

PEOPLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk Lisa Cope, Email: peopletonpc@gmail.com Tel: 07773793185
Address: Walcote, Top Street, Charlton WR10 3LE

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 7.30pm in Peopleton Village Hall

1. **Members and Officers present:** Cllrs Mason (Chair), Wall, Phillips, Darby, MacCalman, Bailey and District and County Cllr Robinson. Five members of the public attended.
2. **Apologies:** Cllrs Baxter, Povey and Harbon sent their apologies
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None

Public Question Time

The time allocated is at the discretion of the council/chairman. Residents are invited to give their views and question the parish council on issues on this agenda or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the chairman. Members of the public may not take part in the parish council meeting itself. This period is not part of the formal meeting; brief notes will be appended to the minutes as an aide memoire.

4. **Minutes:** The minutes from the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th January 2024 and the minutes from the Extra ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 31st January 2024 were approved as true and correct as proposed by Cllr Wall and seconded by Darby.
5. **County & District Councillors report:**

It has been a busy time recently at both authorities with their Spring's Budget having now been approved.

County council

It has been finalised to cover a net £ 22.2m. overspend in funding. This is in line with many other regional authorities across the country with several like Birmingham having declared bankruptcy and been served with 114 notices from Government. Birmingham residents are facing a 21% tax increase. Happily, we are not in that position but significant pressures have been highlighted in respect of children social care payments, home to school transport and adult social care.

Our County Council's tax precept will increase to 4.99%. in relation to two parts.

2% Adult Social care precept ring- fenced in order to contribute to existing cost pressures due to Worcestershire's ageing population.

2.99% for other Council services to provide financial support for the delivery of outcomes in line with the Corporate plan 'Shaping Worcestershire's Future and the priorities identified by the public and business community.

Council officers have been offered voluntary redundancies to help reduce costs with other cost cutting measures under discussion. It was announced that this will not affect frontline services and that we are still moving forward with existing schemes. The continued year on year increase in the cost of children social care placements emphasize the importance of continuing the drive to recruit foster carers.

Much of County Hall remains closed due to the presence of RAAC being discovered in some of its concrete. Full Council & Planning meetings are being held at District offices to be able accommodate large numbers.

Wychavon unveils ambitious new plan for the district

Supporting residents' health and wellbeing, boosting the natural environment, transforming town centres and increasing access to housing are at the heart of Wychavon's new plan for the district.

The We Are Wychavon Plan includes 29 promises to be delivered over the next four years based on the council's priorities of People, Place and Environment.

Feedback from residents, young people, councillors and information on the local needs of the district have been used to create the plan.

PEOPLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Lisa Cope [Tel:07773793185](tel:07773793185) Email: peopletonpc@gmail.com

Key promises include:

- Supporting the development of the district's existing health and wellbeing hubs and introducing tailored health and wellbeing support in at least ten villages.
- Identifying households at risk of hardship and providing preventative advice and support.
- Extending Wychavon's social mobility small grants scheme to increase activities and opportunities for more young people.
- Creating a new housing facility in the north of the district to provide support to homeless young people so they can move on to independent homes.
- Driving investment in the key sites identified in the town centre prospectuses including the Riverside Centre in Evesham, Droitwich Spa lido and reconnecting Pershore with the riverside.
- Raising career aspirations for adults and young people including creating school-business partnerships to connect people with local employers and training opportunities.
- Working with partners to develop a plan for reducing traffic congestion in Evesham and deliver a new cycling and walking route between the town centre and the surrounding areas.
- Supporting small businesses to access training, receive specialist support or grant funding to respond to climate change.
- Increasing biodiversity and natural assets in our parks and green spaces and increasing their resilience to climate change while retaining their value for users.
- Continuing to deliver actions in Wychavon's Intelligently Green Plan to reduce the council's carbon footprint including significantly cutting emissions from council-owned leisure centres.
- The plan was approved at a Wychavon Council meeting on Wednesday 21 February. It is available to read in full at www.wychavon.gov.uk/we-are-wychavon.
- It has also been agreed to increase Wychavon's share of the Council Tax bill by £5 a year – the first increase for six years. The average Band D Council Tax bill for Wychavon will rise to £125.08 a year from April.
- "Despite this rise, our Council Tax will still be the lowest in Worcestershire and one of the lowest in the country and we'll work hard to make sure we are using taxpayers' money efficiently and delivering value for every pound spent."

New WCC Rail Strategy

The county council has unveiled a brand-new rail strategy to transform travel across Worcestershire.

The ambitious plan from Worcestershire County Council includes more frequent trains to London, greater country-wide connectivity, a fast Worcestershire to Bristol service, Worcester Shrub Hill and Redditch masterplan implementation and parking developments.

Parkway station which is the first new station to open in Worcs.in one hundred years continues to encourage passengers with more than half a million trips made last year. Plans to extend the parking are being considered.

The county council hope the plans will help deliver better rail improvements across the county and set medium and long-term proposals to support and build on passenger demand until 2050

"The strategy highlights the county's ambitions for driving forward rail improvements, recognising the role that rail plays in connecting people, communities, and businesses."

For more information visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/travel-and-highways/transport-strategy-and-planning/strategies-and-plans

Measles Outbreak

THE Director of Public Health for Worcestershire has urged people and parents across the county to make sure theirs and their children's MMR vaccines are up to date after measles cases soared across the West Midlands. Figures published on the 8th February show 329 of 465 (71%0 cases across England from October to February were in that region.

PEOPLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk Lisa Cope, Email: peopletonpc@gmail.com Tel: 07773793185
Address: Walcote, Top Street, Charlton WR10 3LE

Around 80 per cent of cases have been in Birmingham, but Coventry, with 10 per cent, saw the second steepest rise.

Worcestershire is currently free of cases but officials want to maintain that status.

Lisa McNally said the full vaccination rates for the MMR in Worcestershire are among the highest in the region, but added: "However there are around 4'000 primary school aged children, and some adults, not vaccinated – and so they are at risk of serious illness."

UKHSA health professionals are concerned figures will rise quickly as, while most parents ensure their children get both MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) doses, in some communities' uptake of the MMR vaccine is worryingly low which has led to the spread.

Measles spreads very easily among those unvaccinated, especially in nurseries and schools, and is a nasty illness. In some children it can lead to hospitalisation and in rare cases causes death.

Babies, young children, pregnant women and people with weakened immunity, are at increased risk of complications if they catch measles. To increase the vaccination rate popup clinics are being organised in February at local libraries in Worcestershire on Saturdays especially focussing on vaccinating children.

6. **Planning:** Cllrs discussed the following planning application:

W/24/00428/FUL	Highgrove Farm Seaford Pinvin Pershore WR10 2LF	New agricultural access	Pending Decision
--------------------------------	--	----------------------------	---------------------

Cllr Darby proposed a comment that Cllrs noted that this is a significant new access road being built rather than a small entrance, Cllr Mason seconded the comment with all Cllrs in agreement- Clerk to action.

7. **Progress reports:**

a) Chairman's- TM

Cllr Mason asked Cllrs to consider attending the Worcestershire County Council Town and Parish Councils Conference on Wednesday 12 June 2024 from 6 – 9pm, to be held at Wyre Forest District as he is unable to attend.

The Crown Pub has raised concern about School parents using the car park for School drop off and collections and parking inconsiderately, however since liaising with the School Headteacher and placing a notice up the situation has improved.

b) Village Trust- LB

The Hall is still busy with bookings and regular cricket and football taking place in the grounds.

New acoustic boards have been installed in the Village Hall at a cost of £700 with a kind donation from the Scouts of £300 towards this.

A grant has been obtained from Wychavon with thanks to Steve Pike and Steve Smith for working on this application, the Village Trust will need to raise £8,000 but then £22,000 will be match funded from Wychavon for all new doors and windows for the building to make it more energy efficient, with thanks to Wychavon for awarding this grant.

An issue has however this week been raised with a major sewerage block up outside of the Hall, they are awaiting a drainage engineer, but this could prove a costly repair to fix.

c) Village shop-TM

Sales are reasonable and improved on sales this time last year, also looking at how costs can be reduced.

d) Community policing charter-DH

The local Policing team enquired about meeting dates and current Policing issues- responded with the three top priorities being burglary, speeding and anti- social behaviour.

PEOPLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Lisa Cope [Tel:07773793185](tel:07773793185) Email: peopletonpc@gmail.com

e) Lengthsman-LB

All going well, the drains are regularly checked and the VAS is back up and working after a new battery was fitted.

f) Rights of Way-LB

Man-hole cover outside the White House still remains sinking and has been reported for some time now- Severn Trent own the cover. Cllr Robinson to chase again.

There is a dip in the road by Barrells Bridge which is a Byway and Cllr Robinson has reported to highways, Phil Caulsdon is going to inspect it as soon as the water levels have gone down.

g) Flooding- DW

The flood alleviation scheme continues to operate efficiently in the Village.

Cllr Bailey still liaising with landowners regarding ditches that require clearing.

The drainage department have inspected the ditch into the village running from alongside the A44 which required clearing and he will inform the landowner.

8. Finance

a) Update on the budget/ Bank balance as of 26th February 2024

Treasurers Account £14,049.42
Business Instant Account £7,675.91

b) The following payments were approved for the Clerk to pay, as proposed by Cllr Wall and seconded by Cllr Phillips.

Lengthsman January	£96.00
Clerk's salary	£529.66
Clerk's expenses	£12.42
Lengthsman February	£104.00
Clerk tax HMRC	£89.90
PATA Payroll	£33.95

c) Internal Auditor- It was proposed by Cllr Wall and seconded by Cllr Bailey to ask Nigel Clay if he would be happy to internally audit the accounts for the year- all Cllrs agreed, Clerk to action.

Cllr Mason shared that the Parish Council had been asked to hold £2,000 in funds from the 'Peopleton Players' who are no longer operating. The funds are in waiting if a new Arts or Dramatics group wished to start again in the village.

Cllrs discussed holding the funds and it was proposed by Cllr Phillips that the group should seek advice from the Arts Council on what should happen to the funds in this situation- all Cllrs agreed Cllr Mason to pass this back.

Cllr Mason also followed up the November meeting on moving some Parish Council funds into an account with a higher interest rate- the Clerk suggested the easiest option would be to move to a different account within Lloyds Bank- all Cllrs agreed Clerk to action.

9. Crime update

Nothing to report

10. Enforcement

Nothing to report

11. The Crown Pub

Cllrs MacCalman and Harbon met with Martin Cartwright from Sheldon Inns, the Pub has interests from Heineken, Sheldon Inns who manage everything internal to the pub and Star pubs who manage everything external on the Pub. Sheldon Inns are committed and want to make the pub a success and are looking to sign another five year lease on The Crown.

PEOPLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk Lisa Cope, Email: peopletonpc@gmail.com Tel: 07773793185
Address: Walcote, Top Street, Charlton WR10 3LE

The Cllrs enquired as to whether they and other villagers could help tidy up the Pub externally but unfortunately this is not possible due to insurance purposes.

Cllr Darby thanked Cllrs MacCalman and Harbon for all the research undertaken on the Crown as it has now given the Parish Council a much better insight into the ownership and management of the Pub.

All agreed to now take the Pub off the agenda for future meetings at present.

12. Correspondence for Information

- a) Parish Games- Clerk to forward all Parish Games correspondence ongoing to Kate Saint
- b) Mr Ragbourne's email dated 12th February 2024 was circulated to all Cllrs to consider before the meeting detailing consent notice to changes on the watercourse in Peopleton. Cllr Robinson to follow up with the drainage department why the Parish Council and herself were not consulted before any approval was given.
Cllr Mason requested the Clerk contact the drainage department and ask why the Parish Council were not consulted on the works and if they can be for any future changes.
- c) Cllr Mason shared correspondence regarding community orchard and forest funding, the scheme has now closed but Cllr Robinson explained that it will run again in the future and it is worth noting.

13. Future agenda items and reports: None

- 14. **Date of next meeting:** To confirm the date of the next Meeting is Wednesday 15th May 2024 at 7:00pm, this is the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7:30pm

The meeting closed at 9pm

Signed

Dated.....

Future meetings

May	15/05/24
July	10/07/24
September	11/09/24

AIDE MEMOIR

No parishioners wished to speak at question time.