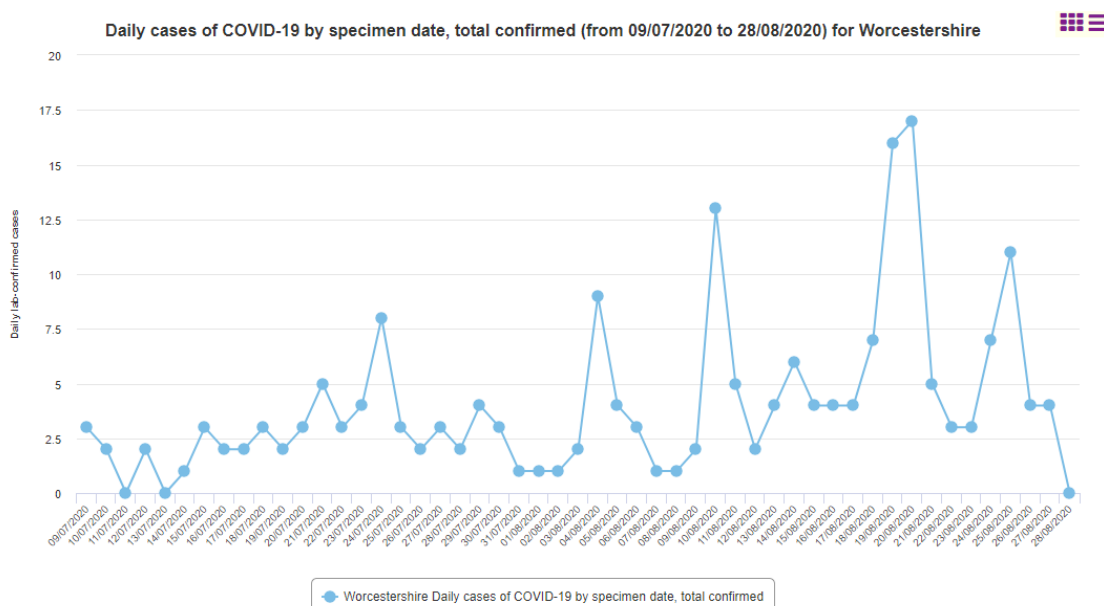
Workers will start to return to work under guidance from Public Health. Alongside existing measures, EVG have introduced additional stringent practices in the workplace and for those living on site, to ensure they can live and work in a COVID secure environment.

We would like to thank the management and staff at EVG for working with us to quickly contain and manage the outbreak, which has now allowed staff and the business to begin to return to normal."

It is good to hear that the outbreak was quickly contained, and there was no need for any of the workers affected to be admitted into hospital. However, it is a reminder to us all that Coronavirus has not gone away and we must stay alert, continue to wash our hands regularly wear a face mask where necessary and follow the socially distance rules.

However, please be assured that Worcestershire has a very low number of COVID-19 cases, and on 28/8/20 there were no reported new cases. See graph below.

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BACK TO SCHOOL

This month the schools go back, and Worcestershire County Council via **Worcestershire Children First** have been working very closely with school leaders and other colleagues, including public health, to ensure that each school has an individual tailored plan for their wider reopening, based on their individual circumstances as well as looking forward to the future.

All schools have completed a risk assessment ahead of them reopening their doors to ensure that their plans and all aspects of school life meet both Government guidance and the individual needs of the staff and students who work there.

Schools and colleges will have the discretion to require face coverings for Year 7s and above in communal areas where social distancing cannot be safely managed. See

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education>

Worcestershire County Council are organising School transport from the beginning of August Term, and would appreciate the support of parents and carers of pupils travelling on home to school transport services to communicate the safety rules for travelling on school transport services outlined below to their children. See http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20826/worcestershire_school_transport_guidance_autumn_2020

COVID-19 STATISTICS

Official statistics and information are available on the link below:

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

WHERE CAN I GET FURTHER INFORMATION, HELP AND ADVICE?

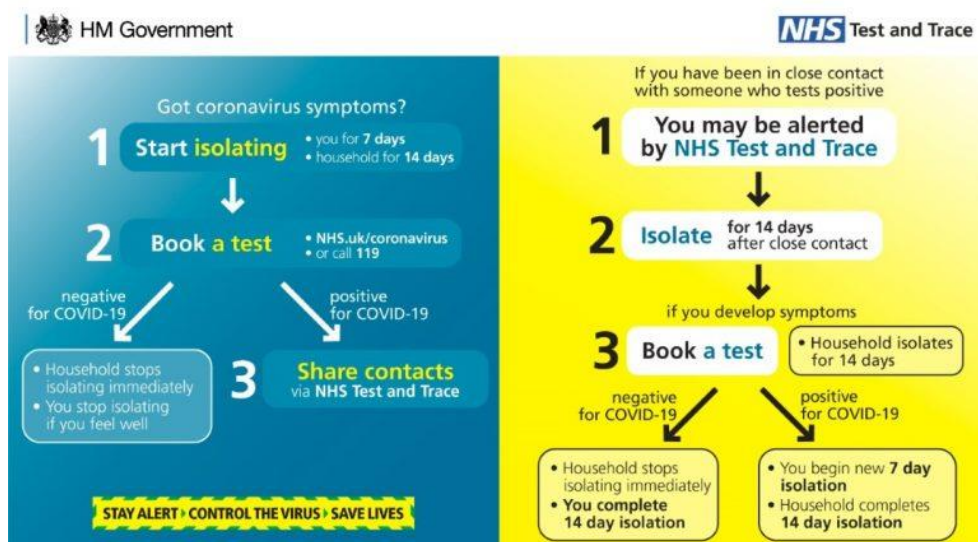
Worcestershire County Council website

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

NHS Website for information on Coronavirus

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

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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.

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

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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.

Highway issues effecting Honeybourne:-

1. **Broad Marston Rd by the railway bridge closed to Long Marston Rd on 14th September** for one of the Utility companies to install new ducting.
2. **New “Narrow Road” sign to be erected** before the bend (coming in from Little Meadows) between St Peter's Church and Corner Cottage
3. **Mickleton Rd in Honeybourne to be closed 5th October** for overhead electrical works
4. **Back Lane Pebworth to be closed between Front Street and Friday Street for carriage repairs/patching in week commencing 26th Oct (Half-term)** . Also Kerbs on corner of Back Lane/School Lane to be renewed/adjusted.
5. **Cracks in pavement up Front Street** –It is a major project as a concrete raft is to be installed under the pavement to stop the subsidence. Now planned for October 2020. **This means Front Street will be closed during the daytime between 5 Oct to 16 Oct**
6. **New “Low Bridges” signs installed on Honeybourne bridges.**
7. **Temporary Road Closure Shinehill Lane/Sheenhill Rd** – from 7/9/2020 for up to 19 days for multiple utility works.
8. **Mickleton Rd in Honeybourne to be closed 5th October** for overhead electrical works
9. **Buckle Street Road from Station Rd to Sheenhill Rd - Closure** - Severn Trent meter renewing works - 3 days from 7 Oct
10. **Stratford Rd Honeybourne Road Closure** - 2/11/20 for Bridge inspection by Network Rail
11. **Speed limit in Ullington** – at the moment the speed limit through Ullington is 60mph, but there is a good argument to reduce this to 40mph. I had a meeting in July with West Mercia Safer Road Partnerships and WCC Highways and they agreed to re-look at the speed limit and will be doing a traffic speed survey in the next few months.
12. **High Street Honeybourne** – Closed most of August to fit new raising water mains. Complaints over the bank holiday weekend as Amey (the contractors) opened the High Street to traffic but put steel plates over the holes which made a terrible noise as cars crossed them. Lack of sleep for many residents. I have spoken to Samantha Pedley from Amey and she apologised and had visited several residents to apologise in person. It should not have happened, and there is an internal enquiry. She is also dealing with the following 2 issues
 - a. The road needs cleaning, including around the gate inn crossroad where the mud ran down.
 - b. Also there are a few signs still around the village. I.e road closed signs.
13. **Honeybourne pedestrian crossing on Station Rd** –Up until early June the works were planned to begin in July/August. However, Western Power Distribution have informed the council that it will take 3-6 months to install the electricity. I have working with the council to see if we can get an improvement from WPD but they are blaming COVID and a backlog in work. Earliest date for works to begin looks now to be March 2021 as the anti-skid surfacing can not be laid in cold weather.

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 Honeybourne in the top right box to search.
www.roadworks.org

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

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Also remember a photo of the Highways problem is as good as “a thousand words” so always take a photo where possible.

Flooding Update for Broad Marston

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 that both Councils can persuade the EA to finally approve the proposal.

County Council Divisional Fund

- Offenham Cricket Club- grant request for a contribution of £500 towards a new mower – grant approved.
- Pebworth In Bloom have applied for a grant to help cover the cost of the bedding plants and hanging baskets planted around the village. Due to COVID 19 the “Open Gardens event” in Pebworth was cancelled which had an adverse effect on the funding of PIB. Normally PIB raise a significant amount during this event by offering teas to visitors, but this year no teas means no funds!

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