

St Peter the Great County Parish Council

Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on **Thursday 11th January 2024 at 19:30** in St Peter's Village Hall Worcester, WR5 3TA.

Present: Chairman Cllr. Mr. P. Walters, Cllrs. Mr. A. Tidy, Mrs. A. Wytcherley, Mr. P. James, Mr. J. Renshaw, Mrs K. Evans, Mr. D. Saunders, and Mrs. L. Hodges.

Also present: The Clerk, two City Councillors, the County Councillor and one member of the public.

00124 Apologies for Absence: Cllr. Mr. R. Knight – holiday.

00224 Declarations of Interest: Cllr. Tidy for matters relating to St Peter's Village Hall Association.

00324 Adoption of Minutes: Council agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 9th November 2023 as a true record of events. The Chairman duly signed the master copy which would be held within the minute book.

Public Participation: The Chairman suspended the meeting for public participation. One member of public was present. The following items were raised:

- A member of public attended to express multiple areas of concern regarding the Ketch roundabout.
 - The resident lives near to the roundabout and wished to express serious concern about the dangers of vehicles crossing the roundabout lanes on the south side of the traffic island heading towards Whittington and crashing off the road and over the green space towards the pedway at the southern end of Power Park.
 - Traffic volume and speed has increased dramatically since the road was widened and developed, meaning there is now a serious need for protection of pedestrians against stray vehicles. The resident has recorded several instances of crashes on this piece of road and has documented via photographs.
 - The resident therefore requests a barrier to protect vulnerable pedway users and suggests a new visit by local authorities to assess the new dangers the road poses. The resident has engaged with the PCC in the hope of setting up a meeting.
 - The resident feels it is impossible to see or gauge the speed of vehicles turning right onto the southern link road northbound from the A38. Due to the design of the roundabout, visibility across the slip road is hard to judge and the confusing and scattered road furniture is also profusely placed and obstructs the view of vehicles crossing the island.
 - County Cllr. Mackay confirmed that:
 - Meetings have been held at County level regarding this matter.
 - County has been advised that barriers could potentially increase the chances of a multi-vehicle collision.
 - A noise survey has now been commissioned.
 - Chairman Cllr. Walters requested another meeting with Highways to cover these matters.
 - Environmental portfolio holder Cllr. Tidy suggested tree planting and other landscaping measures such as a bund might help to absorb vehicle impacts and protect pedestrians on the pedway.
 - Cllr. Mackay agreed to return to the Highways team to request a meeting with interested parties.
- A resident thanked Cllr. Mackay and the Parish Council for installing another VAS on St Peter's Drive.

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00424 Report from City Councillors:

City Cllrs. Elena Round & Steve Cockeram provided a verbal update including:

- a. Heather Close Play area has now reopened.
- b. Batsford park play area has received some new play equipment although there are some issues with the new installation.
- c. A revised planning application has been submitted for the Scala Theatre.
- d. The pump track project is due to go before PED Committee on 29th January before then going to full Council.
- e. Council in progress of rolling out the Beryl bike scheme.

00524 Report from County Councillor:

County Cllr. Mackay had provided a written report to the Clerk covering County issues. Council noted the report, which included:

- a. Reminder for parents, the cut-off date for school registrations is 15th January.
- b. A new solar powered lamp will be fitted on the corner of the Tesco car park near Exbury Place.
- c. The new VAS has been installed on St Peter's Drive.
- d. Plans are still in place for the pedway resurfacing in the parish to be completed this year.
- e. The Parish Council have requested the installation of a new solar lamp on Batsford Play area.

00624 Tesco car park: The store manager was unfortunately not present at the meeting. It was confirmed that the new parking arrangements are already in place. It was agreed that Cllr. Renshaw would again invite the store manager to a future meeting.

00724 St Peter's Parish Festival: Cllr. Renshaw provided a verbal update following a festival working party on the 8th of January 2024.

- a. The Clerk had previously circulated the minutes of the working party meeting.
- b. The Festival Organiser has started booking stallholders.

00824 Matters arising and action sheet: Council reviewed the latest actions not covered elsewhere on the agenda:

- a. Outstanding matters relating to the annual meeting to be progressed.
- b. £12k play area allocation to Power Park. City Cllr. Round confirmed an update will be available in February for this project.
- c. Graffiti has been partially removed from several bridge locations across the parish.
- d. A new bank mandate needs to be completed for the Chairman and vice-Chairman.
- e. Bus service. Cllr. Evans suggested it would be beneficial to have further queries answered by Cllr. Rouse as previous attendance at PC meeting was useful. Council agreed to forward questions to Cllr. Rouse and request clarification when stop on demand will be available in St Peter's.

00924 Highways, Developments & Planning:

- a. Confirmation of the withdrawal of Lawful Development Certificate for Land on Broomhall Way.
- b. Planning permission has now been granted for the amended plans for the new community facility, including a change to opening times and the footprint of the facility due to the placement of a redundant underground service. Now awaiting confirmation of funding from The National Lottery.

01024 Electoral Cycle: The required consultation regarding the alignment of the Parish Council electoral cycles has now concluded. This matter was considered by the City Council Policy and

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Resources Committee 21st November 2023 with the outcome being that the committee chose option 2, to hold an election in 2024 and every four years thereafter. The recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee was then taken to full City Council on 28th November 2023. The Chairman of the Parish Council had written to all City Councillors ahead of the meeting and attended the full City Council meeting to address Councillors in person to explain the financial implications of holding another parish election within a year and again to confirm that option 1 was the preference of St Peter's Parish Council. At the City Council meeting, all City Councillors agreed to the recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee, to choose option 2, to hold an election in 2024. Electoral Services at the City Council have contacted the Clerk to confirm that the estimated cost for the election is now £9000. A resident in attendance at the Parish Council meeting requested to speak and noted:

- The cost of the election could have been spent elsewhere.
- The term of office could easily have been extended by the City Council by one year, which would have saved £9000k.
- The St Peter's City Councillors did not support the Parish Council on this decision which could have saved £9,000 of residents' money.

The Chairman confirmed the cost of the proposed election was equal to the parish precept for one in five homes in St Peter's. This decision, so close to budget setting, has been very difficult for the Parish Council to accommodate. It is likely there will be unfortunate consequences for the people of the Parish.

01124 Finance:

- a. The Clerk presented a quarter 3 financial report and gave an update on the current financial position of Council.
- b. Council approved the following payments, including those made since the last meeting under delegated authority:

Amount	Payable To	Reason for Payment
£1072.12	HMRC	Deductions
£45.60	DCK Accounting	Payroll
£238.98	Parish Council Websites	Deposit on new website
£1152.00	Herlig Architects	New community facility

01224 Clerks Report: To receive a report from the Clerk on correspondence to the Council and other pertinent administrative matters.

- a. Council and Clerks direct statutory guidance.
- b. A concerned resident regarding illegal removal of trees on a Norton Pedway.
- c. A communication regarding a flooded footpath on Dereham Pedway.
- d. An idea to dedicate a bench in the Parish to 'The happy to chat bench' to encourage conversation and battle loneliness.
- e. The West Mercia PCC newsletter.
- f. Consultation regarding the location of Beryl bikes parking bays across the City, of which only one is currently proposed in St Peter's. Councillors to propose locations to the Clerk.
- g. Heather Close has reopened following a redressing of wood chippings.
- h. A communication regarding the PCC Safer Roads Grant round 2, deadline for applications 2nd February 2024.
- i. A request for maintenance work on the bund adjacent to Bergonia Close, now resolved by the City Council.
- j. Cllr. Evans has reviewed all BT stations and requested them to be repainted to remove graffiti.

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- k. Cllr. Evans has again communicated with Royal Mail requesting the repainting of the post box outside the VH.

01324 Website: The Clerk has progressed the Parish website with the developer and a new site is now under continued development. Cllr. James is reviewing further options. The Clerk agreed to send out the test link to the website to all councillors for feedback. All Councillors are requested to suggest content for the website.

01424 Budget: Council formally agreed the precept request for 2024/25 as £46,000, plus £993 benefit grant. This is no change from the previous year. Council formally adopted the resolution and requested the Clerk communicate the precept request to the City Council.

01524 Portfolio Holder Reports:

- a. **Planning:** Cllr. Saunders provided a verbal update:
 - i. A meeting is to be arranged with City Council Planning Team.
 - ii. It would be prudent to investigate options to challenge the newly erected and very bright Obex sign that has been placed on the new commercial development opposite St Peter's.
 - iii. The Chairman is writing a chase letter to MHDC regarding the new warehouses as no response was received to the last letter. The Parish Council was not consulted on this development. There appears to be many objections regarding the huge units that have been approved on this site.
- b. **Green Spaces:** Cllr. Tidy provided a verbal update:
 - i. The next community litter pick is 25th January at 10am meeting outside the Village Hall.
 - ii. Three of four trees planted in Battenhall park have been removed by persons unknown.
 - iii. Awaiting re-delivery of the order of trees.
- c. **Community Engagement:** Cllr. Wytcherley provided a verbal update including:
 - i. All grant applications have now been allocated and paid.
 - ii. Several Councillors went to the over 60's Christmas lunch.
 - iii. Reminder about the upcoming visit to Acorn's visit on 19th January.
- d. **Police Liaison:** Cllr. Walters gave a verbal update on police liaison.
 - i. The next PACT meeting is on 7th March 7:30pm in the Baptist Church.
- d. **AOB:** Cllr. Tidy has been searching for the Council's Charter, an agreement made in 2005 between City, County and Parish Councils to set the standard of interaction and behaviours between Councils. Chairman to request County legal team to search for this document.

01624 Date of Next Meeting: The date of the next Parish Council Meeting was proposed as Thursday 8th February 2024 at 19:30, at St Peter's Village Hall, Worcester WR5 3TA.

01724 Confidential Item: Press and public excluded from this item due to sensitive commercial nature of discussion.

Signed..... Chairman Date.....