

PEOPLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk Lisa Cope, Email: peopletonpc@gmail.com Tel: 07773793185
Address: Walcote, Top Street, Charlton WR10 3LE

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 20th September 2023 at 7.30pm in Peopleton Village Hall

1. **Members and Officers present:** Cllrs Mason (Chair), Phillips, Bailey, Wall, Harbon and District and County Cllr Robinson. Four members of the public attended.
2. **Apologies:** Cllrs Darby, Baxter 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:** The minutes from the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th July 2023 were approved as true and correct as proposed by Cllr Mason and seconded by Cllr Wall.
5. **County & District Councillors report:**

I hope you all managed to take some time out through the Summer break. There is very little to report from WCC as meetings have not been held during August and many officers have taken their annual leave to tie in with school holidays. As the children went back to school last week my Council diaries are rapidly filling.

Whilst on the subject of schools we have been informed that none of our council-run schools in Worcestershire have been affected by the same 'collapse risk' concrete (RAAC) that has forced more than 100 others nationally to close. However, this statement does not include Academies such as Pershore High School where tests are still being carried out. I was informed earlier that they have closed their drama building over RAAC fears after surveys have been undertaken. Evidently though County Hall has RAAC present in its roof. As a precautionary measure staff are being relocated to lower floors and Council meetings due to be held in the Council Chamber are to be relocated while more surveys are carried out.

No doubt you will have heard of a proposal to close ticket offices at railway stations. The County Council are not in favour and for my part I am not in favour of this proposal as I feel it will disproportionately affect many rail users. For those who agree there is a live petition opposing ticket office closures and asking for the need to force a debate in the House of Commons. 100,000 signatures are needed and 94,000 have already been received. Please follow <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/636542> The deadline is October 18th

PARKWAY STATION

Worcestershire Parkway opened in February 2020

MORE than half a million trips were made at a county-wide railway station within 12 months. Figures show over 540,000 journeys have been made from Worcestershire Parkway Railway Station in 12 months.

The journeys made were between April 2022 and March 2023 and is the kind of volume the county council did not expect to achieve for at least another eleven years. Worcestershire Parkway opened in Feb 2020. A special event took place to celebrate Worcestershire Parkway organised by Great Western Railway (GWR). Which I was pleased to attend as the station lies within my County Division.

Mrs Beatrice Grant, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Worcestershire, West Worcestershire MP Harriett Baldwin and Lord Faulkner of Worcester, chair of the North Cotswold Line Task Force, were all in attendance, as well as councillor Simon Geraghty, leader of Worcestershire County Council.

Councillor Marc Bayliss, cabinet member with responsibility for economy, infrastructure and skills, said: "It's fantastic that Parkway has exceeded all the initial expectations and significantly more people are using it than we had hoped for only three years after opening.

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"Rail is critical to the ongoing economic development of Worcestershire, providing low carbon travel choice and the potential for enhanced connectivity to high growth economies throughout the country for businesses and residents in Worcestershire." GWR Business Development Portfolio Director Tom Pierpoint said: "We are delighted that Worcestershire Parkway customer numbers are so far ahead of expectations.

"To be hitting travel figures now that were initially anticipated to be reached in 2031 is remarkable and a testament to everyone involved in the planning, design and building of the station.

"It shows how much appetite there is for a modal shift to rail and how important the railway is for economic development and sustainability.

"There is the potential for even greater growth, and we look forward to continuing our work with Worcestershire County Council and the Department for Transport to truly realise the potential for this very important station." At the event, there were several speeches made and a plaque was unveiled by Beatrice Grant to mark the occasion.

Worcestershire Parkway, located east of Junction 7 of the M5, is accessible for commuters and longer-distance travellers from all over the county. The station serves two railway lines - North Cotswold Line, which goes to London Paddington and the Birmingham to Bristol Line.

The station was the first new station to open in Worcestershire in over 100 years.

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

7. **Progress reports:**

a) Chairman's- TM

Cllr Mason shared details of a fundraiser taking place by Pershore Volunteer Centre and agreed to share on the village website.

A meeting with Stone Arrow Farm was suggested to discuss ongoing issues.

b) Village Trust- LB

The Village Hall remains busy with bookings for the rest of the year and the Autumn Show was very successful with thanks to everyone who was involved on the day.

Currently the Village Trust are pursuing grants for possible solar panels and double glazing on the Village Hall.

c) Village shop-TM

Sales are still difficult with the shop not breaking even most weeks, everyone is encouraged to use the shop and pass on to residents.

d) Community policing charter-DH

The annual Police survey was completed and returned.

Mex Motors had a shed break in approx. a month ago with padlocks cut and some property taken.

This week a vehicle was stolen from Stone Arrow Farm and a gate damaged.

Cllr Harbon will research who the new local police contact is and share with the Parish Council.

e) Lengthsman-LB

Nothing to report.

f) Rights of Way-LB

Ten tonnes of aggregate was delivered to help restore the village footpaths- with thanks to Mr Dunne who is helping to position within the area. Cllr Biley suggested a £100 payment for Mr Dunne and all of his assistance, this was seconded by Cllr Mason- all Cllrs in agreement and the Clerk to pay.

Manhole cover outside Lower Norchard Farm remains sunken-still awaiting Severn Trent to repair.

Requested the Clerk chase highways on repairs to Green lane before the winter months make the condition worse.

g) Flooding- DW

A reminder to all landowners to keep all ditches clear as we enter Autumn.

Clerk to chase the drainage department on when the village ditch will be cleared.

Cllr Mason to follow up on report promised from the Environment Agency following meeting.

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8. Finance

- a) Update on the budget/ Bank balance as of 18th September 2023

Treasurers Account £6,099.36
Business Instant Account £12,889.90

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

Lengthsman July	£256.00
Clerk's salary	£502.00
Clerk's expenses	£25.80
Lengthsman August	£240.00
Clerk tax HMRC	£84.40
Limebridge July	£432.00
Limebridge August	£816.00
PATA Payroll	£19.90
Wychavon bins	£110.24
Wychavon Elections	£50.00

9. Crime update

Cllr Robinson shared that she attended a Public Meeting on 19th September at Flyford Flavell where John Campion West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner was in attendance answering questions. Mr Brian Gibbs is a new Chief Inspector for the area and Molly and Sarah were named as local PCSO contacts. Smart water signage due to go up at the start of October.

10. Enforcement

Nothing to report.

11. The Crown Pub

Cllr Mason had been in contact with both Sheldon Inn's and Star Pubs regarding maintenance issues and upkeep of the Village Pub- Star Pubs stated that they would only invest funds into the pub when there is along term tenant in situ.

Cllr Mason suggested a working party is formed to research the possibility of the village running the Pub -similar to what Elmley Castle and Bishampton have done (whether this is through a lease off the brewery or a buy-out). Research into the financial and operational viability would give a better idea of whether this would be feasible or not. Cllr Harbon offered to join the committee and Cllr MacCalman will be asked also.

12. Correspondence for Information

The Clerk shared correspondence from Bishampton Parish Council who are interested in sharing/ expanding the community bus to serve their villagers. Clerk had shared with the bus operators and will ask Bishampton to contact them directly to find out if this would be possible.

13. Future agenda items and reports:

Cllr Bailey requested the Clerk update the Cllr contacts list.

Cllr Mason requested the Clerk research savings accounts to possibly invest some Parish Council funds-Clerk to action.

14. **Date of next meeting:** To confirm the date of the next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting as Wednesday 8th November 2023 at 7:30pm

Signed

Dated.....

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Future meetings

November	08/11/23
January	10/01/24
March	13/03/24
May	08/05/24
July	10/07/24
September	11/09/24

AIDE MEMOIR

One parishioner stated that the footpath behind the Church is not accessible due to overgrown weeds and brambles making it too difficult. Cllr Bailey to contact the Footpaths Officer and ask if this can be cut back as it is a Public right of way.

DRAFT