

St Peter the Great County Parish Council

Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on **Thursday 13th February 2025 at 19:30** in St Peter's Village Hall Worcester, WR5 3TA.

Present: Councillors Mr. J. Renshaw, Mr. R. Knight, 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, and the Clerk.

01525 Apologies for Absence: Cllrs. Mr. A. Tidy, Mrs. A. Wytcherley, Mr. D. Saunders.

01625 Declarations of Interest: Cllr. Knight for matters relating to St Peter's Village Hall Association.

01725 Adoption of Minutes: Council agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 9th January 2025 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:

- A member of the public was in attendance.

01825 Report from City Councillors: City Councillors Cockeram and Round were not in attendance and had not submitted a report. Council suggested ideas to try and engage our City Councillors to encourage attendance for the benefit of residents. The City Councillors representing St Peter's and Battenhall have not attended a Parish Council meeting since January 2024.

01925 Report from County Councillor: County Cllr. Mackay was in attendance and provided a written report which the Clerk had circulated prior to the meeting. Council noted the report, which included:

- a. An update on the Healthy Worcestershire classes running across the City and County.
- b. The latest news on the budget and proposed precept. In 2025/26, Worcestershire County Council is proposing a 4.99% increase in council tax, which includes a 2.99% increase for general council services and a 2% increase for adult social care. This would increase the annual council tax for an average Band D property by £76.79, or £1.48 per week
- c. Cllr. Mackay has the acoustic report for the A4440 and will provide a copy for the Parish Council.

02025 Matters arising and action sheet: Council reviewed the latest actions not covered elsewhere on the agenda, updates as follows:

- a. The website needs full Council contribution – the Clerk has reviewed the current site and circulated a spreadsheet detailing a list of pages that need content providing before the site can be launched. Once the content has been produced, the Clerk will arrange training with the website provider.
- b. The Clerk continues to investigate the County Council Wellbeing Grant regarding possible funding to enhance the outdoor gym equipment in Power Park. The Clerk has met with suppliers on-site to assess viability and costings with a view to making an application.
- c. Any meetings with senior members regarding Highways matters will be deferred until after the election in May.

02125 Highways, Developments & Planning: Planning applications submitted from the City Council to the Parish Council as a formal consultee over the last month and any other Highways, developments, or planning related updates:

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Formal Application	Location	Action
None received	N/A	N/A

- a. Council requested the Clerk enquire with the City Council Planning Team regarding concerns raised over the use of a property on Jasmine Close.
- b. Council noted a spate of recent accidents on the Ketch roundabout and raised concerns regarding the road markings with County Cllr. Mackay.

02225 Devolution: The Chairman provided an update following an extraordinary meeting of the City Council on 11th February. Council discussed latest updates and potential options available within the devolution process. Council noted the importance of maintaining and protecting the cultural and historical attributes within Worcester City. Council agreed to the Chairman's proposal to initiate a working party to discuss the matter and provide recommendations to full Council.

02325 St Peter's Parish Festival: Cllr. Simmonds & the Clerk provided a verbal update:

- a. The Festival Organiser and Cllr. Simmonds are planning to run a community consultation event in the Village Hall in March to ensure the local community have the opportunity to contribute to the planning of the Festival in 2025, everyone welcome to attend.
- b. Council agreed to a number of recommendations drafted at the Festival working party on 3rd February as presented to Council by Cllr. Simmonds:
 - i. Due to Tesco not being able to staff the BBQ this year, Council agrees that there will be no BBQ provided by the Parish Council, and alternative arrangements will need to be made with traders and caterers to ensure suitable provision for attendees.
 - ii. Council agrees for the stallholder fees to be as follows:
 - Standard rate £27.50, discount of £10 applied if stallholders are local to St Peter's,
 - No charge to charities and community groups that are not selling or fundraising on the day.
 - Commercial agreements on an individual basis for any other stalls.
 - iii. Council agrees that Acorns Hospice (Bath Road) to be sole beneficiary of funds raised from the raffle (after costs) and the plant stall.
- c. The next Festival working party meeting date is 5th March, 7:30pm via Zoom, everyone welcome.

02425 Finance:

- a. The Clerk presented a financial report and gave an update on the current financial position of Council. The Clerk confirmed that preparations are being made for the end of the financial year, and the updated financial forecast and budget position is with the Chairman and finance portfolio holder for consideration before circulation to Council.
- b. Council approved the following payments, including those made since the last meeting under delegated authority:

Amount	Payable To	Reason for Payment
£1602.00	Greenwood Projects	Community Facility – quantity surveying
£1068.00	Greenwood Projects	Community Facility – quantity surveying
£918.00	Herlig Architecture	Community Facility – Architect update
£478.00	Sovereign Play	RPII Play Equipment Inspection
£837.00	St Peter's Village Hall Assn.	Grant provision for over 60's club
£784.58	Worcester City Council	Election costs

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£593.00	ESDP	Community Facility – project costs
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02525 Clerks Report: To receive a report from the Clerk on correspondence to the Council and other pertinent administrative matters.

- a. The Clerk continues to investigate the County Council Wellbeing Grant regarding possible funding to enhance the outdoor gym equipment in Power Park. The Clerk has met with suppliers on site to assess viability and costings with a view to an application in the near future.
- b. The latest news from Clerks and Councils Direct.
- c. An invitation to a County Council budget engagement meeting.
- d. A communication from a resident thanking the Clerk regarding a successful resolution to overgrown vegetation growing from green space into private property. The Clerk reported the issue to the City Council who were able to attend to the issues within one working day.
- e. Following receipt of the annual volunteer survey for the Community Engagement Team at the City Council, The Clerk has submitted annual figures for St Peter's Festival and Cllr. Tidy has submitted annual figures for the Friends of St Peter's Parks, including the community litter picks. In 2024, the Festival benefited from 38 volunteers contributing almost 300 hours.
- f. A resident emailed the Clerk to pass on compliments regarding recent litter picking endeavours by Parish Council volunteers.
- g. The Clerk has received the RPII Inspection covering the outdoor gym equipment. No issues or defects have been reported.
- h. An update on the Safety of Lithium Batteries campaign that the Parish Council contributed to in 2024. The Government's Product Safety and Metrology (PRAM) Bill will be reaching the Commons in February. The Clerk to circulate the update where appropriate.

02625 Portfolio Holder Reports:

- a. **Street scene:** Cllr. Evans provided a verbal update, including:
 - i. The reported graffiti on Bath Road has been cleared.
 - ii. Areas around the Tesco store. Cllr. Evans has been in contact with the Place Team regarding litter issues in the area which are potentially stemming from Tesco. Council requested the Clerk to contact the City Council for a land boundary map to define ownership and liability for litter picking resulting from store activities.
 - iii. Cllr. Evans and Cllr. Knight attended a site meeting with Tesco store representatives and a member of the Groundworks team to discuss work required to resolve ongoing landscaping issues around the store and public realm.
 - iv. The flaking red railings have been reported to the County Council.
- b. **Police Liaison:**
 - i. The next PACT meeting is Tuesday 12th March at 7:30pm in the Baptist Church.
 - ii. The Police charter is due for renewal, Council agreed the three priorities to remain unchanged are graffiti, speeding, and ASB.
- c. **Community Facility:** Cllr. Knight provided a verbal update on recent developments following a ground survey.

02725 Date of Next Meeting: The date of the next Parish Council Meeting is proposed as Thursday 13th March 2025 at 19:30 at St Peter's Village Hall, Worcester WR5 3TA.

Signed.....

Chairman

Date.....