

Pebworth Parish Council
Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held
At the Village Hall, Pebworth on Monday 3rd February 2025

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

In attendance: County Councillor Adams, District Councillor Hannah Robson. Judith Ciotti & Mrs D Bowles (Clerk)

Also in attendance: 5 members of the public.

1.	Apologies Considered for Absence: None
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.	<p>Open Forum: The Chairman suspended the formal meeting for the Ward Members and public participation.</p> <p>a) 5 members of the public were in attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Following the recent defibrillator and first aid training, residents have expressed interest in installing a defibrillator in Broad Marston, with three potential locations suggested. This matter will be discussed under agenda item 7d. - A concern was raised regarding planning application W/23/02156/FUL for Elm View & Walnut Tree Cottage. It was explained that, despite the Parish Council's efforts to oppose the proposal, it was approved at the Planning Committee meeting in December. - A question was posed about whether continuing with the NDP review is worthwhile, given the apparent disregard by Wychavon Planning Department and higher authorities. Cllr Weller advised that a newly reviewed NDP holds more value than an outdated one. The Parish Council agreed the review should proceed and this will be addressed under agenda item 9. - Following recent flooding, Priory Lane has been left in a poor state. A resident reported the issue to Wychavon District Council but received no response. The Clerk will contact Streetscene at Wychavon District Council, providing photos and requesting a clean-up. Update – the road is in such a poor state it has had to be referred to Worcestershire County Council. <p>b) County Councillor Adams provided his report, which is attached to the minutes. He requested that the Parish Council send a letter to Network Rail, highlighting ongoing concerns about the lack of progress in extending the car park. He will supply the necessary details for the Clerk to draft the letter.</p> <p>c) District Councillor Ciotti reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Government Re-organisation: We are still waiting for the letter from the Local Government Minister inviting us to submit proposals for re-organisation and setting out the criteria. We are also waiting to see if the County Council request to postpone May 2025 elections has been approved. - Parish and Town Council Event on Thursday March 6th: There will be workshop sessions covering the recent Rural Transport Research results, Neighbourhood Plans, and an introduction to the new Health and Wellbeing Officer. Plus an update on the proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and information on best practice to deal with vacancies and elections. - Wychavon has again won many 'Loo of the Year' awards and is judged the best Local Authority provider in England. - New Year 2026 Honours round nominations are now open to choose the person(s) who should be recognised for their services to communities or local government. honours@communities.gov.uk - A new page has been set up on the Wychavon District Council website providing information on the current public transport availability. <p>The Chairman closed the open forum and reconvened the meeting at 19:40</p>

4.	<p>Acceptance of Minutes: The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 6th January 2025 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.</p>
5.	<p>Planning Matters: Decisions: W/23/02156/FUL Proposal: Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of nine dwellings, creation of new vehicular access into site along with private driveways and gardens, alteration and extension of retained outbuilding at Elm View and alteration and extension of Walnut Tree Cottage. Location: Elm View, Chapel Road, Pebworth, Stratford Upon Avon, CV37 8XJ. Application Approved Subject to Conditions.</p>
6.	<p>Finance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 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 Pearson to authorise the payments made by internet banking. b) Members noted the 2025/2026 precept request has been completed and forwarded to Wychavon District Council.
7.	<p>Council & Community Matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Members noted the police report. b) Cllr Shiers reported that the defibrillator and first aid training had been highly beneficial and well-received. Cllr Weller requested feedback from attendees and is preparing an article for The Piper regarding first aid responders. c) Members noted that Severn Trent Water's Community Fund is currently open for applications, encouraging consideration of suitable projects that meet the criteria. The Clerk advised Members to explore the website and review previously funded projects for inspiration. d) It was resolved to explore funding options for a defibrillator in Broad Marston, with match funding from the parish precept and County Cllr Adams's Divisional Fund. Clerk to investigate the feasibility of installing the defibrillator on streetlight column 5 in Broad Marston.
8.	<p>Meon Way Gardens: Councillors McCluskey and Pearson were thanked for their contributions to the consultation responses. Councillor Pearson requested that any amendments or suggestions be submitted by Wednesday, after which the response will be sent to Persimmon on Thursday.</p>
9.	<p>NDP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Members discussed the need to carry out a Housing Needs Survey. While acknowledging its importance for the NDP review, they were hesitant to proceed unless the review is expected to begin imminently. The Clerk will arrange for the Housing Needs Survey once Brodie Planning confirms the official commencement of the NDP review. Cllr Pearson will contact Brodie Planning to obtain this confirmation. b) Brodie Planning has completed the Locality application form to the best of their knowledge. However, some outstanding questions require input from the Parish Council.
10.	<p>The Close & Recreation Field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Recreation Field – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Lengthsman has reported the surface outside the MUGA is cracking. Cllr Pearson to investigate. - There are surface weeds appearing at the golf net – Clerk to request these are treated. b) Nothing to report at The Close. c) The annual inspections have been booked for both areas and will take place in March.
11.	<p>Cemetery: Following discussions in December regarding the headstone maintenance quote, Cllrs Weller and Cranage inspected the identified headstones for repair. They lowered one particularly unstable headstone but expressed doubts about the safety risks posed by the others. The Clerk reminded Members of their duty to carefully consider the report's safety recommendations, advising that if an accident were to occur when a report is available, the insurance company may not cover the Parish Council. While acknowledging the need for maintenance, Members questioned the extent of the proposed works. Recognising the importance of safety, Cllr Weller will contact the stonemason to explore more cost-effective repair options. The Clerk will include this matter on the March agenda for further discussion.</p>

12.	Streetlighting: Members noted that the streetlight at the junction of Priory Lane and Broad Marston Road had been damaged. The Clerk, using delegated powers, authorised the repair. It has now been revealed that Severn Trent Water was responsible for the damage, and the Clerk will pursue remuneration for the costs.
13.	Highway Matters: Members noted drainage works are expected to take place on 24 th February for 5 days in Town Pool Car Park. There is an abandoned car on the car park – Clerk to contact the relative.
14.	Lengthsman/Handyman Matters: Future Tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is some debris at the grill at The Close. Whilst most of this has been cleared there are still some clearance works and possibly a skip required. Clerk to arrange for these works to be carried out. - Oak bollards – Front St – Cllr Shiers to carry out a check to see if any replacements are required. <p>a) The VAS data was noted. There are concerns the VAS is in the wrong place at Langate Fields which is not capturing the true data. From this, several points were raised regarding the safety of the Persimmon site. Cllrs Weller & Pearson to meet with Persimmon to discuss the issues. Cllrs Cotton & McCluskey to forward information relating to all health and safety issues.</p>
15.	Policy Reviews: <p>a) Handling Requests for Information & Retention of Documents & Records Management Policies were reviewed and approved with a 4 year review cycle unless legislation dictates a change.</p> <p>b) It was resolved to adopt the proposed Biodiversity Policy with a review date of Feb 27.</p> <p>c) It was resolved for Cllr Pearson & Clerk to approach Churches, Charities & Local Authorities Investment Company (CCLA) to investigate the opening of an account and consider how much to invest. Once these details have been finalised an Investment Policy will be brought back to full Council for approval.</p>
a)	Matters Raised by Members: The following matters were raised by Council Members for consideration for future agendas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Cllr Shiers - Heart of England Forest and Wychavon District Council "Trees in the Landscape,". Information will be forwarded for consideration ahead of next Parish Council meeting. b) Cllr Shiers advised a noticeboard needs repairing – he will confirm which one and advise Clerk c) Cllr Shiers has requested the Parish Council consider a boules pit at the next meeting. d) Clerk has offered to document the burial ground on to Parish Online. Members approved this and confirmed they would be happy to pay extra hours as this will be time consuming. e) Cllr Cotton advised she has resigned from the position of Parish Games Organiser. f) Dog fouling – more complaints are being received regarding dog fouling. Notices have been put on FaceBook.
b)	Date of Next Meeting: Council confirmed the date of the next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on Monday 3 rd March 2025 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall, Pebworth.
c)	Closure of Meeting: The Chairman closed the meeting at 21:45 hrs

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

FINANCE

Verified & Confirmed Account Balances as at 9th January 2025

Treasurers Account	4,678.20
Business Bank Instant	56,210.09
Total	60,888.29

APPENDIX A - PAYMENTS

PAYMENT	PAYEE	DETAILS	TOTAL	VAT	NET
BACS	HMRC	Clerk & P C Tax & NIC	XXXX		XXXX
BACS	Mrs D Bowles	Clerk's Salary & Expenses	XXXX		XXXX
BACS	John Hyde	Lengthsman Works	115.70	0.00	115.70
BACS	GS Adams Ltd	Streetlight Works	342.00	57.00	285.00
DD	Nest	Pension	120.70		120.70
DD	O2	Mobile Phone	10.03	1.67	8.36
DD	PWLB	Public Works Loan Board	2096.28		2096.28

APPENDIX B – COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

County Councillor Report – Pebworth

Month: February 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 All

Good news, the days are slowly getting lighter, and the snow bells and daffodils are shooting up. That means it will be soon Spring and the heating bills will go down !

Not such good news

DEVOLUTION WHITE PAPER / LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING

As mentioned last month, 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.

UPDATE – Still no news from Jim McMahon (Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution) so everything is left hanging in a vacuum until central government makes a decision.

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.

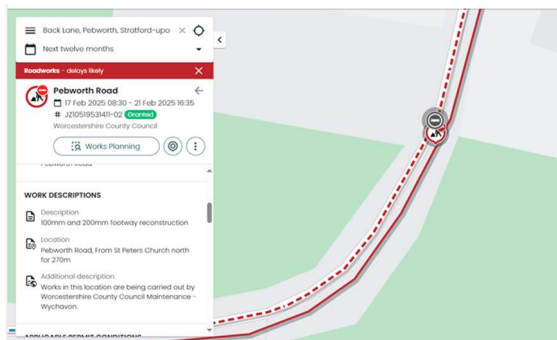
There is still further flood alleviation work to be done as a consequence :-

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. An outflow pipe from the bund has now been installed to allow for the flood water to drain at a controlled rate .
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. Since the last report an on/off valve has been fitted to again allow the flood water to escape at a controlled rate once the rain stops
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. UPDATE: Another meeting is being arranged between WDC and Network Rail in March 2025.

REMINDER 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>

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
14. Coffee on the Close – grant requested for help with the coach cost
15. Broad Marston – grant towards a defibrillator

POLICE NOTICE



Booking.com users targeted with scam messages

Those using the platform Booking.com to book their holidays or accommodation are being warned they could be targeted with emails or messages requesting payments from hotels who have had their account taken over by fraudsters. Between June 2023 and September 2024, Action Fraud received 532 reports from individuals, with a total of £370,000 lost.

Insight from Action Fraud reports suggests the individuals were defrauded after receiving unexpected messages and emails from a Booking.com account belonging to a hotel they had a reservation with, which had been taken over by a criminal. Using this account, the criminals send in-app messages, emails, and WhatsApp messages to customers, deceiving them into making payment and/or requesting credit card details.

Adam Mercer, Deputy Head of Action Fraud, said:

“With more than 500 reports made to Action Fraud, those who have booked a holiday on the Booking.com platform should stay alert to any unexpected emails or messages from a hotel using the Booking.com platform, as their account could have been taken over by a criminal.

“If you receive an unexpected request from a hotel’s account you booked with using Booking.com, asking for bank details or credit card details, it could be a fraudster trying to trick you into parting ways with your money. Contact Booking.com or the organisation directly if you’re unsure.

“Remember to report any suspicious emails by forwarding it to report@phishing.gov.uk, or if you receive a fraudulent text message, you can forward it to 7726.”

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

VAS Information

For Project: Honeybourne Road
 Project Notes:
 Location/Name: Incoming
 Report Generated: 02/02/2025 12:12:20
 Speed Intervals: 5 MPH
 Time Intervals: Instant
 Traffic Report From: 01/01/2025 00:00:00 through 17/01/2025 13:59:59
 85th Percentile Speed: 42.6 MPH
 85th Percentile Vehicles: 5024
 Max Speed: 65 MPH on 01/01/2025 11:45:00
 Total Vehicles: 5910
 AADT: 356

Volumes - weekly counts

Time	5 Day	7 Day
Average Daily	366	343
AM Peak	28	25
PM Peak	31	29

Speed

Speed Limit: 30
 85th Percentile Speed: 42.6
 50th Percentile Speed: 34.9
 10 MPH Pace Interval: 30.0 MPH to 40.0 MPH
 Average Speed: 34.87

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Count over limit	494	642	761	932	759	479	391
% over limit	77.9	76.9	71.1	77.9	74.0	74.5	77.6
Avg Speeder	38.4	38.2	37.6	37.8	38.0	37.8	38.1
Avg Speed	28.2	27.2	27.1	27.5	28.0	27.7	29.0

For Project: Meon Gardens
 Project Notes:
 Location/Name: Incoming
 Report Generated: 02/02/2025 12:22:50
 Speed Intervals: 5 MPH
 Time Intervals: Instant
 Traffic Report From: 18/01/2025 11:00:00 through 31/01/2025 13:59:59
 85th Percentile Speed: 23.7 MPH
 85th Percentile Vehicles: 7919
 Max Speed: 40 MPH on 30/01/2025 11:00:00
 Total Vehicles: 9316
 AADT: 709

Volumes - weekly counts

Time	5 Day	7 Day
Average Daily	730	665
AM Peak	64	47
PM Peak	74	67

Speed

Speed Limit: 30
 85th Percentile Speed: 23.7
 50th Percentile Speed: 19.2
 10 MPH Pace Interval: 15.0 MPH to 25.0 MPH
 Average Speed: 19.15

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Count over limit	2	3	2	3	3	3	0
% over limit	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.0
Avg Speeder	32.5	32.5	32.5	34.2	32.5	32.5	0.0
Avg Speed	9.7	9.4	9.6	9.3	9.7	10.2	11.1