

Pebworth Parish Council
 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council
 Held at the Pebworth Village Hall on Monday 6th December 2010.

Present: Cllrs. John Hyde (Chairman), Pam Veal, Mike Sullivan, June Haycock, David Cranage, David Lees, Albert Jeffrey

In attendance – John Stedman (Clerk), and Ward member Cllr. Patrick Haycock

168. Apologies were accepted from Cllr. Tom Bean

169. Register of Interests:

- a. Members were reminded of the need to keep their register of interests updated
- b. Declarations of Members Personal or Prejudicial Interest in Items on the Agenda.

Personal None declared

Prejudicial None declared

170. Chairman Moved: The meeting be now adjourned for Open Forum

Open Forum – no public present

Ward Member Reports;

Cllr. Patrick Haycock's report is appended to these minutes

Cllr Tom Bean's reported via the Chairman that the Fire Station is due to formally open on 15th January. The County Council has yet to decide on its budget cuts and Tom wishes the Council a Happy Christmas.

171. Chairman to Move: The adjournment to close at 7:15.

172. Confirmation of the Minutes: members agreed the wording of the November 10 meeting minutes.

173. The Clerk's Progress Reports.

- a. Installation of the recreation field sign: Members reported the sign is now installed and comments were made with regard to which direction it should face.
- b. The donation to the Shakespeare Hospice in memory of the late Crichton Cotton was confirmed.
- c. Deposit in the County Council Records office of the Council's minutes of 2003 and 2006-2008 and historic footpath documents dated 1949 to 1989. Accession No 15254. A note will be added to the council's asset register referring to the deposit.
- d. Placing Evesham Arts Centre posters on the notice boards, noted

174. Planning – New Applications.

a. W/10/02596/PP, Mr Godard Key, Fernlea, Honeybourne Rd, Pebworth; two story extension to form a living room and bedroom: amendment to previously approved application W/10/01077/PP
 Council has no objection or comment on the application

b. W/10/02846/LUE Mr. N Davis, Crabtree Farm, Dorsington Road, - Certificate of lawful use for use of land as residential garden.

Council has no objection or comment on the application

175. Planning other

a. Cllr. David Cranage reported on the South Worcestershire Development Plan meeting and indicated the plan was a replacement to the regional spatial strategy which was abandoned by government. The new plan will replace all local and county development plans and further public consultation will take place in the near future. The new plan will cover all aspects of county wide developments from 2014 to 2030.

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176. Planning Approvals/Refusals – None

177. Highways:

- a. Reported highway defects; Gully lower end of Front Street, members reported the gully had been cleared by the County Council and further monitoring will be carried out.
- b. To report any new highway matters; two potholes on Long Marston Road, one half way between the 30 MPH signs and the “S” bends and one on the junction with Friday Street.
- c. Members raised the problems of road gritting as Front Street is on the County Council gritting route but Friday Street and School Road is not, the provision of further grit bins will be investigated.

178. Lengthsman/ Handyman:

- a. Report on matters raised with the Lengthsman; the parish wide tree canopy lift will be completed in the New Year.
- b. New matters to be reported to the Lengthsman or Handyman.
 - i) Verge damage, wheel ruts and loose kerb sets need attention on the corner of School Road and Back Lane
 - ii) Brambles between the trees on Long Marston Road need clearing to allow full verge mowing in future

179. Public Rights of Way Reports.

- a. Requests for the PPW’s attention – none at this time
- b. The Clerk reported that the PPW will deal with the Prioritising Maintenance request from County Council

180. Street Lighting –

- a. **Streetlight faults to be reported.** –
 - i) Streetlight 13 in Friday Street and the Streetlight by the Church are not working
- b. The County Council had informed the Clerk that the Streetlight at Furlong Cottage, Friday Street was leaning due to car impact; Cllr. David Cranage and the Clerk managed to rectify the problem and reported there was no structural damage of any significance.

181. The Close.

- a. **Regular Inspection:** Cllr. John Hyde reported on his November inspection and found no new safety problems with the equipment or play areas.
- b. The Chairman noted that a fence rail was missing from the northerly fence but was of no urgency to repair
- c. Council considered a quotation from the Handyman to install topsoil under the slide as recommended by RoSPA. The quoted price included more turf than was considered necessary and the Clerk was requested to renegotiate the quotation to reflect the reduction. Council agreed the quotation in principal and requested the work is commenced as soon the weather conditions were favourable.
- d. Youth Shelter clean-up; as the shelter was covered in ice the work could not be substantiated and would be reported to the next meeting.
- e. Council considered the safety surface deterioration under the swings and agreed rubber safety surfacing could be fitted if it was suitable for the drop height of the swings. The Clerk was requested to check the suitability of the matting and bring a costing to a future meeting for further consideration.

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182. Recreation Field

- a. **Maintenance matters;** no further maintenance has been carried out.
- b. Over seeding; in giving further consideration of over-seeding the field it was agreed to get a firm quotation for the necessary works to commence in March 2011.
- c. The Clerk reported the planning application to amend conditions was lodged on 5th November and a decision was expected before the end of the month.
- d. Considerations of quotations for the installation of the car park surface. It was agreed that Limebridge Rural Services Ltd be awarded the contract as they tendered the lowest quote.
- e. Members requested the Clerk to bring to the next meeting amended quotes for the conditional landscaping.

183. Cemetery Matters

- a. Review of cemetery regulations – An amendment regarding the placement of memorials was agreed and the regulations are to be reissued to all interested parties.
- b. Council considered the annual review of cemetery fees and burial conditions and made no amendments or changes for 2011.
- c. The Clerk reported on a letter sent to Mrs Cotton following the November meeting regarding the restoration of grave plot 688 and her subsequent reply expressing her dissatisfaction in the restoration and making an inaccurate and unjustified accusation against a member of the Council. Members agreed a further letter be sent to Mrs. Cotton explaining that she owns only the exclusive right of burial. The plot remains in the Parish Council's ownership making the council solely responsible for its restoration. All other matters in the letter from Mrs. Cotton were noted and members disagreed with the personal comments lodged against a councillor and its contractors.
- d. A dead Hawthorne tree in the cemetery hedge row has partly collapsed and it was agreed to remove the tree completely. Clerk to instruct the handyman accordingly

184. Parish Pump -

- a. Council agreed the wording of Clerk's winter edition and it was further agreed to print and circulate the news letter in January 2011, Mr. Ron Thomas is to be asked to help with the delivery throughout the parish.

185. Finance.

- a. **Payments:** Council agreed the Payments and Receipts as listed in Appendix A.
- b. Council considered the finance groups budget report and unanimously agreed a precept of £25,150 for the 2011-12 financial year. The increase is 4.8% which follows two previous years of 0% increase.
- c. The Clerk reported a repayment of VAT to the sum of £1,464.18

186. **Correspondence to be Considered.** none at this time

187. **Documents to Note:** none at this time

188. Matters Raised by Members for the next meeting agenda

- a. Cllr. June Haycock – to consider a tree planted in The Close to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Pebworth WI

189. Next Meeting:

- a. It was confirmed the next Ordinary Meeting is scheduled for the 3rd January at 7.00.
- b. Members agreed the Clerk's proposed meeting dates for 2011

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm

Chairman

Date

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APPENDIX A: FINANCE

PAYMENTS FOR AUTHORIZATION

Dec-10

Meeting

Cheque No.	Payee	Details	Total Payment	VAT Element	Net Payment
1174	Shakespear Hospice	Donation	50.00		50.00
1175	Wychavon DC	Planning Fee	85.00		85.00
1176	Building & Plumbing Supplies	Recreation Field Lock/Chain	16.69	2.49	14.20
1177	PD Long	Streetlight Maintenance	126.90	18.90	108.00
1178	Westhill	Stationary	85.12	12.69	72.43
1179	R & P Giddings	Recreation Field	168.03	25.03	143.00
1180	J Stedman	Clerks Salary & Expenses	505.68		505.68
1181	Limebridge Rural Services	Mowing Contract	585.15	87.15	498.00
			1622.57	146.26	1476.31

Transfer			
Payments Received		Amount	Banked
Cotton Family	Interment C Cotton inv159 grave662	110.00	12-Nov
HMRC	VAT Repayment	1464.18	04-Nov
Willcox Granite	Headstone Careless inv160	110.00	12-Nov
Total		1684.18	

All Paid Up Bank Accounts	
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	21891.28
CURRENT ACCOUNT	6359.85
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	28251.13
Reserve Lighting Fund	3000.00
Reserve Capital Fund	3000.00
Revenue available	22251.13

Ward member, Cllr. Patrick Haycock's Report

The Overview and Scrutiny team held a series of meetings with the various Cabinet Post holders. These meetings were in addition to the regular meetings of the O&S Team. During these sessions the various Cabinet Members were asked to present their proposals regarding the nature of cost savings to be brought to Council for the next fiscal year in order to meet the reduced funding levels which will be made available from central Government.

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The results of these meetings are:

1. Increased income from WDC assets	£ 100k
2. Increased income from services	£ 500k
3. Efficiencies and Joint Working arrangements	£ 500k
4. Management and staff savings	£ 600k
5. Service reductions	£ 150k

Thus the grand total identified by the Senior Management team at WDC is £ 1.85mill. There are several unknowns, of which the main one is the impact of Concessionary fares where WDC may see an impact as high as £1million further reduction in funding.

The proposals outlined above will be presented to council once the impact of the Governments Spending Review is made public. This is expected on 9th December 2010.

In the future WDC will have to consider how any funding gap is to be met. This is most likely to involve further joint working initiatives, greater streamlining of work activities through the “Better not Busier” programme already underway and increases in those fees and charges over which WDC has control.

COUNCILLORS ALLOWANCES

WDC internet site now carries details of all claims made by Councillors. It is worth noting that more than 50% of Councillors do not currently claim mileage.

LOCAL GOVERNANCE

The Government has placed a requirement to move to either;

1. A Strong Leader and Cabinet model, or
2. An Elected Mayor and Cabinet.

Public consultation is being undertaken via the WDC website as required. However the guidance from the Minister for Housing and Local Government is that councils should only incur minimal cost on this subject. The firm view is that unless consultation with the public is strongly in favour of the Elected Mayor approach that WDC should continue with the current arrangement of a Leader and Cabinet. This has to be resolved by 31 December 2010. However, as usual apathy reigns, so please make your voice known and vote for your preference.

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

A review of the make up of this committee has been completed and in order to reduce costs and simplify the whole process it has been decided that the size of the committee be reduced whilst maintaining the existing political balance. The recommendation going to Council will be to reduce the committee from 21 to 15. This is perceived to be more focussed, and less parochial. It is seen that this will allow more elected Members to fulfil their role on difficult planning issues in their Wards.

SOUTH WORCESTERSHIRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Government revoked the Regional Spatial Strategies on 6th July 2010. This provides the opportunity to revisit the content of the emerging SWJCS and ensure that the result truly reflects South Worcestershire’s local housing and economic development aspirations. A number of meetings were held during November to encourage Town and Parish councils to be involved. A detailed feedback report will be provided on these meetings.

Patrick Haycock
6 December 2010