

PEOPLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 11th May 2022 at 7.00pm in Peopleton Village Hall

1. **Introduction:** Vice Chair Cllr Phillips opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present
2. **Present:** Cllrs Phillips, Bailey, Smith, Wall, Hennerley and three members of the public
3. **Apologies-** Cllrs Mason (Chair), Baxter, Whittingham, Darby & CC Robinson
4. **The minutes** of the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th July 2021 were approved as true and correct.
5. **Chairman's Report**

Firstly, my apologies for not being able to present this report in person and my thanks to Jill Phillips for standing in for me. Earlier on this year we learnt that the Local Government Boundary Commission had recommended that Peopleton should become part of the Drakes Broughton ward for elections to Wychavon District Council. It is worth saying that this change only affects parishioners as far as local elections every 4 years are concerned. Nevertheless, the Parish Council felt that this was not a welcome move as did many parishioners. We also know that several other parishes are not happy with the broader proposals. The Council made clear to the Commission that we were not happy, and why, and we know that several parishioners did the same. A petition in the shop was signed by xxx people and passed on to the Commission. We now await their response.

Last summer we were sorry to learn of the death of John Lashley. John had been a parish councillor and parish clerk in Peopleton and, at the time of his death, he was chairman of Peopleton Charity Lands. We are grateful for all that John did over several years for the village. We are grateful to Rob Adams for taking over as chairman of the Charity Lands Trust and to his wife Kate for taking over as Secretary. Mike James also resigned from the Trust after serving for many years. Both John and Mike were appointed by the Parish Council and have been replaced by Kate Saint and Paul Darby; I am grateful to them for being willing to do this.

Last summer, Peopleton Parish Council, working with Drakes Broughton Parish Council, Worcester Wheels and Pershore Volunteer Centre successfully run a crowd-funding campaign for our community buses. This has enabled buses to run from the village to Worcester on Tuesdays and to Pershore on Fridays. Initially, we hoped to finance the services until the end of March, but the campaign raised more money than the target and, with good fare income, we hope to be able to keep the buses running until the Autumn. However, the purpose of the scheme is to show Worcestershire County Council that there is demand for the services. They recently developed a *Bus Improvement Plan* which was submitted to the Department for Transport. As far as I can gather, they are disappointed with the outcome and are now reconsidering their plan. We obviously hope that our bus services can continue to run beyond the Autumn but, as I write this, I cannot be sure.

Parishioners might be aware that the owners of the field at the end of Monks Way tried to remove some ancient pear trees in early March. Thanks to quick action by several people including our Lengthsman, Steve Pike, and Linda Robinson, our District and County Councillor, only one tree was removed. The Council are aware that the owners of the field (usually known as Lomax's field) might be looking to develop this piece of land. We have discussed this possibility and we are concerned that development here might exacerbate flooding problems in the village. Obviously, there is nothing that we can do until the owner applies for planning permission. We will continue to monitor the situation.

We were pleased that permission was not granted to put a new track across the field on the right as you leave the village to the south. However, the owner has appealed against this decision, so we await the outcome of that appeal.

A regular topic for Parish Council meetings ever since the council was created has been flooding! We are grateful to the Lewis's for clearing the new ditch installed over 10 years ago as part of the flood alleviation scheme. Wychavon DC have also cleared the Peopleton Ditch, which runs to the south of the village. We have also ensured that the culvert under the road at the south end of the village is clear. We ask all riparian rights owners to ensure that ditches on or adjoining their land are kept clear. It is obviously important that, during heavy rain, water can flow easily to the Bowbrook.

Another topic which was discussed about 40 years ago is the provision of allotments. We know that several parishioners would be interested in owning an allotment in the village but the problem finding suitable land to rent or buy (as it was 40 years ago). We continue to look for a suitable site.

The Parish Council often get complaints about the speed of traffic in the village and on roads leading to the village. Unfortunately, there is little we can do and it is not a priority for the police. I have spoken to the Headteacher of Bowbrook School, who regularly asks parents to drive carefully. It is fair to say that the vast majority do. I have also monitored the volume of traffic leaving the school in the afternoon with Mr Allen. Again most days, there is not a

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significant problem and he recognises that they need to stagger departure times to reduce any traffic problems. I should also stress that many the problem of speeding cars is definitely not confined to parents driving to and from the school; there is also speeding at other times of the day and some of this may even be committed by village residents!

Another problem which we have tried to address is the damage done by 4x4 drivers on the green road to Seaford and in the area around Barrels Bridge. The police can take action if they are told when drivers are actually committing the damage or given registration numbers of the cars. I realise that this is difficult but, unfortunately, there is nothing else that we can do.

Finally, I am pleased to report that we have renewed the registration of the The Crown as an Asset of Community Value. I am grateful to all councillors for the work that they have put in during the past year. We would not be able to do our job without the support of our clerk, Lisa Cope. I should like to record my gratitude for her work and support for me over the last year. Steve Pike, our Lengthsman, also does a lot of work to help keep our village in good condition and we are grateful for all of his efforts. Finally, I should like to record the thanks of the whole council to Linda Robinson, who is now both District and County Councillor. She attends all of our meetings and takes our concerns to the relevant people at County Hall or Wychavon District Council. We are lucky to have such good support.

6. County & District Councillor's Report-Covered in Annual Parish Council Meeting minutes

7. Reports from Village organisations:

Village Trust- None received

Village Shop- Cllr Mason

Cllr Phillips shared from Cllr Mason that the shop has roughly broken even during 2021 with a turn-over in excess of £90,000. The accounts are in the process of being finalised and scrutinised and the AGM will be held in June or early July.

Flood Group-Cllr Wall

Cllr Wall was pleased to report the maintenance recently of the ditch through the village by Wychavon and the ditch maintained by the Parish Council and requested the Clerk write a letter of appreciation to both Wychavon and Mr Lewis- Clerk to action.

Riparian owners had also been reminded throughout the year of their responsibilities to keep ditches clear through the website and Bowline.

In April Cllr wall was invited by Community First to attend a meeting on being prepared for climate change whereby he spoke about the flooding Peopleton faced in 2007 and how they were the first Parish Council in the country to organise, manage and fund a new flood alleviation scheme. Roger Britton the Chief Executive has since been invited to attend the July meeting to talk to the Parish Council.

All Cllrs agreed that the July meeting should start at 7pm with an Open Meeting about Climate change and various people should be invited such as the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, representatives from the Wildlife group and Steve Pike. The meeting will be advertised in Bowline and the noticeboard and the Clerk is to check details with Roger as to whether he will require a presentation screen etc.

Open Session

One parishioner enquired as to how long the bus funds will last until they run out and subsequently the services end- Clerk to check accounts and report back at the July meeting

One parishioner asked if it would be possible to have a 'warning cyclists ahead sign' on the main road into Peopleton from both ends- Clerk to check with Cllr Robinson and highways and report back.

One parishioner wanted to comment on what a great job had been done with the clearance of the ditches and expressed his thanks to all involved.

8. The date for the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 10th May 2023

Signed (Chairman).....

Dated.....