

St Peter the Great County Parish Council

Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on **Thursday 9th November 2023 at 19:30** in St Peter's Village Hall Worcester, WR5 3TA.

Present: Chairman Cllr. Mr. P. Walters, Cllrs. Mr. A. Tidy, Mrs. A. Wytcherley, Mr. P. James, Mr. J. Renshaw, Mr. R. Knight, Mrs K. Evans, Mr. D. Saunders, and Mrs. L. Hodges.

Also present: The Clerk, City and County Councillors and 8 members of the public.

13223 Apologies for Absence: All Councillors present.

13323 Declarations of Interest: Cllr. Tidy & Cllr. Knight for matters relating to the St Peter's Village Hall Association.

13423 Adoption of Minutes: Council agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 12th October 2023 as a true record of events. The Chairman duly signed the master copy which would be held within the minute book.

Public Participation: The Chairman suspended the meeting for public participation. 8 members of public were present. The following items were raised:

- Pump track - A member of the public asked what progress has been made with the pump track. As the pump track is a City Council project, the Chairman suggested that City Cllr. Elena Round was best placed to respond:
 - The City Council needs to hold a consultation before plans can proceed, this consultation is presently open.
 - Anyone can complete consultation and the deadline is 19th November, although this might be extended by a week.
 - Once the consultation closes, City Council Officers will generate a report to then go to committee.
- A 13-year-old resident of St Peter's had handwritten a letter stating reasons why the pump track should be built in St Peter's. Reasons included:
 - The health and wellbeing benefits of exercise.
 - A great way to keep kids off devices.
 - It would be a great place to socialise with other likeminded young people.
 - There are no facilities for young people in St Peter's, and no other pump tracks in all Worcester.
- Residents present stated that:
 - Battenhall Park is the ideal location due to being positioned on a main pedway that links Battenhall, St Peter's and the City via Bath Road.
 - Lots of kids are in the park after school and it's a well-used park for kids on bikes due to the location near to Cherry Orchard School and the many pedways linking to other parts of St Peter's.
 - There is a chronic lack of secondary school age children's facilities in St Peter's and South Worcester.
 - Other districts have several facilities such as a pump track, there are two in Kidderminster for example.
 - There is confusion where the track is to be placed as the position shown on the consultation does not match where the track was originally planned to be placed.
- The Chairman suggested there does appear to be some confusion around the pump track project. This may be due in some part to the coordinated circulation of printed material from an unknown resident that includes several pieces of misinformation such as the impact the pump track will have on the environment, and other anti-pump track rhetoric. Cllr. Knight commented

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that a member of the public had confronted him in the park and called him an idiot because he was a Parish Councillor. The Chairman reminded members of the public that the Parish Council is in support of the pump track project and encouraged residents to complete the consultation.

- County Cllr. Steve Mackay stated it was disappointing how long it has taken to get to this point. There is potential that if the pump track project does not go ahead, the money will be lost on another project elsewhere.
- Traveller site – A resident stated that he is working with St Modwen and the landowner regarding alternative plans for piece of land previously proposed as a traveller site. Council confirmed full support for the potential plans and thanked the resident for the quick progress made to date.

13523 Police Liaison: PC James was in attendance from the local police team. PC James is a recent appointment to this role in August 2023 but is already known to the Parish Council through involvement with the festival and volunteer work with the Cadets. PC James faced a series of introductory questions and comments regarding road safety and ASB.

- a) It was confirmed there has been recent Police enforcement activity on St Peter's Drive, the results showed only a limited number of drivers needed to be stopped. PC James confirmed that Operation Snap is a useful online service to report dangerous driving and works from submitted dash cam footage.
- b) Council confirmed the policing priorities for current period.
- c) Sound activated cameras - County Cllr. Steve Mackay provided an update on audio cameras and suggested they seem to have a limited success rate. Also in attendance, County Cllr. Mike Rouse stated that acoustic cameras don't work at this point in time and that a high court injunction to stop ASB drivers would be more effective.
- d) A4440 - PC James stated low rates of reported vehicle collisions on the A4440, although many incidents are stated on social media but not reported to the Police. PC James encouraged residents to report all incidents via the online or 101 services as Police resources are directed by demand.
- e) Graffiti and ASB – PC James stated it has been a quiet year for localised ASB. There have been several issues around Dace Road, and reports of a fire in the street in this area. The Community Safety team have been working with residents near Grayling Close. The Police have increased patrols in the area. Two children have been issued with ASB L1 letters. There is a possible idea for Platform to be involved due to the nature of the housing in this area. Graffiti has reduced but still prevalent. Council supports the idea for more tree and shrub planting to hide graffiti and other potential target areas. Cllr. Mackay has requested removal of graffiti on the footbridge and then coating with antistick paint to stop further instances.

13623 Bus Services: County Cllr. Mike Rouse was in attendance and provided an update for Council. It's been a difficult time for buses due partly to the slow recovery for use of buses following Covid-19. There are 2 million more cars on the roads since 2021. There is difficulty maintaining services due to low usage. The County Council had to step in to subsidise the service or face collapse. A new trial of responsive transport has been launched elsewhere in the County, and several points in St Peter's are being added to this route. A service called Worcestershire on Demand is available on phone. First Bus based in Bristol have partnered with the County to provide bus services within the County. Local businesses are working with local buses in the area, to provide services for workers. Evening services are being reviewed and potentially implemented until 9 or 10pm across Worcester and Malvern. The Chairman suggested that further questions for Cllr. Rouse can be forwarded after the meeting.

13723 Reports from District and County Councillors:

- a. City Cllrs. Elena Round & Steve Cockeram provided a verbal update including:

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- i. The £12k for play equipment in St Peter's is ongoing. Cllr. Round confirmed this will be included in the Play Consultation piece of work with further information to follow.
- ii. A recent visit to Dace Road following reports of domestic issues.
- iii. A recent meeting with City Council planners regarding the potential 5g mast installation by the Baptist Church.
- iv. Heather Close play area is closed due to an issue with the depth of the wood chippings.
- b. County Cllr. Mackay had provided a written report to the Clerk covering County issues. Council noted the report, which included:
 - i. Worcestershire is in urgent need of Foster carers.
 - ii. Recent work on sepsis awareness throughout the Country.
 - iii. Several of the local pedways will be upgraded in spring. Phase 2 will be made possible using divisional funding.

13823 St Peter's Parish Festival: Cllr. Renshaw provided an update following a festival working party on the 6th of November.

- a. The Clerk circulated the minutes of the meeting.
- b. Discussion on next steps as directed by the Festival planning documentation.

13923 Matters arising and action sheet: Council reviewed the latest actions not covered elsewhere on the agenda:

- a. Outstanding matters relating to the annual meeting to be progressed.
- b. The Chairman to chase Malvern Hills District Council for a response regarding the proposed warehouse units to be placed close to the Parish Boundary along Taylors Lane.

14023 Highways, Developments & Planning:

- a. No additional items.

14123 Electoral Cycle: The required consultation regarding the alignment of the Parish Council electoral cycles has now concluded. Electoral Services at the City Council have contacted the Clerk to confirm that the matter will now be discussed at Committee level for a recommendation to then be taken to full Council.

14223 Finance:

- a. The Clerk presented an update on the current financial position of Council.
- b. Council approved the following payments, including those made since the last meeting under delegated authority:

Amount	Payable To	Reason for Payment
£100.00	Worcester Lions	Grant donation

14323 Clerks Report: To receive a report from the Clerk on correspondence to the Council and other pertinent administrative matters.

- a. Several communications from City Council and Persimmon homes regarding the adoption status of land adjacent to Grasshopper avenue. The land in question has now been confirmed as owned by the developer and as such, works to maintain this piece of land will now cease by the City Council.
- b. A communication from a resident concerned regarding the removal of the pump track consultation notice boards in Battenhall park.
- c. Council and Clerks direct statutory guidance.

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14423 Website: Council are investigating options for a new Parish Council website. Cllr. James gave a verbal report but had not been able to progress matters. Council confirmed the Clerk is now authorised to progress and for Cllr. James to forward relevant materials to the Clerk.

14523 Budget: Council have begun work to build a draft budget for FY2024/25. The Clerk provided an update following the latest budget working party, the Minutes from the meeting and a financial report have been circulated to Councillors. The date of the next working party to be decided. Council will be asked to confirm the budget and therefore a precept request in January 2024.

14623 Financial Regulations: Following a review of the Parish Council Financial Regulations by the Chairman and the Clerk, Council agreed to the recommendation to remove items 6.9 & 6.16. Online banking has removed the requirement for these items.

14723 Portfolio Holder Reports:

- a. **Green Spaces:** Cllr. Tidy provided a verbal update:
 - i. The final Friends of St Peter's Parks community litter pick will be held on 30th November.
- b. **Community Engagement:** Cllr. Wytcherley provided a verbal update on recent activities including:
 - i. One grant application has been received: The Worcester Lions have applied for insurance and refurbishment of the Santa sleigh for £100. Council agreed to the application.
 - ii. Cllr. Wytcherley is volunteering for the Poppy appeal.
 - iii. Recent attendance by several Parish Councillors at Acorns Hospice for the presentation of the donation cheque following funds raised at the annual Festival.
- c. **Community Facility:** Cllr. Knight gave a verbal update on the position of the new community facility. An application has been made for funding from the National Lottery. An amendment to the planning application will be made to accommodate the new placement of the facility.
- d. **Police Liaison:** Cllr. Walters gave a verbal update on police liaison.
 - i. The date of the next PACT meeting is 7th December in the Baptist Church at 19:30.
 - ii. The Chairman will request for PC Attwood to meet Council.

14823 Date of Next Meeting: The date of the next Parish Council Meeting was proposed as Thursday 11th January 2024 at 19:30, at St Peter's Village Hall, Worcester WR5 3TA.

Signed.....

Chairman

Date.....