

Pebworth Parish Council
Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held
At the Village Hall, Pebworth on Monday 6th January 2025

Present: Councillors: Richard Weller (Chairman), Simon Shiers, David Cranage, Jodi Cotton & Eugene Mccluskey

In attendance: District Councillors Hannah Robson & Judith Ciotti, Mrs D Bowles (Clerk)

Also in attendance: 14 members of the public.

1.	Apologies Considered for Absence: Cllr Pearson
2.	Register of Interests: 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
3.	Open Forum: The Chairman suspended the formal meeting for the Ward Members and public participation. a) 14 members of the public were in attendance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Questions were raised about The English Devolution White Paper, titled "Power and Partnership: Foundations for Growth," which was published on 16 December 2024, outlining the Government's plans to reorganise local government structures, particularly in two-tier areas and certain unitary councils, to enhance the delivery of public services. It is anticipated that further details, including timelines, will be provided as the government progresses with its devolution agenda - A question was raised about whether Meon Vale could establish its own Parish Council. While there has been some discussion on this matter, Stratford-upon-Avon District Council has indicated that it is unlikely to happen for several years, if at all. - Concerns were expressed about crime at Meon Way Gardens. A request was made for the Parish Council to facilitate the removal of Citizen Housing. However, as this matter falls outside the Parish Council's remit, District Councillors Robson and Ciotti will address it. - Flooding issues at Meon Way Gardens were highlighted. As the road is not yet adopted, responsibility lies with Persimmon. While an emergency road is planned, no specific completion date has been provided. District Councillor Robson will investigate whether the timeline can be expedited. b) County Councillor Adams sent his apologies, report is appended below the minutes. c) District Councillors Robson & Ciotti reported : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the UK Shared Prosperity Fund is in its final round. - District Councillor Ciotti attended a briefing from Citizens Advice Bureau - District Councillor Robson has received a decision report for the Fibrex planning application recommending for approval. Parish Council confirmed this does not need to go to Committee. The Chairman closed the open forum and reconvened the meeting at 19:45
4.	Acceptance of Minutes: The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2 nd December 2024 at the Village Hall, Pebworth were considered and approved by the Council to be a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.
5.	Planning Matters: a) W/24/02522/HP Location: Woodford, 4 Norton Gardens, Pebworth, Stratford Upon Avon, CV37 8YA Description of Proposal: Garage conversion to form a habitable ancillary accommodation. Not enough responses were received for Clerk to provide a reply. Decisions: b) W/24/02324/HP Proposal: Single storey extension to the rear, first floor extension above existing snug and demolish existing conservatory. Location: Dormer Cottage, Pebworth Road, Ullington, Pebworth, Stratford Upon Avon, CV37 8XG. Application approved subject to conditions
6.	Finance: a) It was resolved to approve the third quarterly bank reconciliation, account balances and income and expenditure budgets. Cllr Cotton initialled.

	<p>b) Council considered the budget and precept recommendations from the finance group and agreed a proposal put by Cllr Weller and seconded by Cllr Cranage that the precept for 25-26 to be £58,935. The proposal was unanimously agreed; Clerk to inform Wychavon District Council.</p> <p>Update: An error was identified in transferring figures from the previous year, which would have resulted in a 14.65% increase. After recalculating, it was determined that maintaining a 0% increase requires a precept of £53,250. Deducting the £1,815 grant results in a revised precept request of £51,435. This corrected figure ensures that income remains sufficient to cover budgeted expenditures. The updated precept figure was approved via email with Members, and the Clerk has submitted the revised request of £51,435 to Wychavon District Council.</p> <p>c) Council noted the Clerk's report on payments made since the last meeting:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="252 555 1468 898"> <thead> <tr> <th>PAYMENT</th> <th>PAYEE</th> <th>DETAILS</th> <th>TOTAL</th> <th>VAT</th> <th>NET</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>Limebridge Rural Services</td> <td>Shockwave Treatment Rec Field</td> <td>660.00</td> <td>110.00</td> <td>550.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>Clive Giddings</td> <td>Hedge - Rec Field</td> <td>180.00</td> <td></td> <td>180.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>Grosvenor Lawn Systems</td> <td>Ditch clearance & removal</td> <td>60.00</td> <td></td> <td>60.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>Cotswold First Aid</td> <td>Basic First Aid & AED Training</td> <td>144.00</td> <td>24.00</td> <td>120.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1044.00</td> <td>134.00</td> <td>910.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>d) The Council gave consideration and unanimous approval of the payments listed in Appendix A, confirming the payments in Appendix A have been approved by full Council and there is provision within the budget, and that financial regulations and relevant policies have been followed. Cllr Weller to authorise the payments made by internet banking.</p>	PAYMENT	PAYEE	DETAILS	TOTAL	VAT	NET	BACS	Limebridge Rural Services	Shockwave Treatment Rec Field	660.00	110.00	550.00	BACS	Clive Giddings	Hedge - Rec Field	180.00		180.00	BACS	Grosvenor Lawn Systems	Ditch clearance & removal	60.00		60.00	BACS	Cotswold First Aid	Basic First Aid & AED Training	144.00	24.00	120.00				1044.00	134.00	910.00
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7.	<p>Council & Community Matters:</p> <p>a) Clerk reminded Members of the defibrillator and First Aid training session on Saturday 11th January 10am – 1pm at Pebworth Village Hall.</p> <p>b) Members noted the ditch clearance works on Friday St have been completed.</p>																																				
8.	<p>Meon Way Gardens:</p> <p>Cllr Mccluskey talked through the responses relating to the consultation which he will send via email. Clerk advised for Members to review the results ahead of the February meeting where they can be discussed further.</p>																																				
9.	<p>NDP:</p> <p>Members considered the recommendation from Wendy Hopkins, Brodie Planning Associates, to carry out a Housing Needs Survey. Clerk to request further information from Wendy Hopkins before making a decision. Further queries were raised which will be forwarded to Wendy for a response.</p>																																				
10.	<p>The Close & Recreation Field</p> <p>Members noted the monthly reports with no remedial works required.</p>																																				
11.	<p>Streetlighting:</p> <p>Members noted the two streetlights at the end of New Road have been repaired by Bromford Housing.</p>																																				
12.	<p>Highway Matters:</p> <p>Clerk has advised Wychavon District Council to prioritise Back Lane, Front Street, Chapel Road, Friday Street, School Road for a road sweep.</p>																																				
13.	<p>Lengthsman/Handyman Matters:</p> <p>a) Future Tasks: Nothing at this time.</p> <p>b) The VAS data was noted</p>																																				
14.	<p>Policy Reviews:</p> <p>a) Complaints – this was approved with a review date of Jan 2027</p> <p>b) Disciplinary – this was approved with a review date of Jan 2027</p> <p>c) Grievance – this was approved with a review date of Jan 2027</p> <p>d) H&S – this was approved with a review date of Jan 2026</p> <p>e) Cllr Shiers will provide the draft Biodiversity Policy for the February meeting</p> <p>f) Members to consider the adoption of an Investment Strategy Policy at the February meeting.</p>																																				

15.	Matters Raised by Members: The following matters were raised by Council Members for consideration for future agendas: a) Nothing raised.
16.	Date of Next Meeting: Council confirmed the date of the next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on Monday 3 rd February 2025 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall, Pebworth.
17.	Closure of Meeting: The Chairman closed the meeting at 21:00 hrs

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

FINANCE

Verified & Confirmed Account Balances as at 13th December 2024

Treasurers Account	7,723.19
Business Bank Instant	56,162.39
Total	63,885.58

APPENDIX A – PAYMENTS

PAYMENT	PAYEE	DETAILS	TOTAL	VAT	NET
BACS	HMRC	Clerk & P C Tax & NIC	156.56		156.56
BACS	Mrs D Bowles	Clerk's Salary & Expenses	608.57		608.57
BACS	John Hyde	Lengthsman Works	105.75	0.00	105.75
DD	Nest	Clerk's Pension	88.98		88.98
DD	O2	Mobile Phone	10.03	1.67	8.36
DD	Yu Energy	Streetlight Energy	83.44	3.97	79.47
DD	Yu Energy	Streetlight Energy	17.76	0.85	16.91
			1071.09	6.49	1064.60

County Councillor Report – Pebworth

Month: January 2025

Prepared by Alastair Adams

Littletons Division, Worcestershire County Council covering Pebworth (including Meon Way Gardens), Honeybourne, Badsey, Bretforton, Offenham, Cleeve Prior, South Littleton, North & Middle Littleton, Ullington, Bickmarsh and Broad Marston)

Dear Resident,

I wish you all a wonderful New Year!

Help with paying bills from Worcestershire County Council

The Household Support Fund (HSF) is a government initiative designed to alleviate the financial burden of rising living costs for vulnerable households across England. In Worcestershire, grants are available of up to £500 for utility costs, including electricity, gas, water, and heating fuels. Households with children under 18 (or 21 if in full-time education) can receive the maximum £500 grant, while adult-only households are eligible for up to £300. The Worcestershire County Council has established income thresholds and vulnerability criteria to determine eligibility, focusing on households with annual incomes of £31,000 or less, including those receiving benefits. You can apply via this link

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/environment/sustainability-and-carbon-reduction/tackling-fuel-poverty/household-support-fund>

DEVOLUTION WHITE PAPER / LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING

On 16th December 2024 the Labour Government published their Devolution White Paper, alongside their National Planning Policy Framework changes. This will be the biggest change to local government and democracy we have seen in our life time.

Here is a message from the leader of Worcestershire County Councillor Simon Geraghty that explains more;

Just prior to Christmas, the Government signalled the end of two-tier governance in the English Devolution White Paper and therefore our district and county councils will be abolished. I think it is essential to emphasise this is not optional, the Government could not be clearer that whether we like it or not this is happening, and we are to face the largest change that we have seen to local government in over 50 years. We will be required to move to a unitary structure in a relatively short timescale, alongside developing devolution proposals for a Strategic Authority which ultimately will have an elected Mayor.

From my prospective, I think this is crazy especially when you consider what else is going on in the world; why throw something else into to chaos? Also, the Labour government gave a ridiculous timeframe of 10 Jan 2025 for councils to confirm whether they are willing to go Unitary. It was suggested that early adopters will be able to specify their area of choice. So Worcestershire County Council felt they had to reply saying they are willing to go unitary and their preference is to be a countywide unitary ie just for Worcestershire. However all the power is with the minister and we could be instructed to merge with Hereford or Gloucestershire or even West Midlands which the majority of WCC councillors think would be an even bigger disaster!

If the minister decides Worcestershire can be an early adopter and is a Worcestershire based unitary, then the WCC elections planned for May 2025 will be probably deferred to May 2026, but again this is the Minister's decision.

As you know I had announced before Christmas that I was standing down from being a County Councillor after 12 years of service to the community. However, if the elections are postponed, I have been asked to stay on until May 2026. So you may have me for another year!

However, I must stress, nothing has yet been agreed, and everything seems to be in the hands of the minister, Jim McMahon (Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution).

One other thing to raise is the distress for all the 4500+ employees of the county council and the 6 district & city councils as most don't know whether that will have a job in the Unitary. I believe many council employees will decide to leave or take early retirement (if the can) and as a consequence a lot of good experienced and knowledgeable staff will be lost to the new organisation. This will give the new Unitary a big headache and I fear the outcome for the public will be a poorer service from the council for several years.

More flooding – 6th January 2025

Not a great start to the New Year, following the heavy rain on Monday 6th January we did see floods down in Broad Marston, under Honeybourne Bridges and at the crossroads by The Gate in Honeybourne. This was disappointing but without all the flood alleviation work we have done over the recent years, it would have been much worse. The good news is no houses have been reported as being flooded internally.



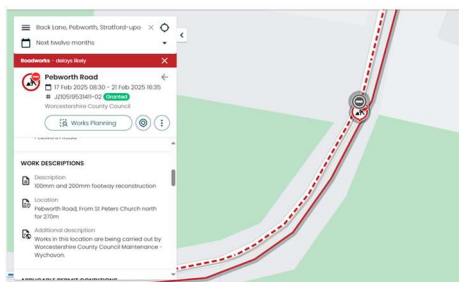
There is still further flood alleviation work to be done as a consequence :-

1. Gullies cleansed under Honeybourne Bridges - Further jetting has now been organised to clear outflow pipes to further improve the situation.
2. Bund in farmers field by the Honeybourne bridges repaired but it is to be extended to prevent water coming down Middle Barn entrance onto the road.
3. Tom Furness has agreed to fit a wide ACO drain at the bottom of Grove Farm drive to prevent run off from the farm onto Stratford Rd which will also help prevent flooding under the bridges.
4. In Broad Marston, the bund in the field opposite Cotswold View is also to be extended and a non-return valve on the new drainage pipe in the verge to be fitted.
5. Also in Broad Marston, some water was coming onto the road via the kerb gully by Cotswold View. A higher headwall is to be built where the non-return valve is situated by Noleham Brook.
6. The gully by the bus shelter opposite the church, and the kerb gully at the entrance to the church car park are partially blocked so further work is planned to investigate the cause and carry out some improvements works. This is scheduled for week commencing 24/2/25. **PLEASE NOTE THE CAR PARK WILL BE CLOSED TO CARS FROM THE MONDAY MORNING 24TH FEBRUARY 2025.**

Highways:

Please check <https://one.network/> to see all the temporary road closures and temporary traffic lights on a regular basis.

- **Pavement being resurfaced along Pebworth Rd scheduled for week commencing 17th February – see below**



- **“Worcestershire” sign-post** to be erected at the entrance into Meon View Gardens. This new housing estate of 380+ houses is in Pebworth Parish and therefore in Worcestershire but many people are unaware of this and assume it is in Gloucestershire or Warwickshire. Hopefully the new sign will make it clearer.
- **Also can I remind everyone to try and keep the road gullies outside their houses free of debris so the drains work effectively.** Simply remove any leaves or mud with a brush or spade or even with your wellie! By doing this one minute task, it will help minimise road flooding. Thank you.

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.

Honeybourne Railway Station Car Park

On 18th September I had a meeting with 4 people from Network Rail and the Deputy MD of Wychavon District Council Honeybourne Railway Station. It was agreed that Network Rail would explore a lower cost solution to connect the new car park with the platform. I have now received their latest quote of £2.5million for a bridge . This is crazy. I and the WDC is pushing for a pedestrian level crossing from the car to the platform which should cost substantially less, and asking for another meeting with Network Rail.

County Council Divisional Fund

LAST CHANCE TO APPLY - Applications for the 2024/25 Divisional Fund are invited from local community organisations that are manned by volunteers and require a little help to buy equipment or services. To apply, please contact me on adams.pebworth@gmail.com.

The following grants have been requested, and some have already been approved ;-

1. Pebworth School – Grant for some more books
2. Honeybourne Hawks Football Club – new line marker
3. Offenham Rovers FC – Grant for new nets
4. Honeybourne Village Hall – grant requested for some new tables
5. Offenham Village Hall – Sound-proofing panels
6. Pebworth Village Hall – grant for new signage/flags
7. Littletons Tennis Club – grant towards the Pickleball Courts
8. Honeybourne News – grant for trolleys to deliver village newsletter to all houses
9. Honeybourne School – grant for help to use of the village hall for their Christmas play
10. Littletons Tennis Club – grant for Pickleball bats and paint for new courts
11. Cleeve Prior Heritage Trust – grant for some more volunteers’ tools
12. Cleeve Prior Memorial Hall – grant for a new projector screen
13. St Peter’s Church – grant towards the replacement of a notice board

POLICE NOTICE

See below



Theft appeal Meon Way Gardens: Can you help?

Dear Alastair

We are appealing to the Meon Way Gardens community for information following the theft from the compound on the building site on Langate Fields over night between 6th and 7th Jan 2025.

Offenders have taken various materials including timber and floorboards.

Did you see anything suspicious or have any information that might help enquires?

Please get in touch with us by calling 101 and quoting incident number 00166_I_07012025.

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

APPENDIX C – VAS DATA

For Project: Broadmarston
 Project Notes:
 Location/Name: Incoming
 Report Generated: 31/12/2024 13:11:06
 Speed Intervals: 5 MPH
 Time Intervals: Instant
 Traffic Report From: 02/12/2024 16:00:00 through 16/12/2024 13:59:59
 85th Percentile Speed: 32.7 MPH
 85th Percentile Vehicles: 3302
 Max Speed: 50 MPH on 08/12/2024 13:40:00
 Total Vehicles: 3885
 AADT: 279

Volumes - weekly counts

Time	5 Day	7 Day
Average Daily	296	265
AM Peak	22	22
PM Peak	33	28

Speed

Speed Limit: 30
 85th Percentile Speed: 32.7
 50th Percentile Speed: 27.4
 10 MPH Pace Interval: 25.0 MPH to 35.0 MPH
 Average Speed: 27.03

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Count over limit	143	185	235	121	188	111	84
% over limit	28.1	27.7	33.7	20.9	27.6	26.6	25.2
Avg Speeder	33.5	33.3	33.5	33.3	33.4	33.3	33.4
Avg Speed	20.9	19.9	20.4	19.5	19.9	20.3	22.1

For Project: Middlesex from Pebworth
 Project Notes:
 Location/Name: Incoming
 Report Generated: 31/12/2024 13:16:41
 Speed Intervals: 5 MPH
 Time Intervals: Instant
 Traffic Report From: 16/12/2024 13:00:00 through 30/12/2024 11:59:59
 85th Percentile Speed: 35 MPH
 85th Percentile Vehicles: 4394
 Max Speed: 55 MPH on 20/12/2024 23:00:00
 Total Vehicles: 5170
 AADT: 370

Volumes - weekly counts

Time	5 Day	7 Day
Average Daily	388	353
AM Peak	35	33
PM Peak	36	33

Speed

Speed Limit: 30
 85th Percentile Speed: 35
 50th Percentile Speed: 29.1
 10 MPH Pace Interval: 25.0 MPH to 35.0 MPH
 Average Speed: 29

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Count over limit	295	393	377	342	392	231	247
% over limit	44.2	50.1	44.1	37.7	43.8	43.2	46.9
Avg Speeder	34.6	34.9	34.5	34.3	34.7	34.6	34.6
Avg Speed	22.2	22.4	19.0	19.2	20.4	23.0	24.6