

St Peter the Great County Parish Council

Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on **Thursday 9th February 2023 at 19:30** in St Peter's Village Hall Worcester, WR5 3TA.

Present: Chairman Cllr. Mr. A. Tucker. Cllrs. Mr. P. Walters, Mr. J. Renshaw, Mr. D. Saunders, Mr. R. Knight, Mr A. Tidy, Mrs. A. Wytcherley & Mr. J. Woolgar.

Also present: Thirty-one members of public, City & County Cllr. Mr. S. Mackay , City Cllr. Dr. S. Cockerham and the Clerk.

1223 Apologies for Absence: None.

1323 Declarations of Interest: Cllr. Knight declared an interest in matters relating to St Peter's Village Hall Association.

Public Participation: Thirty-one members of public were in attendance. Due to the number of members of the public present, the Chairman took the opportunity to remind attendees about the Parish Council Standing Orders that state 'members of the public who are residents of the Parish are permitted to make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of any item included in the agenda. Individual non-resident members of the public may be granted similar permission at the discretion of the Chairman or by resolution of the Council, subject to any such person giving notice to the Clerk of their wish to address the Council at least 48 hours before the scheduled start or the relevant Council meeting.

The Chairman noted that several residents from Battenhall were attending the meeting. Given the number present on this occasion, the Chairman used discretion for those individuals to make representations although the relevant notice had not been given for consideration. The Chairman clarified that it was for residents of St Peter's and Battenhall who could make representations at this meeting.

The Chairman made it clear that the public participation session was not related to the Play Consultation currently being undertaken by the City Council. It was noted by the Chairman that currently no formal consultations or session were planned by the City Council for the south of the city. The Chairman also confirmed that in relation to the pump track it was apparent that the proposal had not got to the stage of any formal consultation.

The following matters were discussed:

- Pump track:
 - The Chairman requested Cllr. Mackay to provide a review of the proposal to create a pump track. It was confirmed that this is a City Council project on City Council owned land.
 - Residents made strong representations for and against the pump track.
 - Following the conclusion of this item, the Chairman sought, and received verbal consensus with those present that :
 - A pump track in St Peter's is a good idea.
 - There were a wide range of strong views regarding where it should be located.
 - Council confirmed that updates would be provided for the residents of St Peter's immediately once provided by the City Council.
 - Residents were encouraged to make comments on the Play Consultation web page.
- 5G mobile communications mast – A proposal has been submitted to install a 5G mast on land near to the Baptist Church. No comments were made regarding this proposal.

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- Carrington Bridge underpass. There was concern regarding the current and future level of graffiti in the underpass even with CCTV in place. A resident raised a proposal for adding a large mural to this area to minimise the likelihood of further tagging and graffiti and discussed ideas for how this could be achieved. The proposal was supported by the majority of Councillors present.
- Wildflower area. A resident noted that over the last few months the wildflower areas in Power Park appeared to need some work and made a proposal that the Parish Council should engage with local residents to look after and adopt wildflower areas. This idea could be extended to other existing or new wildflower areas in St Peter's and across the city. Cllr. Tidy confirmed that in relation to the Power Park wildflower areas the warden had just begun work on these for the new season. Cllr. Tidy was in support of the idea of residents adopting wildflower areas and support would be given from the Friends of St Peters Parks and the Warden should this suggestion come to fruition.
- A resident enquired if there could be more notice boards around the Parish.

1423 Adoption of Minutes: Council agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 12th January 2023. The Chairman duly signed the master copy which would be held within the minute book.

1523 Reports from District and County Councillors:

- a. Cllr. Cockerham provided a verbal report covering:
 - i. The recent levelling up bid was unfortunately unsuccessful.
 - ii. An update on Voter ID requirements for the upcoming elections.
- b. City and County Cllr. Mackay had submitted a written report prior to the meeting covering County and City issues. Council noted the report which included:
 - i. Community sustainability grants of up to £1000 continue to be available.
 - ii. Small enterprises hosting a dragon's den style event set to return to Worcester.

1623 Matters arising and action sheet: Council received updates on the latest actions:

- a. New graffiti has been seen on Broomhall footbridge. Cllr Tidy has requested removal.
- b. The Clerk circulated invoices in relation to the proposed community facility.
- c. Newslink. Cllr. Saunders raised the issue of the number of publications throughout the year. There was a discussion on the subject, and it was noted Council has no budget allocated to this for the financial year 2023/24.
- d. Council agreed to the proposal for Cllr. Woolgar to be confirmed as portfolio holder for communications and media.
- e. Grass matting around gym equipment – The City Council are reportedly providing grass matting and the Warden will be tasked with installing it.
- f. Cllr. Mackay confirmed that work is ongoing with WEG to help install bat and bird boxes in St Peter's.
- g. Ketch viewpoint notice board – Cllr. Knight has requested confirmation of provision for signage in the new viewpoint area. Cllr. Knight to request further information from County Highways.
- h. Election cycle – The Clerk and Cllr. Walters had recently met with Warndon Parish Council to confirm a joint approach to proposed changes in the election cycle. Council agreed to the proposed preferences for changes to the election cycle and requested the Clerk confirm with the City Council in collaboration with Warndon Parish Council.
- i. Path surfaces – Councillors were requested to communicate poor quality pedways to the Clerk. Dereham Pedway is agreed to be the worst surfaced path in the Parish.
- j. Highways. The Chairman is working with Cllr. Mackay to setup a meeting with a senior member of Highways.
- k. The CCTV is now in place covering the underpass at Carrington Bridge, the system is now working.

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- l. Following liaison with Warndon Parish Council regarding the Warden scheme, Council is waiting for a meeting with the City to cover multiple issues including the cessation of inspections at Area 51 play area, the requested inspection work at the outdoor gym equipment, and the promised £12k funding for play equipment in Power Park.
- m. Repairs to wooden planters at Tesco have not been completed yet.
- n. The Jubilee tree for Jasmine Close to be planted in February.
- o. The Clerk provided Cllr. Wytcherley with a Parish Council name badge.

1723 Highways, Developments & Planning:

- a. Council has tried over many months to communicate with Highways representatives to highlight long-term issues of concern. The Chairman is communicating with Cllr. Mackay with a view to facilitate a meeting with Highways.

1823 Finance:

- a. The Clerk presented a verbal report and confirmed the latest financial position of Council including a quarterly update and budget forecast to the end of the financial year.
- b. Council approved the following payments, including those made since the last meeting under delegated authority.

Amount	Payable To	Reason for Payment
£3600.00	Herlig Architecture	New community facility preparation for RIBA stage 4. Invoice 1291
£3600.00	Herlig Architecture	New community facility preparation for RIBA stage 4. Invoice 1290
£1920.00	Greenwood Projects	New community facility – Quantity surveying services, RIBA stage 3 & stage 4.
£200.00	St Peter's Over 60's Club	Grant donation

1923 Clerks Report: To receive a report from the Clerk on correspondence to the Council and other pertinent administrative matters:

- a. Further communication from Electoral Services regarding the approaching potential electoral period and expected election costs.
- b. Latest update from Clerks and Councils Direct.

2023 Portfolio Holder Reports:

- a. **Parish Festival:** Cllr. Renshaw gave a short update on recent actions including a working party where considerations were raised regarding the fee structure for stall holders in 2023. Council agreed to the proposal. Council requested Cllr. Renshaw confirm the recommendations subject to feedback from the festival organiser and report back to Council if the range and number of stallholder applications are limited due to the changed fee structure. Next working party Monday 6th March at 19:30 via Zoom.
- b. **Local Planning:** Cllr. Saunders gave a verbal update including details of the proposed date for the next City Council planning committee meeting at which the application for the traveller site on the A4440 may be considered.
- c. **Community Engagement:**
 - i. Cllr. Wytcherley continues to encourage local groups to apply for grant funding from the Parish Council.

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- d. **Environment:**
 - i. Cllr. Tidy provided an update on tree planting plans.
 - ii. The next litter pick is to be held on 30th March at 10am by Tesco play area.
 - iii. Cllr. Tidy has submitted an environmental sustainability grant funding request to the City Council for trees.
- e. **PACT:** Cllr. Walters provided an update on recent community policing matters.
 - i. At the recent PACT meeting, Police representatives presented reports of locally reported crimes. Some of the definitions and language of the different types of crime were reported by attendees to the meeting as being concerning. Council requested Cllr. Walters write to the PCC to request further information regarding this matter.
- f. **AOB:**
 - i. Cllr. Tidy gave an update regarding 30th anniversary of the Village Hall and paid tribute to the founding members of the Village Hall Association for many years of dedicated service to the community in St Peter's.

2123 Date of Next Meeting: The date of the next Parish Council Meeting was proposed as Thursday 9th March 2022 at 19:30, at St Peter's Village Hall, Worcester WR5 3TA.

2223 Confidential item: Council received an update regarding progress of the new community facility including the recently submitted planning application. Due to the stage of the project, and confirmation that the Parish Council are the only organisation who can reclaim VAT on invoices at this stage, the Chairman proposed to Council to expediate the expenditure for the community facility and make available access to the whole agreed expenditure as required and to delegate authority to the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements to ensure payments for all invoices within the agreed expenditure limit going forward. Council agreed to the proposal. Council requested the Clerk keep Councillors up to date with expenditure on this project.

Signed.....

Chairman

Date.....