

St Peter the Great County Parish Council

Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on **Thursday 12th September 2024 at 19:30** in St Peter's Village Hall Worcester, WR5 3TA.

Present: Chairman Cllr. Mr. J. Renshaw, Cllrs. Mr. A. Tidy, Mr. P. James, Mr. D. Simmonds, Mrs. K. Evans, and Mrs. L. Hodges.

Also present: One member of the public, County Cllr. Mr. S. Mackay, MD Worcester City Council Mr. D. Blake, and the Clerk.

11224 Apologies for Absence: Cllrs. Mrs. A. Wytcherley, Mr. R. Knight, Mr. D. Saunders.

11324 Declarations of Interest: Cllrs. Tidy for matters relating to St Peter's Village Hall Association.

11424 Adoption of Minutes: Council agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 11th July 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:

- Council raised the following matters with David Blake, MD Worcester City Council, including:
 - Positive feedback following the City Council Environmental Services Team restructure.
 - Queries over the City Council position on public transport and especially the bus network.
 - The latest review of the City Plan.

11524 Police liaison: PC Savidge provided a verbal update regarding recent activity in the Parish, including:

- a. Ongoing graffiti in local areas.
- b. The local Police team carried out a speed survey on Bath road, noting that the average traffic speed was faster on the Northbound route.
- c. Queries raised at PACT meeting regarding dissatisfaction over the length of time it can take to reach the 101 service via telephone. Reports can be made to the local police team via email on bn.snt@westmercia.police.uk, or via the 'report it' button on the website as this is often quicker than calling.

11624 Report from City Councillors: City Councillors Cockeram and Round were not in attendance.

11724 Report from County Councillor:

County Cllr. Mackay was in attendance and presented a written report. Council noted the report, which included:

- a. Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy. Seeking feedback on ownership of electric vehicles.
- b. A new volunteer portal is being launched Countywide.
- c. Pedway upgrades continue across the parish.
- d. Cllr. Mackay is seeking funds for new light to be placed in Bream Close.
- e. Feedback regarding the new junction at the entrance to Norton Road / Bath Road regarding potential impact on traffic.
- f. Redhill Lane works have been suspended due to residential feedback.
- g. It was noted that a resident is running a business from Eden Close, with machinery and vehicles causing potential disruption and safety concerns across the mini-roundabout adjacent.

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11824 St Peter's Parish Festival: Cllr. Renshaw provided a verbal update:

- a. Council confirmed the total donation to Acorns Hospice as £1400. Council to confirm a date for volunteers and partners to present the donation to Acorns.
- b. The honorarium for the Festival Organiser for 2025 is set at £1750.
- c. Council to open applications for the Festival Organiser volunteer role on 22nd September to run until 6th October.
- d. It was noted that the Festival portfolio will be transferred to Cllr. Simmonds from October 2025.

11924 Matters arising and action sheet: Council reviewed the latest actions not covered elsewhere on the agenda, updates as follows:

- a. Strategic Principles to be review in October 2024.
- b. Council continues to arrange meeting with Cllr. Bayliss via Cllr. Mackay regarding Highways matters.
- c. The Chairman awaiting response from MHDC regarding a meeting to discuss St Peter's Parish Council consultation status.
- d. The continued absence of the City Councillors was noted. City Cllrs. Round and Cockeram have not been present at a Parish Council meeting since January 2024.

12024 32 Bus Service: Following a communication from First Bus, the 32 route is being modified. Capacity will remain unchanged, but the route amendments mean anyone travelling from town to St Peter's Drive will have a slightly increased journey time. Council noted the changed route.

12124 Budget: The Clerk provided a timeline for initial budget setting for 2025. The finance portfolio holder proposed that the budget working party be reformed, with the first meeting on Thursday 3rd October at 730pm.

12224 Highways, Developments & Planning:

- a. Council considered one planning application for a single storey extension. Council agreed no objections. Portfolio holder Cllr. Saunders had previously visited this property and suggested consideration for neighbours bordering the property be noted with the case officer.
- b. The Clerk has received three notifications regarding footpath closures from the County Council due to resurfacing work, including Batsford and Leven pedway.

12324 Finance:

- a. The Clerk presented a written report covering the financial position of Council:
 - i. The Clerk has received confirmation from the external auditor PKF Littlejohn that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) has been successfully completed for the year ending March 2024. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit has been published on the website and in the notice board.
- b. Council approved the following payments, including those made since the last meeting under delegated authority:

Amount	Payable To	Reason for Payment
£465.00	Lone Marketeer	Newslink delivery
£1000.00	G. Hopkinson	Festival Organiser
£378.00	PKF Littlejohn	External audit
£200.00	1 st Worcester Scouts	Grant donation
£200.00	Park Run Worcester Woods	Grant donation

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12424 Clerks Report: To receive a report from the Clerk on correspondence to the Council and other pertinent administrative matters.

- a. Multiple reports regarding overgrown hedges passed to the City Council.
- b. Notification regarding changes to the 32-bus route and a communication from a resident regarding the new route.
- c. A communication from the City Council regarding the consultation on the City Plan.
- d. In Cllr. Wytcherley's absence, the Clerk presented two grant applications received within the last month and confirmed both applications were within scope. Council supported both applications and awarded both Park Run Worcester Woods and Scouts 1st Worcester with £200.00 each.
- e. A reminder for any Councillors yet to attend the City Council Ethical Standards and Code of Conduct training that the second session will take place on the 23rd of October via Teams.
- f. A communication from UK Parliament regarding the Council consider supporting a campaign aiming to improve the safety of lithium batteries used in e-bike and e-scooters and their disposal. The Clerk to circulate the campaign to the Chairman and Vice Chairman for further information.
- g. The Clerk is in discussion with St Peter's Dental Practise regarding advertising in the quarterly Newslink publication.

12524 Portfolio allocation: Council agreed to review the latest portfolio allocation in October.

12624 Portfolio Holder Reports:

- a. **Street scene:** Cllr. Evans provided a verbal update, including:
 - i. Graffiti has been reported on Bath Road.
 - ii. Due to a request made via Cllr. Evans, road signage has been replaced on 3 street names that were illegible due to age and condition.
 - iii. Concern regarding the general appearance of the Pharmacy area.
 - iv. Flyposting has increased on the estate, mostly due to advertising properties for sale.
 - v. Update on signage on the River Severn walk.
 - vi. Local Telent traffic light boxes need graffiti removing.
- b. **Green Spaces:** Cllr. Tidy provided a verbal update:
 - i. The next litter pick is 26th September, all members of the community are welcome to attend.
- c. **Community Facility:** Cllr. Tidy provided an update on plans for the new build. National Lottery have requested the project be retendered; this may delay the build but is a necessary step before funding can be allocated.

12724 Date of Next Meeting: The date of the next Parish Council Meeting is proposed as Thursday 10th October 2024 at 19:30 at St Peter's Village Hall, Worcester WR5 3TA.

Signed.....

Chairman

Date.....