

Pebworth Parish Council
Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held
in the Board Room, Meon Vale Community Hall on Monday 7th April 2025

Present: Councillors: Richard Weller (Chairman), Simon Shiers, James Pearson, David Cranage, Jodi Cotton & Eugene Mccluskey. Alexandra Neal joined the meeting once signed in.

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

Also in attendance: 1 member of the public.

1.	Apologies Considered for Absence: None
2.	Application for Co-Opted Vacancy: The Clerk reported that one application had been received for the Co-Opted Parish Councillor vacancy. Cllr Weller had previously spoken with the applicant, who introduced herself to the Council and outlined her reasons for applying. Following a unanimous vote, Alexandra Neal was offered the position and accepted. The Acceptance of Office was duly signed, and she joined the meeting.
3.	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. Cllr Shiers declared an interest in item 6b.
4.	Open Forum: The Chairman suspended the formal meeting for the Ward Members and public participation. a) 1 member of the public was in attendance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provided information in support of a pétanque court at The Recreation Field. Costings to be brought back to the next Parish Council meeting whereupon it will be considered if enough information has been provided. b) County Councillor Adams – provided his last report as County Councillor as he is stepping down at the next election after 12 years of service. The report is appended to the minutes. Cllr Weller formally and personally thanked him for his support to the village. c) District Councillor Ciotti – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation - The Council has proposed two unitary authority options: One Worcestershire or a North/South split. Final agreement among the County and District Councils is due by November, with public consultation ongoing. - Honeybourne Station Car Park - At a recent Residents Meeting general managers from the Long Marston Rail Innovation Centre spoke of increasing expansion at the centre with expanding job opportunities, community involvement and education. They reassured us that there would not be significant bigger numbers of train movements at Honeybourne, currently 12 - 20 per week. They are keen to welcome visitors for tours. Wychavon District Council continues to work with Network Rail towards a crossing solution so that the land set aside many years ago for a car park can be utilised. - 17 live planning enforcement cases are being investigated - Evesham New College - Evesham New College will transfer its courses to Pershore College due to decreasing student enrolment and funding and lack of facilities. There will be public consultation with Warwickshire College Group. Student transport will be provided to and from Evesham. - Worcestershire County Council Elections: May 1st The Chairman closed the open forum and reconvened the meeting at 19:45
5.	Acceptance of Minutes: The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 3 rd March 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.
6.	Planning Matters: a) W/25/00415/HP Location: Churchill Cottage, Front Street, Pebworth, Stratford Upon Avon, CV37 8XQ Description of Proposal: Single-storey rear extension. Not enough responses received from Cllrs to respond. b) W/25/00609/HP Location: The Granary, 2 Rookery Court, Back Lane, Pebworth, Stratford Upon Avon, CV37 8XA Description of Proposal: Partial raising of an existing roof and changes to

	fenestration. Cllr Shiers remained in the meeting but did not take part in the discussion. Following discussion Clerk to respond “No objection”																																																					
7.	<p>Finance:</p> <p>a) Council noted the Clerk’s report on payments made since the last meeting.</p> <table border="1"> <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>Bench installations</td> <td>840.00</td> <td>140.00</td> <td>700.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>Pebworth Village Hall</td> <td>Hire of Hall - Defib Training</td> <td>40.00</td> <td></td> <td>40.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>Simply Stone</td> <td>Headstone Remedial Works</td> <td>1080.00</td> <td></td> <td>1080.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>Brodie Planning Assoc</td> <td>Grant App Works</td> <td>288.00</td> <td>48.00</td> <td>240.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>Karen Pearson</td> <td>Village Website Domain</td> <td>23.96</td> <td>0.00</td> <td>23.96</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>John Hyde</td> <td>Lman Works</td> <td>114.40</td> <td></td> <td>114.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2386.36</td> <td>188.00</td> <td>2198.36</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>b) 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.</p> <p>c) Members noted the interim internal audit report.</p> <p>d) Members noted the response from CCLA. Cllr McCluskey will follow up with CCLA to obtain additional information. It was agreed that the decision regarding potential investment in CCLA would be deferred for a period of three months.</p> <p>e) It was unanimously approved for Clerk to apply for a Business debit card.</p> <p>f) Members noted the S137 for 25/26 has been announced as £11.10. This is the amount as a result from increasing the amount of £10.81 for 2024-2025 by the percentage increase in the retail price index between September 2023 and September 2024, in accordance with Schedule 12B to the 1972 Act.</p> <p>g) Consideration was given to the fourth quarterly bank reconciliation, account balances and income and expenditure budgets. These were agreed by all Members.</p>						PAYMENT	PAYEE	DETAILS	TOTAL	VAT	NET	BACS	Limebridge Rural Services	Bench installations	840.00	140.00	700.00	BACS	Pebworth Village Hall	Hire of Hall - Defib Training	40.00		40.00	BACS	Simply Stone	Headstone Remedial Works	1080.00		1080.00	BACS	Brodie Planning Assoc	Grant App Works	288.00	48.00	240.00	BACS	Karen Pearson	Village Website Domain	23.96	0.00	23.96	BACS	John Hyde	Lman Works	114.40		114.40				2386.36	188.00	2198.36
PAYMENT	PAYEE	DETAILS	TOTAL	VAT	NET																																																	
BACS	Limebridge Rural Services	Bench installations	840.00	140.00	700.00																																																	
BACS	Pebworth Village Hall	Hire of Hall - Defib Training	40.00		40.00																																																	
BACS	Simply Stone	Headstone Remedial Works	1080.00		1080.00																																																	
BACS	Brodie Planning Assoc	Grant App Works	288.00	48.00	240.00																																																	
BACS	Karen Pearson	Village Website Domain	23.96	0.00	23.96																																																	
BACS	John Hyde	Lman Works	114.40		114.40																																																	
			2386.36	188.00	2198.36																																																	
8.	<p>Council & Community Matters:</p> <p>Members noted:</p> <p>a) Response from Unimetals re litter complaint forwarded 5.3.25</p> <p>b) Response from MRW Skips re litter complaint forwarded 19.3.25</p> <p>c) Trees Call to Action Project funding has now expired. Funding will be open again in Oct/Nov.</p> <p>d) Representation was made for the SWLP consultation - Draft Policy Direction 2 – Potential New Settlements E1 Long Marston Airfield. Details can be found on the Parish Council website.</p> <p>e) Grant received from Wychavon District Council in the sum of £250 towards VE Day Celebrations. Clerk to contact WDC to see if the Parish Council can pass the money on to the school for celebrations.</p> <p>f) An email had been received from Marston Sicca Parish Council proposing the Parish Council contribute towards the purchase of a bus shelter. After careful consideration Members decided that the Parish Council’s finances are not in a position to contribute financially to this project.</p> <p>g) Members considered the ‘Parish Priorities’. Clerk to respond once Cllr McCluskey has forwarded the relevant information..</p> <p>h) Members noted the email regarding Parish Games.</p> <p>i) It was brought to the Parish Council’s attention that Pebworth in Bloom had arranged for a litter pick to be carried out. It was astounding to hear that an incredible 46 bags of rubbish were collected, along with vehicle parts, wheels, tyres, and even a ceramic bathtub! The effort and teamwork shown by all involved reflect the fantastic community spirit that makes Pebworth such a special place. Clerk to send a letter of thanks and add to social media.</p>																																																					
9.	<p>Meon Way Gardens:</p> <p>a) Cllr Pearson provided an update regarding the consultation responses to the Public Open Space. Persimmon have proposed some changes. Cllr Pearson will return to Persimmon expressing some concerns regarding too much access to the open space which could result in unwanted visitors.</p>																																																					

	b) Members noted Citizen Housing response re the litter complaint.
10.	Neighbourhood Development Plan: a) Members considered the proposed examples of the covering letter and questionnaire. They have requested a personalised questionnaire be provided; from that they will be able to consider the covering letter. b) Cllr Pearson shared an update on the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). Unfortunately, although the official deadline to apply for the Locality Grant Funding was 31st March, due to the ongoing high demand for neighbourhood planning support, all available funding was fully allocated by early February 2025. It is hoped that further funding will become available however Members may need to consider funding the full amount.
11.	The Close & Recreation Field a) Members noted the annual inspection reports. It was resolved to carry out all minor maintenance works, excluding the increasing the height of the swings, MUGA and golf net. b) Members noted damage caused by amenity contractor on the Recreation Field who have confirmed they will carry out the repairs. c) The request for a pétanque court was discussed during Open Forum.
12.	Burial Ground: Members noted the remedial works to headstones have been carried out.
13.	Allotments: a) Members noted a half allotment plot number 7 has been relinquished and offered to next person on b) waiting list. c) Members noted there are still 2 invoices outstanding which have been chased.
14.	Highway Matters: Nothing to report
15.	Lengthsman/Handyman Matters: a) New and outstanding Lengthsman/Handyman matters: Reflectors have been replaced on several oak bollards on Front St. The missing bollard is still to be replaced. b) Future Tasks: - Carry out an inspection of and clean bus shelters - Spray weeds throughout the parish. c) The VAS data was noted
16.	Policy Reviews: a) Media – this was reviewed and accepted with a 12 month review. b) Zero Tolerance - this was reviewed and accepted with a 24 month review
17.	Matters Raised by Members: The following matters were raised by Council Members for consideration for future agendas: a) Nothing raised
18.	Date of Next Meeting: Council confirmed the date of the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm on Monday 28 th April 2025 at the Village Hall, Pebworth Council confirmed the date of the Annual Council Meeting at 7.00pm on Monday 12 th May 2025 at 7pm at the Village Hall, Pebworth, followed directly by the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting.
19.	Closure of Meeting: The Chairman closed the meeting at 20:55hrs

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

FINANCE

Verified & Confirmed Account Balances as at 31st March 2025

Treasurers Account	5,239.05
Business Bank Instant	50,551.87

Total	55,790.92
-------	-----------

APPENDIX A

PAYMENT	PAYEE	DETAILS	TOTAL	VAT	NET
BACS	HMRC	Clerk & P C Tax & NIC	****		****
BACS	Mrs D Bowles	Clerk's Salary & Expenses	****		****
BACS	Limebridge Rural Services	Amenity Mowing & Burial Ground	988.80	164.80	824.00
BACS	PlaySafety	Annual Inspection Reports	264.00	44.00	220.00
DD	Nest	Clerk's Pension	****		****
DD	O2	Mobile Phone	10.03	1.67	8.36
DD	Tomato Energy	Streetlight Energy	30.15	1.44	28.71
DD	Tomato Energy	Streetlight Energy	33.26	1.58	31.68
DD	Tomato Energy	Streetlight Energy	315.66	15.03	300.63

APPENDIX B – COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

County Councillor Report – Pebworth**Month: March/April 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

Sadly this is my last report to you as County Councillor. I am standing down after 12 years of service, and hopefully you will agree a lot has been achieved in those years.

Here are a few examples:-

Broadband

When I first stood for election Pebworth had terribly slow Broadband – most of us were getting 2-4 Mbps – and my first election promise was to improve Broadband. With the County Council's help and funding we managed to get Superfast Broadband (minimum 30Mbps) by installing fibre to the cabinet in Pebworth which gave speeds up to 10 times faster. But although residents in the village were getting Superfast, those on the outskirts in Broad Marston and Ullington were still struggling with low speeds. Again with the help and funding from County Council, Gigafast overhead cabling was installed giving these houses up to 100Mbps. And the latest news is BT/Openreach have plans to bring Gigafast to the whole of Pebworth in the next 2 years.

Roads and Pavements & kerbs

New pavements have been laid in Front Street, Friday Street, Broad Marston Rd, Chapel Rd and Pebworth Rd. New blue lias stone kerbs were fitted in Front St/Back Lane. New conservation kerbs in Pebworth Rd. Most of the roads have been either patched, re-surfaced or surfaced dressed, and pot holes when they do occur have been repaired promptly.

Speeding

Working with Safer Road Partnerships, mobile speed camera vans now visit the wider area to enforce the speed limits, and new speed limits have been introduced and/or extended. The Highways engineers have also installed improved signage and some traffic calming measures.

Drainage & Flooding

Flooding was a frequent event in our area and I have spent considerable time in the last 12 years trying to improve the situation. The first success was working with Cala Homes and the District Council to build a flood plain in Wesley Gardens. Since this has been built, Elm Close has not flooded. The next area to be helped was

Priory Lane and a major drainage system was installed by Highways – one at the end of Priory Lane, and one at the entrance to Priory Lane, both have made a considerable difference. Then with the help of the then resident of Broad Marston Manor (Ellie Golding), and the Heart of England Forest a large flood plain was built by the Railway Bridge on the corner of Mickleton Rd holding back 1000's of gallons of flood water. This helped but further tweaking was required which resulted with a secondary flood plain being built on land owned by the Priory with the kind help from the current owner. Further improvements to road gullies/ non-return valves/ headwalls/ replacement pipework in Broad Marston and in Pebworth were fitted by Highways. The Parish Council also paid for improvements to the ditches and a modified bridge over a waterway in Broad Marston. Currently a bund in Broad Marston is being built in a farmer's field to stop water flowing onto the road. Further afield, major work in Honeybourne has occurred to stop the railway bridges and the crossroads flooding.

Divisional Fund

As a County Councillor I have a small amount of money each year to help community groups and Pebworth has benefitted from this fund; here are few examples;

Pebworth in Bloom; new lawn mower and signs at each entrance to the village "Regional Winner of Britain in Bloom". Also plants and shrubs for the Biodiversity wetlands and tree shields

Pebworth Bowls Club – new mat and bowls

Village Hall – blinds for Mary's room, and projector screen & projector, and refurbishment of wooden floor

Pebworth Party in the Park – flags & signage

Pebworth Rural Cinema – New fridge shared with the village hall, and a blu-ray player

Coffee of the Close – soup kettle

Pebworth Bell ringers – contribution to a new website

St Peters – contribution to a new notice board

Meon Vale Residents – contribution to their Halloween event

Pebworth School – books

Pebworth Collective – contribution towards the to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee village event

Grant for the York stone for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee commemorative monument in the recreational field.

Honey Tots Playgroup – play equipment

Pebworth PROW volunteers – tools and some kissing gates

Refurbishment of the old telephone box to hold the village defibrillator

Goal posts for the recreational field

Paint for the railings around the village

Contribution for a new marquee for village events

Pebworth village choir – a new electric piano

County Council organisation

I was the chairman of Environment Overview & Scrutiny, and the committee looked at ways to improve the efficiency of the council and there were several major recommendations that have been adopted. Here are some behind the scenes improvements; 1. the highway drainage map that is on the WCC website which helps report blocked highways drains, 2. the frequency of gullies cleansing, 3. the ways the public can report issues with the highways network and receive better feedback, 4. improved flood alleviation schemes and traffic calming, and 5. faster building of highways infrastructure like roundabouts, zebra crossings and junctions under section 278.

So a lot has happened, but it is time to hand over the baton to a new County Councillor.

It has been a pleasure working with so many of you over the 12 years.

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.

The elections on 1st May will elect the county councillors that will ultimately dissolve the County Council and design the new unitary body.

From my prospective, I think abolishing the county council and the 6 District councils is crazy especially when you consider what else is going on in the world; why throw something else into to chaos? However, I wish them the best.

Update on flood alleviation work

1. Gullys under Honeybourne Bridges - Further jetting has been organised to clear outflow pipes to further improve the situation. Still awaiting confirmation this has been completed
2. Now the dry weather is here the bund in farmers field by the Honeybourne bridges can be extended and completed.
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, now the dry weather is here the bund in the field opposite Cotswold View can be completed too.
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. No date yet confirmed.

Highways

- Pavement along Pebworth Rd has been resurfaced last month. Also the drainage from the gullies along this road have also been improved by excavating the outflow. Also the 30mph signs have been repainted on the road. – see below



- Gullies and highway drains by the Church Car Park have been repaired in March. Still some further work needed to investigate the partial blockage somewhere down Back Lane.
- Junctions into Elm Close and into Cherry Lane have been reported for patching in week commencing 19th May
- “Worcestershire” sign-post to be erected at the entrance into Meon View Gardens.
- **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.
- Also can I remind the village lengthsmen to spray weed kill on the weeds and grass growing along the pavements and kerbs around the village.

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

At the beginning of March another meeting occurred at Honeybourne Railway Station with Network Rail and the Deputy MD of Wychavon District Council. The latest quote from NR is £2.3 million for a level crossing which is still far too expensive !

County Council Divisional Fund

Applications for the 2024/25 Divisional Fund are now closed..

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
16. Littletons Football Club – new goal posts & nets
17. Badsey Belles WI – new branded clothing
18. Friends of Honeybourne Railway Station – tools and new notice board
19. Pebworth in Bloom – New mower
20. Pebworth Rural Cinema/Village Hall – new fridge

So farewell as your County Councillor, but I will see you around the village and in the pub!

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: Middlesex from Pebworth

Project Notes:

Location/Name:

Report Generated: 03/04/2025 07:57:59

Speed Intervals:

5 MPH

Time Intervals:

Instant

Traffic Report From: 01/03/2025 00:00:00 through 19/03/2025 11:59:59

85th Percentile Speed:

35.5 MPH

85th Percentile Vehicles:

8535

Max Speed:

70 MPH

Total Vehicles:

10041

AADT:

542

on 06/03/2025 03:35:00

Volumes -

weekly counts

Time	5 Day	7 Day
Average Daily	589	542
AM Peak	58	48
PM Peak	51	46

Speed

Speed Limit:

30

85th Percentile Speed:

35.5

50th Percentile Speed:

29.5

10 MPH Pace Interval:

25.0 MPH

to

35.0 MPH

Average Speed:

29.33

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Count over limit	694	882	671	572	655	682	509
% over limit	44.1	48.3	48.0	47.0	44.1	48.1	45.1
Avg Speeder	34.6	34.7	34.9	34.8	34.6	34.7	34.7
Avg Speed	19.8	19.3	19.1	19.6	17.8	20.4	21.4

For Project: Meon Gardens
 Project Notes:
 Location/Name: Incoming
 Report Generated: 03/04/2025 08:06:02
 Speed Intervals: 5 MPH
 Time Intervals: Instant
 Traffic Report From: 19/03/2025 11:00:00 through 31/03/2025 09:59:59
 85th Percentile Speed: 23.8 MPH
 85th Percentile Vehicles: 7590
 Max Speed: 40 MPH on 27/03/2025 13:05:00
 Total Vehicles: 8929
 AADT: 746

Volumes - weekly counts

Time	5 Day	7 Day
Average Daily	745	697
AM Peak	63	46
PM Peak	86	76

Speed

Speed Limit: 30
 85th Percentile Speed: 23.8
 50th Percentile Speed: 19.5
 10 MPH Pace Interval: 15.0 MPH to 25.0 MPH
 Average Speed: 19.41

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Count over limit	4	0	4	8	2	7	4
% over limit	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.4
Avg Speeder	32.5	0.0	32.5	33.1	32.5	33.2	32.5
Avg Speed	9.5	8.9	9.3	9.2	9.2	10.4	11.2