

PEOPLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Lisa Cope [Tel:07773793185](tel:07773793185) Email: peopletonpc@gmail.com

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th July 2023 at 7.30pm in Peopleton Village Hall

1. **Members and Officers present:** Cllrs Mason (Chair), Phillips, Bailey, Wall, Baxter and District and County Cllr Robinson. Two members of the public attended.
2. **Apologies:** Cllrs Darby, Harbon and MacCalman sent their apologies
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None

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:** None to approve
5. **County & District Councillors report:**

Boundary Commission Consultation

Having recently redrawn Wychavon District ward boundaries the Boundary Commission are now looking at the County Council Division boundaries. They are looking at drawing up a new pattern of Divisions that means the current 57 Cllrs. each represent roughly the same number of voters and reflect local communities. For your Upton Snodsbury Ward for me this very much means making sure we retain our rural identities with our surrounding villages. The initial consultation now closes on the 19th September
The link is: lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/Worcestershire

The consultation has been extended in order to give local residents and organisations more time to engage with our initial consultation to ensure that we receive meaningful and helpful responses and input that reflect local needs, views, and circumstances.

This is to ensure we create boundaries that are appropriate, and reflect community ties and identities while supporting effective local governance in order to provide the best arrangements for the authority.

If you have already made a submission in this stage of the initial consultation you do not need to do so again, however you are invited to make additional comments during this extension if you so wish. We will consider all representations already received as well as those made between now and 19 September.

This consultation on division patterns will now close on: 19 September 2023

ALL but one of the county's ticket offices are set to close under new plans revealed by the rail industry.

Every ticket office in Worcestershire except for Worcester Foregate Street would close under the new plans revealed by the railway industry body the Rail Delivery Group (RDG).

West Midlands Railway, which runs trains between the city and Birmingham and towards Malvern and Hereford, said Worcester Foregate Street would become a 'customer information centre' which meant staff would be available throughout the week to assist passengers and help buy tickets.

The other county stops on the line, including Bromsgrove, Kidderminster and Droitwich Spa, would all close.

West Midlands Railway said ticket offices at those stops would be manned by staff from new "mobile teams" on a "flexible" basis. The ticket office at Worcester Shrub Hill would also close under plans by Great Western Railway (GWR).

GWR said it expects ticket offices at Worcestershire Parkway near Norton and Evesham to be closed by the end of 2024.

Just over ten per cent of tickets at Worcestershire Parkway were bought from the ticket office, according to GWR, with 13 per cent of tickets purchased from the ticket office at Evesham station.

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The Rail Delivery Group, which is made up of Network Rail and the various railway operators, said passengers would be asked to pay for journeys by tapping contactless cards on barriers, using self-service machines, or buying tickets from staff on station concourses or onboard trains.

The planned mass closures come after government transport secretary Mark Harper wrote to train operators asking them to cut costs. The RDG said moving staff out of ticket offices and onto platforms and concourses would “modernise customer service” and make “more staff available to give face-to-face help.”

Businesses and communities urged to grab share of Wychavon Rural Fund

A new fund worth more than £1 million is being launched by Wychavon to help support the district’s rural businesses and communities.

Companies, charities, community groups, town and parish councils and other organisations can bid for a share of the Wychavon Rural Fund.

In total £420,000 is being made available to support new small or micro businesses in rural areas, including helping farmers to diversify into other sectors, and growing tourism.

Another £670,000 is available to support rural communities with projects such as community energy schemes, improving local green spaces, upgrading walking and cycling routes and cultural or heritage projects.

The money can only be used to fund physical projects such as new buildings or renovations and not for staff or day-to-day running costs.

It will be released in stages over the next two years, with the first round of funding available to bid for now. Individual grants of between £2,500 and £25,000 are on offer, but businesses will be expected to match 50 per cent of the total cost of a project and other organisations 30 per cent.

Expressions of interest must be submitted through Wychavon’s website using the online form by 14 August 2023. Shortlisted bids will then be invited to work up a full application.

The funding is part of Wychavon’s share of the Government’s Rural England Prosperity Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a central pillar of the UK government’s Levelling Up agenda and provides £2.6 billion of funding for local investment by March 2025. The Fund aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills. For more information, visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus>.

Upcoming annual canvass

The annual canvass for the Electoral Register is about to start.

This is a legal requirement and involves the council contacting every household in Wychavon to ensure their electoral register details are correct and what to do if not.

The Electoral Services Team would appreciate your help by reminding residents to action their response. Messages are sent via post or email, so we just urge residents to simply follow the instructions sent to them. Our website contains more useful information (<https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/elections#current>) and the Electoral Services Team can be contacted on 01386 565437 or elections@wychavon.gov.uk.

Reminder: Worcestershire Tourism Awards

Today is the final day to nominate for the Visit Worcestershire Tourism Awards for 2023/24 in honour of celebrating our vibrant tourism sector in Worcestershire.

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Worcestershire Vale and Spa are asking for nominations of local tourism and hospitality businesses in Worcestershire. There is less than one week left to apply for the Visit Worcestershire Tourism Awards.

The closing date has been extended to 12pm on Friday 7 July. Please note that applications for the Festival and Event of The Year Award closes on 14 July at midnight. To apply, visit: <https://www.visitworcestershire.org/trade/tourism-awards/home>

Anti-Social Behaviour Week

As it is Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Week (3 – 9 July) we've included a reminder how to report ASB in Wychavon. ASB is a broadly used term to describe a wide variety of undesirable behaviours that have a negative effect on people, communities and the environment.

The council works alongside local agencies in responding to reports of ASB and any response will be proportionate to the type of and frequency of ASB that is occurring. All agencies understand that the perceptions of what is and isn't. ASB will differ from person to person, however a list is available on the Wychavon website showing what would and would not generally be examples of ASB.

If you have a tenant of a registered housing provider complaining of ASB, they first need to report any ASB to their Housing Association. Links can be found on our website. <https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/community-safety/community-safety-partnership/anti-social-behaviour-case-review>.

6. **Planning:** The following application was considered with no objections:

W/23/00844/FUL	Land At (OS 9543 5098) Seaford Pinvin	Erection of agricultural storage building, concrete apron and hardstanding area in support of agricultural seed trial business.	Pending Decision
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7. **Progress reports:**

a) Chairman's- TM

Correspondence had been noted from a parishioner regarding parking issues in the village and a note had been circulated on the website and Bowline for all residents to remain mindful of parking on pavements in the village also.

Following the May meeting a letter in support of the Pub has been drafted by Cllr Baxter which will be circulated to all Cllrs for approval before being submitted by Cllr Mason to the brewery and relevant leaseholders.

b) Village Trust- LB

The next committee meeting takes place next week and there is a new Secretary in place Sarah Howe. Solar panels are being considered at the Hall and anti-vandal paint has now been applied to the outer building. Bookings continue to be good and the Pony and Dog show was a success generating profits of £3237 for the Village Hall.

The football contract with Pershore Town Juniors has been renewed for the coming year.

c) Village shop-TM

Ongoing cash flow issues with the shop however there has been more support of the last six weeks from regular users it would be good to still get more other residents using the shop as and when they are able to. One issue to consider is longer opening hours however this would rely on more volunteers coming forward to work them.

The Post Office currently opens 24 hours per week, however residents need to note that there will be 4 weeks of closure per year to account for staff holiday time.

d) Community policing charter

Cllr Harbon to circulate the proposed responses to the Police crime survey.

Cllr Robinson explained that local Police representative Julie Pardoe has now left the role and has been replaced- Clerk to note.

e) Lengthsman-LB

Nothing to report.

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f) Rights of Way-LB

It was requested that the Clerk write to Mr Powell and request if the growth on Wassell's corner could be cut back to make visibility better for drivers on the bend-Clerk to action.

Cllr Bailey noted that the manhole cover outside Lower Norchard Farm remains sunken-Clerk to action.

Clerk to email Highways regarding Green Lane as it is now deeply rutted by 4x4 vehicles and requires grading.

Cllr Bailey commented that the grit bin on Wassell's Lane remains outstanding- Cllr Robinson to pursue.

It was noted that some hardcore was being supplied for a working party to maintain the local footpaths- Cllr Robinson thanked volunteers for doing this for the village.

Clerk to follow up on road sweeping following a request from a parishioner.

g) Flooding- DW

Following a meeting with Cllrs Mason, Wall, BHIB and WCC the Parish Council are still awaiting a follow up report from WCC-Cllr Mason to follow up.

Clerk to follow up on the ditch clearance through the village which should have taken place in the spring.

8. Finance

a) Update on the budget/ Bank balance as of 12th June 2023

Treasurers Account £8,134.81
Business Instant Account £12,380.15

b) The following payments were approved for the Clerk to pay-

BHIB Insurance	£407.05-PAID
Lengthsman May	£224.00
Clerk's salary	£550.08
Clerk's expenses	£37.37
Lengthsman June	£256.00
Clerk tax HMRC	£54.00
Limebridge May	£432.00
Limebridge June	£432.00
PATA Payroll	£14.00
Worcs CALC	£36.00

9. Crime update

Two further recent crime incidents had been noted in the village at Mex Motors and Lockwood's.

Fly tipping of tyres has also been reported to WCC.

A recent break-in to the Post Office at Upton Snodsbury had been noted for the Village Shop to remain vigilant.

10. Enforcement

Cllr Mason explained that a letter regarding enforcement issues had been sent to the Head of Planning and a response received. A further letter is to be composed with a request to specific timeframes to be detailed.

11. SmartWater

The sufficient number of Smart Water kits has now been registered within the village in order to receive signage which is currently being manufactured.

Cllr Mason and all Cllrs expressed their thanks to Jo Smith in driving this initiative within the village and making it a successful outcome.

12. Correspondence for Information

Correspondence from a parishioner covered in item 7(a)

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13. **Future agenda items and reports:** None

14. **Date of next meeting:** To confirm the date of the next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting as Wednesday 20th September 2023 at 7:30pm

The meeting closed at

Signed

Dated.....

Future meetings

September	20/09/23
November	08/11/23
January	10/01/24
March	13/03/24

AIDE MEMOIR

One parishioner enquired as to whether a letter of support for the Pub had been sent as yet- to be completed.

DRAFT