

PEOPLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 28th September 2022 at 7.30pm in Peopleton Village Hall

1. **Members and Officers present:** Cllrs Mason (Chairman), Phillips, Bailey, Wall, Darby, Whittingham, Baxter, District and County Cllr Robinson. Two members of the public attended.
2. **Apologies:** Cllrs Smith and Hennerley sent their apologies
3. **Declarations of Interest:**

Public Question Time

The time allocated is at the discretion of the council/chairman. Residents are invited to give their views and question the parish council on issues on this agenda or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the chairman. Members of the public may not take part in the parish council meeting itself. This period is not part of the formal meeting; brief notes will be appended to the minutes as an aide memoire.

4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 13th July 2022 were approved as true and correct, as proposed by Cllr Mason and seconded by Cllr Phillips.
5. **County & District Councillors report:**

I know some of us are still in a state of shock at the sad news of the passing of our longest reigning monarch, Queen Elizabeth II. Yet seamlessly we now have a new King, Charles III. I attended our local proclamation at Wychavon Civic Centre last week. It felt very surreal to be singing the National anthem substituting the word King rather than Queen but time has to move on and it has been heartening to see the amount of public interest and sympathy around the world. Church Services and messages of condolence were held and collected across the country. Few eyes managed to stay dry whilst watching the funeral and we marvelled the meticulous timing and precision demonstrated by our armed forces congratulations and thanks to all those involved. I managed to control my emotions until I saw the late Queen's Fell pony Emma standing alongside the Long Walk in Windsor with only our late majesty's headscarf on the saddle!! The period of mourning plus our summer break preceding it has meant that there has been a long gap without any decision-making meetings so apologies if some of my report is a little out of date but I hope still of interest.

For info. more than 120 miles of roads have been resurfaced in Worcestershire so far this year. This is equivalent to travelling from Worcester to Buckingham Palace.

We have also seen the worsening of the crisis in Ukraine and the latest data I have from August showed 170 hosts registered in Wychavon with 402 anticipated guests. 276 have already arrived in the District and received their £200 welcome payment.

Covid cases having continued to fall after a spike at the beginning of July are on the rise again. Our infection rate has increased in the last week to 61% per 100,00. Worcestershire's figures continue to be above the English average of 50 The number of hospital cases has fallen considerably. A fourth booster designed to tackle new variants is to be offered along with the annual flu jab to our most vulnerable later this month. Pensioners over 75 will receive invitations from the NHS from yesterday as will care workers and those who are immunosuppressed. Pop up Covid and flu booster sessions will be available across the County from next month. News this week though has suggested that people are often being turned away due to some shortages in supply.

The advice remains to 'stay alert to stay safe'.

The ongoing cost of living and energy crisis is a huge concern to us all and one of the ways Wychavon are looking to help eligible residents can be seen below. Free energy efficiency improvements on offer, some of the least energy efficient homes across Wychavon could get a free upgrade as part of a new scheme.

Wychavon has been given more than £1.1 million from the Government's Sustainable Warmth Fund to spend on improving the energy rating of the district's homes. The work will not only help cut energy bills but also carbon emissions to help tackle climate change.

The money will be targeted at households with a combined income of less than £30,000 and whose home has been given an Energy Performance rating of D or below.

PEOPLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Work costing up to £25,000 will be fully funded. How much someone receives will depend on the energy rating of their property and whether or not they are on the mains gas network. Properties off the mains gas network can still apply.

The grants will cover energy efficiency measures including:

- Energy efficient replacement of electric storage heaters
- Replacement windows and doors
- Loft insulation
- PV panels
- Air source heat pumps

Residents are being encouraged to check their Energy Performance Certificate, which they can do through Wychavon's energy advice page. If their home is a grade D or below and they meet the other qualifying criteria then they are being urged to register their interest in the scheme. An online expression of interest form is available at www.wychavon.gov.uk/energy or people can call Act on Energy, who are administering the scheme for Wychavon, on 0800 988 2881.

WCC are also working on a scheme via 'act for energy' until the end of September for pensioners who are receiving pension credit or are on a low-income pension. Letters containing vouchers will be issued in September to those who are eligible.

The SWDPR has seen further delays but is expected to come before Wychavon councillors in October with public consultation from 1st November -13th December. The proposed strategic sites are at Parkway, Throckmorton, Rushwick and Mitton. Please keep your eyes open for more detail if you wish to make any comments. An interactive map on the SWDP website is being updated to help set out the proposed shape for how South Worcestershire will develop in the next twenty years. This should be available in the next few weeks to assist with the Public Consultation.

Wychavon electoral review final recommendations

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has released its final recommendations for new electoral arrangements in Wychavon. The number of councillors will be reduced from 45 to 43 and the number of wards from 32 to 27.

There will be two three-councillor wards, 12 two-councillor wards, and 13 single-councillor wards. The boundaries of most wards have been changed but eight will stay the same. The aim of the review was to make sure Wychavon councillors represent roughly the same number of electors. Under the recommendations each councillor will represent an average of 2,546 electors with just two wards being more than 10% away from the average number of electors per ward. Currently there are 13 wards more than 10% away and 3 wards more than 20% away.

The attached document contains more information about the recommendations which will need to be approved by Parliament. They will then be in place for the 2023 election. An interactive map is available at <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/have-your-say/24728>.

6. **Planning:** There were no new planning applications to consider

Enforcement has been in communication with Stone Arrow Farm concerning the rubble and building materials which have been put on land next to the church and the old barns. The planning permission granted for the conversion of the barns has lapsed. The owner has been told to remove the rubble and building materials by the end of September. The council consider that the area has become an eyesore.

PEOPLETON PARISH COUNCIL

7. Progress reports:

- a) Chairman's- TM
Pleased to note that the final recommendation of the Boundary Commission is that Peopleton remains in the Upton Snodsbury ward. Concerns of dangerous driving in the village have been reported to the Police.
- b) Village Trust- LB
A new trustee has been appointed and welcomed on to the Village Trust this month.
Hall bookings are good and Pershore boys football returns this month.
A new heating system has been installed in the Village Hall and the Autumn Show was again very successful and returning on 2nd September 2023.
- c) Village shop-TM
The AGM is due to be held on 12th October 2022.
The shop have recently had an advisory report from the Plunkett Foundation. One outcome is that we have co-opted a new member of the Management Committee with experience in food hygiene.
- d) PACT- No reports from Police but covered in Item 9.
- e) Lengthsman
Cllr Bailey to ask the lengthsman if he is able to assist in vegetation being removed around the road sign on the left when turning onto the A44 from the village as it is affecting visibility.
- f) Rights of Way- LB Nothing to report
- g) Flooding
Cllr Wall re-iterated a parishioner's concerns in question time with regards landowners keeping their ditches clear in the village.

8. Finance

- a) Update on the budget/ Bank balance as of 3rd August 2022
Treasurers Account £7,044.99
Business Instant Account £11,004.20
- b) The following payments were approved for the Clerk to pay-

Worcester Wheels June	£132.50
Pershore Volunteer Centre July	£262.00
Clerk's salary	£474.32
Clerk's expenses	£32.00
Clerk tax (cheque to sign)	£69.60
Lengthsman July	£117.00
Lengthsman August	£241.00
Limebridge July	£403.20
Limebridge August	£201.60
Pershore Volunteer centre (Aug)	£202.00
Worcester Wheels (July)	£85.00
PATA Payroll	£18.40
Worcester wheels (Aug)	£140.00

PEOPLETON PARISH COUNCIL

9. **Crime update**

Cllrs expressed their disappointment that a Police representative could not attend the meeting as hoped, due to short staffing and long term sickness.

It was agreed for the Clerk to write to the local Superintendent and Councillor Marc Bayliss expressing the Parish Council's concern with the lack of Police response to a number of crime incidents within a short space of time within the village.

10. **Village Bus services update**

County Council have agreed to cover the cost of running the two community bus services until the end of March 2023 with hope that the services will then part of the new county council bus plan, although this is not guaranteed.

11. **Code of Conduct**

The updated 2022 code of conducted was adopted by all Cllrs present

12. **Civility & Respect Pledge**

The new civility & respect pledge 2022 was adopted by Peopleton Parish Council

13. **Climate Change**

All Cllrs agreed that when the SWDP is published to review the village's position in terms of future housing and development.

14. **Correspondence for Information**

None

15. **Future agenda items and reports:**

The SWDP consultation is to be covered at the November meeting and also the 2023/24 budget and precept.

16. **Date of next meeting:** To confirm the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 9th November 2022 at 7:30pm

Signed

Dated.....

Future meetings

November	09/11/22
January	11/01/23
March	08/03/23
May	10/05/23
July	12/07/23
September	20/09/23
November	08/11/23

AIDE MEMOIR

One parishioner enquired about enforcement following up on recent planning applications

One parishioner expressed concern at the lack of Police intervention in local crime activity within the village, the lack of urgency from local landowners to clear ditches coming into the winter months and also a road sign on the A44 upon leaving the village requires vegetation cutting back around it to aid visibility.