

Pebworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

Held as a virtual meeting via the internet at 7:00 pm on Monday 4th January 2021.

Present: Cllrs. Simon Shiers (Chairman), Richard Weller, Denise Meynell, James Pearson, SJ Morrow, John Hyde & David Cranage

In attendance: Cllr Alistair Adams, Cllr Thomas Havemann-Mart, and J Stedman (Clerk), and 3 members of the public

359. Apologies: All members present

360. 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**

Open Forum -

The chairman suspended the formal meeting for public participation

- A member of the public asked for an update on the land clearance in Priory Lane, Cllr Thomas Havemann-Mart responded and confirmed the matter is still under investigation with the conservation officers at WDC, he also confirmed any tree with a circumference of 80mm or less can be removed without permission and the pending site inspection will confirm whether conservation regulation have been breached.
- County Councillor Alastair Adams and District Councillor Thomas Havemann-Mart presented their reports which are appended to the minutes.
- The Chairman closed open forum at 7:37 and resumed the formal meeting.

361. Clerks Report noted

- a) PWL application was completed and £100k funds received on December 17th.

362. Minutes:

- a) Members considered and approved the wording of the minutes from the 7th December Parish Council meeting which will be signed by the chairman.

363. Planning Application

- a) **20/01958/FUL** Location: Land Adjacent To, Sims Metals Uk (South West) Limited, Long Marston, Pebworth: Proposal: Detailed planning permission for the erection of substation and gas governor associated with residential development (W/16/01618/RM & W/17/01269/RM). Applicant: Persimmon Homes Ltd (South Midlands)
The council has no objection or comments on the application

Application Decisions noted

- b) **20/01790/HP:** Single storey side extension and a two storey side and rear extension
Location: Brookfields, Broad Marston Road, Broad Marston, **Granted with 2 conditions**
- c) **20/02386/HP:** Conversion of garage to annexe accommodation for a dependant relative. Alterations to facilitate conversion including alterations to roof and insertion of window and door openings. Location: Sunnycroft, Pebworth Road, Ullington,
Application **Refused**

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- d) **Green Lane:** Cllr Thomas Havemann-Mart reported on the investigations into the field clearance at Green Lane Broad Marston and confirmed the matter is still under investigation with the conservation officers at WDC, he also confirmed any tree with a circumference of 80mm or less can be removed without permission and the pending site inspection will confirm whether conservation regulation have been breached. Further information is in his members report appended to the minutes.

364. Flooding

- a) **Culvert works:** Members reported on the effectiveness of the enlarged culvert following the December 23rd flood event and confirmed the flood water did build-up and flowed over the new bridge but was contained within the watercourse and no nearby properties were in danger of flooding.
- b) **Contractor:** The Clerk reported the culvert works contractor agreed to a cost reduction of £200 for the culvert works, the amended invoice was paid in full by BACS in December.
- c) **Flood Report:** Cllr Alistair Adams gave an extensive report on the parish wide flood event of December 24th which is detailed in his report appended to the minutes. Cllr Alistair Adams requested the Parish Council to write a letter to the Environment Agency supporting the proposal to create flood alleviation balancing ponds upstream of Broad Marston on the HoEF land. This was fully supported by members.
- d) **Emergency Pump:** A proposal to purchase a pump to be available for property protection in flood events was put to the meeting and it was agreed to investigate what might be the best type of pump for the parish wide flooding issues. Pump types and options with costs to be considered at the next meeting and any external funding for the pump will be investigated.
- e) **Flood Debris:** The Chairman reported on his site inspection following a parishioner's request to have the roads in Broad Marston swept to clear flood debris. The Chairman confirmed there is insufficient debris to warrant a road sweeper. Matter resolved.

365. Finance:

- a) Council approved the third quarterly bank reconciliation and budget account balances as issued by the clerk.
- b) Members noted receiving the WDC culvert grant funding of £4,500.
- c) Members noted the Clerk's report on payments made since the last meeting.
- d) Council approved the January schedule of payments to be made by internet banking.
- e) The Clerk reported on the WDC confirmation of receiving the precept demand.

366. Community & Council Matters:

- a) **Pebworth response group:** Cllr James Pearson reported on the Pebworth response group's activities and that a financial analysis of the accounts of the council's funding was under analysis. A financial report will be issued when available.
- b) **Tree Labels:** Cllr SJ Morrow confirmed investigations are ongoing for the availability and designs of suitable labels and the confirm the costs involved for further consideration at the next meeting.
- c) **Railway Extension:** Members agreed to a letter supporting the progress of the Stratford-Long Marston-Honeybourne-Worcester/Oxford railway-SWO – Clerk to action the letter.

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d) Broken Planter: Cllr John Hyde confirmed the broken parish owned planted trough in Broad Marston will be paid for by the person responsible for the damage and he is investigating a replacement planter of the similar size and design.

367. Village Hall:

- a) **Report:** Cllr James Pearson reported on the progress of the Village Hall refurbishment Progress is looking good and on target for third week of January completion. Many extra construction items have been completed and within the original budget to offset the contract delay penalties. Two donations of financial support for the Village Hall works are due to be received soon.
- b) **Payments:** The Clerk reported on the payment of the December invoice received from Arden Construction.

368. The Close and Recreation Field

- a) The monthly safety inspection found no new safety matter of concern.
- i) The Handyman reported the ditch debris grill worked well and was cleared following the floods.
 - ii) The litterbin by the play equipment has not been emptied by WDC and was emptied by the Handyman and the extensive rubbish disposed of.
- b) **Trees:** It was agreed to have the trees surveyed again in March/April when leaves appear to enable the identification of any dead wood in the canopies. The Clerk to confirm if a qualified tree surgeon or a competent arboriculturist is required for the survey in the terms of the council's insurance policy.
- c) **Shelter:** Members reported the relocation of the youth shelter to be carried out by Arden Construction is underway as the new footings are in place.
- d) **Sec 106 funds:** Members considered the expenditure of the available Sec 106 funds and agreed to progress with some substantial and suitable picnic benches. Clerk to provide option and costs for benches and their concrete bases for the next meeting and confirm the sec 106 funding can be used for the proposed benches. Local contractors to be ask for quotation for the bench bases and installation works.
- e) **Zipwire:** The Clerk reported Broom Joinery has advised the 8-softwood machined round timbers (200cm X 4m) can be replaced, the whole zipwire device would need to be dismantled and removed from site while the new timbers are machined into shape for refitting.
- A question has arisen over stress testing the timbers as it is for construction use and therefore insurance issues may arise if problems occur in the future. Stress testing is possible and can be expensive, as an alternative Oak timbers of certified construction quality could be used instead of softwood, a further advantage of Oak is its operational life expectancy over softwood.
- As a cost guide the softwood replacement would be £6000.00 (plus any stress testing) and replacements with construction quality Oak or similar £7500.00, these costs include the dismantling and re-assembling of the zipwire.
- Council agreed to pursue the replacement of the zipwire and requested the clerk to pursue what possible funding is available and the cost for a completely new zipwire.

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369. Cemetery:

- a) **Artificial flowers:** The Clerk reported no new complaints or comments have been received over the Christmas period, the council confirmed all artificial flowers will be removed from the cemetery at the end of February 2021.
- b) **Cemetery Memorials:** The clerk reported the memorial of Fredrick Charles Clarke was laid flat for public safety. The other identified loose memorials were re-tested and considered to be safe at this time, further checks will be carried annually.

370. Street Lighting:

- a) Faulty lights to be reported for repair. – no new faults
- b) The streetlights 34,42 & 38 were reported to E-on as faulty in December and remain unattended too.
- c) The clerk reported on the payments to Candela light for the 2020 installation works.

371. Highway Matters: New highway matters reported – none reported.

372. Lengthsman or Handyman Matters.

- a) New highway or maintenance matters in need of attention.
 - i) Members reported the Defibrillator box was left open and the battery light was not showing, Handyman to check the device and report any problems.

373. Public Rights of Way:

- a) Reports of any new PROW matters in need of attention.
 - i) A loose barbed wire is a danger to path users at the kissing gate on 540 (C) Lengthsman to attend and secure the wire.

374. Matters Raised by Members: for consideration and or items for future agendas. - None

375. Meeting Dates

- a) It was confirmed the next council meeting is scheduled for February 1st venue to be announced

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 8:40 pm

Finance Report

Bank Accounts		Verified and Confirmed Account Balances	
Statement	05/12/20	Current Account Balance	£24,079.94
Date	09/12/20	Deposit Account Balance	£38,134.80

Payments Authorised

Cheque Number	Payee	Details	Gross Payment	Net Payment
66	Arden Construction Ltd	Village Hall contract works	36,298.62	30,248.85
67	J Stedman	Clerk's salary and expenses	***	***
68	HMRC	PAYE for the Clerk's Salary	387.32	387.32

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Ward Members Reports

Cllr Thomas Havemann-Mart.
Honeybourne & Pebworth ward.

I have chased Tom Tudor who is the enforcement officer looking at the tree removal in broad Marston.

He is seeking further guidance from his superiors about the trees as apparently, they didn't have a tree preservation order on them.

So this all depends on the circumference of the tree trunks.

He hasn't visited the site yet but has said he would try and go out this week.

I have written to the EA regarding the proposed floodplain on the heart of England forestry land urging them to allow it.

In general Wychavon news.

-budget setting is taking place in advance of next financial year

- district council is still supporting businesses in accordance with government provisions for businesses affected by coronavirus lockdown measures

-Wychavon had - mini peer review which said that we responded well to the crisis and are well placed to continue responding as the pandemic goes on. The focus will then be on economic recovery and will include development of a long term economic strategy as well as short term actions which we already do

-free parking in Wychavon car parks until end Jan

- vaccinations are beginning with the Riverside surgery in Evesham a key location. Residents will be contacted by health authorities with their appointments, but first priority is over 80's, then over 75, then over 70 and clinically extremely vulnerable.

County Councillor Report-

Month: January 2020

Prepared by Alastair Adams,

Littletons Division, Worcestershire County Council

Dear All

I hope you had a Happy Christmas even though for many the plans for Christmas had to be changed at the last minute. I wish you a lovely "Back to Normal" 2021, although it does sound like that we will continue in some sort of lockdown and tiered restrictions

until the majority of residents have been vaccinated. Lets see what Boris announces this evening.

Update on the vaccines rolled out in Worcestershire

GP's across Worcestershire have received delivery of COVID-19 vaccine. Patients are reminded that the GP's or NHS will contact people in priority groups when it is their turn to receive the vaccine. Over 80 year olds are the priority at the moment, as well as care home staff and priority healthcare staff.

Besides the vaccine, the other big news since my last report is the new 4 Tier system. For full details see - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know>

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Worcestershire is in Tier 3. Warwickshire is in Tier 4. See which area is which tier here -

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/full-list-of-local-restriction-tiers-by-area>

COVID-19 STATISTICS IN WYCHAVON

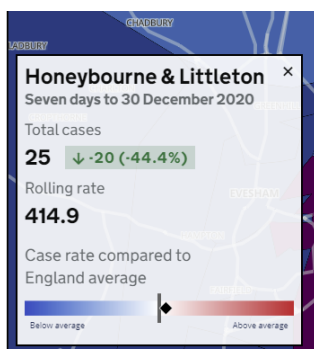


Official

statistics and information are available on the links below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-track-coronavirus-cases>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-covid-19-surveillance-reports#history>



Although cases in Wychavon have gone up by + 67% in last 7 days, the rate in Honeybourne & Littletons has gone down by -44.4% - mostly because of the outbreak in COVID in Long Lartin prison has been contained.

Download the NHS COVID-19 app today

<https://covid19.nhs.uk/>

Self-isolation support payment

From Monday, 28 September 2020, you are required by law to self-isolate if you are told to do so by NHS Test and Trace.

The Government has introduced a £500 support payment to help people on low incomes who have to self-isolate. The scheme will run until 31 January 2021 but is being kept under review by the Government. See for more details;

<https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/community-and-living/coronavirus-covid-19-update/self-isolation-support-payment>

How to get a COVID-19 test

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Currently there is good testing capacity in Worcestershire. Supply is meeting demand in the county. To organise a test go to

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20769/coronavirus_covid-19/2247/coronavirus_covid-19_testing

Local Testing Centres:

- Redditch Trescott Road Car Park
- University of Worcester, Arena Car Park
- Pershore Civic Centre Car Park
- Bromsgrove Stourbridge Road Car Park: to open 9th Nov
- Kidderminster Harriers Stadium Close Car Park: to open 9th Nov
- Malvern Victoria Rd Car Park: estimated to open 23rd Nov (no dates confirmed yet though)

WHERE CAN I GET FURTHER INFORMATION, HELP AND ADVICE?

Reminder that the Here2Help website www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help is the first point of contact if people want to offer assistance or gain support. The other option is the telephone contact number which is staffed 8am-6pm 6 days a week – 01905 768053.

Carers who support a family member or friend who require support should contact the Worcestershire Association of Carers on www.carersworcs.org.uk or call the Helpline 0300 012 4272.

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/coronavirus>

NHS Website for information on Coronavirus

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Financial support for you

If you are struggling financially then the advice is to make a claim for Universal Credit, Council Tax Support and other benefits you may be eligible for.

There is more information on the [coronavirus employments and benefits page](#).

Help paying your Council Tax

If you are of working age and already receiving Council Tax Support, you will get a one off reduction of up to £150. This will be applied automatically to your bill. New bills will be issued in the next few weeks.

You can apply online for [Council Tax Support](#) if you are struggling to pay your bill.

More information is available on our [Benefits and Council Tax page](#).

Even if you are not eligible for Council Tax Support, you still may be able to defer your payments for a short period or spread them over 12 months instead of ten.

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Please contact the Council's team by emailing Revenues@southworcestershirevenues.gov.uk or call 03004 560560 to discuss your circumstances and they will do their best to help you.

Support for businesses

The Council's new business support programme, **Here2Help Business** is live http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20807/here2help_business

It is a £3m programme designed to assist local Worcestershire Businesses to recover, adapt, develop and support future resilience as lockdown measures reduce

Also see the Government website www.businesssupport.gov.uk which has details of all the support available to businesses.

Other support available

Please check the [Government's website](#) for information about support for business during COVID-19.

Worcestershire Business Central are there to advise local businesses on grant funding and support helping you restart and recover. Please see their [website](#), call them on 01905 677 888 or email info@business-central.co.uk.

Please also see the Chamber of Commerce Herefordshire and Worcestershire [Coronavirus information hub](#).

Furlough scheme extended

The furlough scheme is to have a five-month extension into Spring 2021 with employees receiving 80% of their current salary for hours not worked.

There will be increases to self-employed support through the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS). This will be increased, with the third grant covering November to January calculated at 80% of average trading profits, up to a maximum of £7,500. More information on the support available from these schemes is [here](#).

Flooding in Broad Marston 23rd December 2020

I did a tour of the Division every few hours from 4.30pm on the 23rd December and took photos and videos which I shared with the WDC, WCC and the EA.

First problem was the bridges on Stratford Rd between Pebworth and Honeybourne: that was blocked with a stranded car in flood water at 4.30pm. But at that time all else was passable.

Then at 7.30pm Broad Marston Rd from the bridge to Broad Marston was flooded.

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Then at 11pm the Gate was flooded and several cars stranded. The flood on Broad Marston had reached the Old Fire Station and it looked like cars had got stuck.

Mickleton Rd was like a river from Mickleton to Pebworth.

On the morning of 24th December I revisited Broad Marston and spoke to a number of residents. Luckily, most residents that have previously been flooded, were saved from being flooded again by just a few inches!

As I have previously mentioned, the flooding in Broad Marston will only be alleviated by building a flood plain upstream. Last year the Heart of England agreed to build one, but the Environment Agency refused to give their blessing. Following the floods of 23/12/20, I spoke to many people and sent more emails to the EA, WCC and WDC and helped the residents write a strong letter to the EA. Today I have had some response from the EA and I am optimistic that the EA will eventually give the Hoef the green light to build the flood plain.

Highways

To keep up to date on the roads affected see, <https://one.network/>

This is the new website and is very good to see all the roadworks locally and across the UK.

1. **New “Narrow Road” sign has been erected** before the bend (coming in from Little Meadows) between St Peter's Church and Corner Cottage
2. **Honeybourne pedestrian crossing on Station Rd** –Western Power have installed the electricity for the new street lights. The anti-skid surfacing can not be laid in cold weather and is planned for March 2021. The County Council have agreed to add light shields to prevent light pollution into people's houses as requested by a resident
3. **Bovis have installed the Give Way road signs at the exit of the Co-Op in Honeybourne**
4. **NEW Honeybourne Station Car Park** - I have had several discussions with WDC/WCC/MOP's & Network Rail re the new Honeybourne Station Car Park which is on ice because of the cost of the link to the existing footbridge quoted by Network Rail. Sounds like progress is being made, and I am hoping common sense will prevail, and work can begin in 2021
5. **Flood alleviation improvements** – The survey of the Heart of England field on the corner of Broad Marston/ Mickleton Rd has NOW been completed by WDC. So still promising that this field can be used to build a wetland and a flood plain upstream of Broad Marston in 2021 which should make a huge difference to the residents of Broad Marston.
6. **Speeding on the B4035 at entrance to Badsey**– Mobile Camera opposite the entrance to Sladden Close has been agreed by Safer Road Partnership. Grasscrete platform has been installed so the mobile van with speed camera will be there very soon; so watch out and keep your speed down to the speed limit!

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.

REMINDER Broadband in Honeybourne Rd/Stratford Rd

There are 12 houses on the above street that have problems with their Broadband, and are looking for improvements to their Broadband. Therefore I have suggested to the residents to club together and take advantage of the grants available to get fibre to the premises (FTTP). This is 100Mbps speed where the fibre optic goes straight to your house. There is a government grant of £1,500 per house, or up to £3500 for businesses. Margaret Oliver at Bayliss Hill has been in contact with Robert Stepniewski at County Hall, and has contacted BT for a quote but needs all

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residents to sign up to the grant. So if you live in Stratford Rd/Honeybourne Rd, and want faster Broadband, please contact me on adams.pebworth@gmail.com and I will put you in touch with Margaret and Robert.

County Council Divisional Fund

- Pebworth WI – grant requested for Zoom annual charges so the members can continue to meet over the internet in these COVID times - Paid
- Evesham Vale Rail Trails for Cyclists – grant requested for a software programme that shows the cycle routes.
- Evesham Sea Cadets (South Littleton) – boat shed conversion – grant requested
- Honeybourne Chairman asked for a grant to help launch Honeybourne News
- Pebworth Village Hall – a grant request to renovate the wooden hall floor - Paid
- Bretforton Allotments – grant requested for a strimmer - Paid
- Honeybourne Harriers – grant for portable flood lights so the youngsters can continue training on the Honeybourne Sports Field during the dark evenings - Paid
- Pebworth In Bloom have applied for a grant to help cover the cost of the bedding plants and hanging baskets planted around the village. - Paid

If you run a community organisation that needs a little support to buy equipment or some essential service, then please apply for a Divisional Fund by contacting me.

Your County Councillor, Alastair Adams can be contacted on adams.pebworth@gmail.com or mobile 07725 979 277 or www.alastairadams.org