

St Peter the Great County Parish Council

Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on **Thursday 8th February 2024 at 19:30** in St Peter's Village Hall Worcester, WR5 3TA.

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

Also present: The Clerk, County Councillor Mr. S. Mackay, and one member of the public.

01824 Tributes to Councillor Paul Walters: The Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Paul Walters sadly passed away in January 2024. Council paid tribute to Paul, with Cllr. Tidy leading the way with a written summary of Paul's many endearing qualities and recent achievements, attained within a relatively short time on the Parish Council. Paul joined the Parish Council in 2019 and became quickly established as an active member of the community, regularly attending volunteer events for the benefit of the community. His dedication, drive and enthusiasm for everything St Peter's stands for will be sadly missed.

Following the conclusion of the many tributes to Paul, Council held a minute's silence. May he rest in peace.

01924 Election of Chairman: There was a single nomination for Cllr. John Renshaw to be elected Chairman; proposed by Cllr. Tidy and unanimously agreed by Council. The duly elected Chairman signed the obligatory Declaration of Acceptance of Office to serve during the current year. As Cllr. Renshaw had been promoted from Vice Chairman, Council voted and agreed to elect Cllr. Alan Tidy as Vice Chairman.

02024 Apologies for Absence: No apologies received. All Councillors present.

02124 Declarations of Interest: Cllrs. Tidy & Knight for matters relating to St Peter's Village Hall Association.

02224 Adoption of Minutes: Council agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 11th January 2024 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. One member of the public was present. The following items were raised:

- The resident was concerned after reading an article in the Worcester News following a meeting at Warndon Hub about Ketch roundabout road issues. The Worcester News reported a member of public was in attendance representing the Parish Council. This was not the case and the resident in question was not representing the Parish Council. The Clerk has requested the story be corrected. The resident also commented on the poor quality of reporting from Worcester News.
- The resident suggested the Parish Council should publicise the many highways issues that are ongoing, including the concerns regarding the Ketch roundabout. Many of these issues have been highlighted and championed by the Parish Council over many years.
- The resident read from a copy of Minutes of St Peter's Parish Council from 2021, highlighting that the Parish Council had written to David Blake MD Worcester City Council to raise concerns regarding the Ketch Field development. Within the letter, amongst other things, the Parish Council complained regarding the proposed design and placement on the site of the housing blocks near the road. The resident agreed that common sense would suggest the blocks

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should be placed to the rear of the site, away from the road, but instead they were placed on the road edge, despite calls from the Parish Council to amend the planned location. The resident suggested the Parish Council again write to the City Council to highlight the plight of the residents of St Peter's regarding the awful visual appearance of the development and its ruinous effect on the local environment. Now the blocks are being built, the gravest of concerns have come true, the buildings are overpowering and have the appearance of an army barracks. The commercial units are huge and notably detract from the visual appearance of the area, especially St Peters. The lack of concern from the City Council regarding the visual appearance of the southern entrance to Worcester is concerning. Council agreed for the Chairman to write to David Blake regarding these concerns.

- The resident requested an update for what is happening with the raised beds outside Tesco, have been in a serious state of disrepair for several years. Cllr. Knight confirmed that recent communications with the Store Manager suggest work is being planned at some point in the future.

02324 Report from City Councillors:

City Councillors were not present.

02424 Report from County Councillor:

County Cllr. Mackay had provided a written report to the Clerk covering County issues. Council noted the report, which included:

- a. Pedway resurfacing work on will shortly begin on Dereham Pedway, possible action to include increased camber to manage water runoff on a known wet part of the path.
- b. The access point from Barbell Close and the A38 has been in need of drainage work due to continual waterlogging. Severn Trent works will begin shortly following continued pressure.
- c. The broken light in Power Park has been inspected and will be replaced or repaired under warranty.
- d. There is a proposal to take away lines that designate cyclist or pedestrian lanes. There is an ongoing project to resolve inconsistency around lane designation and pedway central lane issues with bricks rising and causing a trip hazard. Cllr. Mackay to share relevant information regarding this matter with the Parish Council.
- e. Cllr. Mackay has requested a new light for Bluebell Pedway.

02524 St Peter's Parish Festival: Cllr. Renshaw provided a verbal update following a festival working party on the 5th of February 2024.

- a. Bookings are being taken.
- b. Next meeting is 4th March.

02624 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. £12k play area allocation to Power Park. City Cllr. Round had previously confirmed an update will be available in February for this project. Cllr. Tidy gave an update from Worcester City Council regarding S106 funding which may be of benefit to Power Park. Suggestion for future play provision in the area. A representative from Worcester City Council has been invited to meet the Parish Council to discuss this matter.
- c. Worcester City Council are looking at replacement gates on Grasshopper Play area.
- d. Chairman and Clerk to share updated portfolio allocation.
- e. The situation with graffiti around the parish is improving and efforts to remove it from Broomhall Way have been made by the City Council.
- f. The Parish Council is awaiting a quote from the City Council for new matting to be installed by the Parish Warden around the outdoor gym equipment.
- g. Cllr. Saunders has written to MHDC regarding planning for warehouses on A4440 and received a response.

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02724 Highways, Developments & Planning:

- a. The letter regarding the Parish Council pump track response was submitted to City Councillors ahead of the Place and Economic Development Committee meeting on 29th January, the Committee resolved to proceed with the pump track in Battenhall Park following an amendment to the officer recommendation. This decision will now be considered at a future full City Council meeting.

02824 Finance:

- a. The Clerk presented a financial report and gave an update on the current financial position of Council.
- b. Council agreed to set up Memorandum of Understanding regarding payments for the development of the new community facility.
- c. Council approved the following payments, including those made since the last meeting under delegated authority:

Amount	Payable To	Reason for Payment
£5,310.00	Worcester City Council	Warden service fee

02924 Clerks Report: To receive a report from the Clerk on correspondence to the Council and other pertinent administrative matters.

- a. Council and Clerks Direct statutory guidance publication.
- b. Details for prospective applicants for the upcoming election.
- c. Confirmation that the City Council have removed a bench in Grasshopper park due to rotten timbers.
- d. Confirmation from County Highways that several pedways will be closed for resurfacing work in the coming weeks.
- e. Multiple communications have been received regarding the passing of Paul Walters. Council wished to convey gratitude to all individuals, groups, and organisations that have kindly reached out to the Parish Council to offer sympathy.

03024 Website: Cllr. James and the Clerk have met to discuss plans for the website. Further meetings to follow and content to be uploaded accordingly.

03124 Portfolio Holder Reports:

- a. **Planning:** Cllr. Saunders & Cllr. Renshaw provided a verbal update:
 - i. A report following a recent meeting with the City Council Planning Team.
 - ii. Matters relating to a right of way near the Carrington bridge.
- b. **Green Spaces:** Cllr. Tidy provided a verbal update:
 - i. Report from the City Council to state that the swing seat in Power Park needs to be removed for safety reasons and will therefore mean the last piece of formal play equipment in Power Park will be removed soon. Further plans for provision of play equipment in Power Park are planned in the future.
 - ii. The large order of trees has been delivered. Substantial tree planting is planned for February and March with the assistance from volunteers and the Parish Warden.
 - iii. Cllr. Tidy proposes the purchase of:
 1. One new bench for Battenhall Park to also serve as a memorial bench for late Cllr. Paul Walters £971.26 (ex VAT).
 2. One Eco rest bench for Pentagle Orchard £384.84 (ex VAT).
 3. 25 hi-vis vests with logo £100 (ex VAT).

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- 4. 25 orange hi-vis vests with Friends of St Peter's Parks logo £100 (ex VAT).
- 5. Ten litter pickers and ten bag rings £250 (ex VAT).
- c. **Community Engagement:** All grant applications have now been allocated and paid.
- d. **Community facility:** Cllr. Knight gave a verbal update.
 - i. Planning permission has been granted.
 - ii. The project has been awarded £30k from Garfield Weston towards the build.
- e. **AOB:** Cllr. Evans has reported the multiple BT boxes in the Parish that need repainting. Positive response from BT so far, works have been planned.

03224 Date of Next Meeting: The date of the next Parish Council Meeting was proposed as Thursday 14th March 2024 at 19:30, at St Peter's Village Hall, Worcester WR5 3TA.

Signed.....

Chairman

Date.....