

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 10th January 2024 at 7.30pm in Peopleton Village Hall

1. **Members and Officers present:** Cllrs Wall (Vice Chair), Phillips, Harbon, Darby, MacCalman, Povey and District and County Cllr Robinson. Three members of the public attended.
2. **Apologies:** Cllrs Mason, Bailey and Baxter 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 8th November 2023 were approved as true and correct as proposed by Cllr Wall and seconded by Cllr Phillips.
5. **County & District Councillors report:**

Please find below my first report for your parish council in 2024. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New year and a productive one for your community.

Flooding and Rainfall

This week has been disruptive to most with travel and homes being affected by the flooding of the rivers.

Only days ago, there were 14 flood alerts in effect in Worcestershire, with multiple road closures including major bridge crossings on the Avon & Severn.

From earlier this week, we discovered that the total rainfall for 2023, recorded on the Civic Centre weather station, is 1036mm – this is the first time it's exceeded the 1 metre mark. Looking back through archive local rainfall totals, this is the highest on record certainly for at least 60 years.

Highlights from our data (since 2008) are record rainfall for October and the second-highest December total.

We will no doubt find out soon enough how 2023 has gone down nationally and while it may not be the wettest on record across the board, it certainly looks that way for our locality.

During the latest flooding County's Highways & Transport Control Centre were working from 8am till 8pm.

For future reference see below for useful contacts:

To report an urgent issue, you can call 01905 845676 and speak to one of their advisors.

Alternatively, you can find flooding advice and how to report issues at <https://worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/environment/flooding>

School Placements

A reminder for parents of all children starting school this year to submit their applications. The deadline for a place at a Worcestershire Primary, First or Middle school is January 15th at midnight.

Applying online is recommended on the council's dedicated School Admission's pages.

Call 01905 845900 or visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions for more info.

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Call To Action

Does someone in your community want to plant a Community Orchard in Wychavon?

Through the Trees Call To Action Project (TCAP), Wychavon District Council and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund partnered with The Heart of England Forest are offering Wychavon Community Groups & Schools, trees to plant an Orchard.

Orchard planting will be supported by TCAP officers, who offer free advice and guidance throughout the process.

If you are a Community Group or School who may have space for an Orchard and you would like to know more about this offer or if you are considering a community or large-scale tree planting project, please get in touch.

For tree planting advice in your community, please contact our team: TCAP@heartofenglandforest.org

You can find out more about the Trees Call To Action Project here: <https://bit.ly/3QNALQW>

SWEP

The Sever Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) will be in effect again this coming Sunday and Monday due to the expected cold weather.

The public are asked to make sure that if they see homeless people, to share the details with StreetLink.

Residents are reminded that if they come across a rough sleeper, to report the information such as the location to the Street Link service at <https://bit.ly/3GSCTXf>

Street Link will then share the details with us and our partners, and together, we will make sure that the person in need receives the support they deserve.

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

7. **Progress reports:**

a) Chairman's- TM

The main item is that we have, at last, received the flood risk report from Worcestershire CC. I have published it on the village website with links on Facebook. I have also let two parishioners have a copy. I am sure that David will have more to say about this under the flooding report. We can try writing to the Environment Agency, however, I got the clear impression at our meeting that they would not be amending their maps as they are very short staffed. However, it might be worth a try.

I attended the Wychavon Planning Communities Together Event held on Thursday 23 November. There are a number of grants available for large projects. Details in the slides for the evening which Lisa has distributed. The slides are worth looking at if you haven't already done so.

b) Village Trust- LB

Nothing to report, all is going well.

c) Village shop-TM

As of mid December sales for the month look good and our cash-flow is holding up. However, the first two or three months of the year are usually slow months.

The Village Shop association are looking for a new secretary. Any suggestions (or volunteers) welcome.

d) Community policing charter-DH

Nothing to report.

e) Lengthsman-LB

Nothing to report, all going well.

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f) Rights of Way-LB

Nothing to report.

Cllr Harbon commented that the grass verge by Bowbrook cottages are getting damaged from School cars parking on them during the winter months, Cllr Wall suggested the Clerk write to the Headmaster at Bowbrook School regarding this- Clerk to action.

g) Flooding- DW

The flood risk report recently produced by WCC shows the residual flood risk at Peopleton to be low currently, however the database shared by the Environment Agency with insurance companies has historically (and still currently) show the risk as high meaning insurance premiums are high reflecting this. Cllr Wall suggested the Clerk contact the Environment Agency to thank them for the report and ask that the database is urgently amended to low risk- all Cllrs agreed Clerk to action.

Parishioners have raised concerns recently but the positive is that there has been no flooding this year as yet despite heavy rain and flooding in Wychavon. Wychavon officers regularly inspect the flood alleviation scheme in the village and it continues to operate efficiently.

Recently Cllr Wall met with Liam Gormley a drainage engineer from Wychavon alongside Cllr Bailey to inspect every ditch within the village. Mr Gormley's view was that most ditches are in good order and flowing freely. Small areas were identified where ditches require digging out and Cllrs will approach the landowners to try and get these actioned first. If, after a period of time they are reminded, and the works are still not undertaken Mr Gormley will write to the landowners to enforce the works to be completed.

The Parish Council have no responsibility over landowner's ditch maintenance.

8. Finance

a) Update on the budget/ Bank balance as of 31st December 2023

Treasurers Account £6,366.61
Business Instant Account £13,731.96

b) The following payments were approved for the Clerk to pay, as proposed by Cllr Wall and seconded by Cllr Phillips.

Lengthsman November	£184.00
Clerk's salary	£543.60
Clerk's expenses	£25.80
Lengthsman December	£104.00
Clerk tax HMRC	£46.60
Limebridge November	£216.00
Worcestershire CALC- Finance training	£36.00

c) Budget 2024/5

Cllrs discussed the draft budget for 2024/25 presented by the Clerk as £9500 for the year, a 3.4% increase on last year. This was proposed by Cllr Wall, seconded by Cllr Phillips- all Cllrs were in agreement.

9. Crime update

Nothing to report

10. Enforcement

Cllrs requested the Clerk enquire with enforcement as to how long a time period a mobile home can be sited without relevant permissions and feed back to the Parish Council.

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11. The Crown Pub

Cllrs Harbon and MacCalman have been undertaking research alongside Debbie Day and wanted to express their thanks to Debbie for the time undertaken in the project- Clerk to write and express thanks.
All had been for a meeting with Mr Neil Lavender Jones who is a Director at the Queens Pub, Elmley Castle which a community owned Pub for gathering information on how this was set up and funded. This was initially funded by 26 villagers who invested £250k to buy a 12 year lease on the building. A very different set up to the community Pub at Bishampton.

Cllr Harbon suggested next steps would be to make contact with Martin Cartwright from Sheldon Inns who own The Crown for a meeting to find out intentions and how the community could help make the Pub more successful- all Cllrs agreed this would be a good next step.

Cllr Wall thanked Cllrs Harbon and MacCalman for the time taken so far on the project.

12. Correspondence for Information

- a) Community Ownership Funds- Cllrs agreed that this would be good to know about for any future projects.
- b) Safer Roads Grant- Cllr Darby asked if these funds could be used for SLOW markings on the dangerous bend out of the village (falls in Upton Snodsbury Ward) what3words location cars.roadways.measures. Clerk to contact Highways.

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 13th March 2024 at 7:30pm

The meeting closed at 8:30pm

Signed

Dated.....

Future meetings

March	13/03/24
May	15/05/24
July	10/07/24
September	11/09/24

AIDE MEMOIR

One parishioner wanted to thank who had been contacted to cut the brambles down along the footpath by the Church and wanted to thank the landowners in the Village who have kept their hedges cut back neatly making the village look tidy.

One parishioner commented that landowners have not been maintaining their ditches in the Village, including the ditch outside the Village Hall.