

PEOPLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Lisa Cope [Tel:07773793185](tel:07773793185) Email: peopletonpc@gmail.com

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th March 2025 at 7.30pm in Peopleton Village Hall

1. **Members and Officers present:** Cllrs Mason (Chair), Bailey, Harbon, Killoran, MacCalman, and District and County Cllr Robinson. 10 members of the public attended.
2. **Apologies:** Cllrs Wall and Darby sent their apologies.
3. **Co-Option:** Two new members were co-opted to the Parish Council, Mrs Jane Vickers and Mrs Susan Turner were proposed by Cllr Mason, seconded by Cllr Harbon and agreed by all Cllrs present. Declaration of Office forms were signed and Declaration of Interests forms to be completed. Cllr Vickers and Cllr Turner were welcomed on to the Parish Council
4. **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.

5. **Minutes-** The minutes from the Meeting held on Wednesday 15th January 2025 were approved as true and correct as proposed by Cllr Mason and seconded by Cllr Harbon.
6. **District and County Councillors report**

Latest Update on Devolution Proposals and Elections

Wychavon has committed to exploring two options for local government reorganisation in Worcestershire.

At the beginning of February, the local government minister wrote to councils across Worcestershire requesting interim reorganisation proposals by 21 March, ahead of a full and final submission by 28 November.

Under the Government's proposed changes, Wychavon, along with the county council and five other district councils, will be abolished. They will be replaced by either a single tier of local government delivering all services across Worcestershire.

At a meeting on Wednesday, 26 February councillors discussed the Government's plans for the first time in public. While some councillors supported a single Worcestershire unitary authority, others expressed interest in exploring the potential benefits of a north-south division. Concerns were also raised about the speed of the Government's timeline and the lack of data needed to make an informed decision.

As a result, councillors agreed to instruct the Council Leader and Chief Executive to enter negotiations with their counterparts across the county to ensure both options are included in the interim plan and further explored.

The interim plan will allow ministers to provide guidance to councils as they develop their final proposals. The contents of the interim plan will be debated at a Special Council meeting on 19 March.

Feedback will be used to guide the full proposal to be submitted in November, which may include one or both options. The Government will make the final decision on which plan to implement. It is expected the new arrangements will be in place by April 2028.

A £19,000 fund is being made available to help communities across Wychavon mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe.

Wychavon is making £250 available to town and parish councils to support activities on and around Thursday, 8 May, to celebrate a significant milestone in the nation's history. Parish and town councils will be contacted directly over the coming weeks with details about how they can claim the money.

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As well as the dedicated fund, Wychavon is also scrapping fees for road closure notices for anyone holding a street party either on 5 May, 8 May, or over the weekend from 9 to 11 May 2025.

Wychavon will join communities nationwide by raising the VE Day 80 flag at 9am on 8 May. Churches are being asked to ring their bells at 6.30pm and communities are also invited to light a beacon at 9.30pm. At the same time, Chelsea Pensioner Colin Thackery will lead the nation in a rendition of I Vow To Thee My Country.

Although 8 May isn't a public holiday, communities are still encouraged to hold street parties on the Bank Holiday Monday before, on the day and over VE Day 80 weekend.

Residents are also urged to support their local fish and chip shop by enjoying the nation's favourite treat in tribute to the courageous fishermen who braved the German U-boats and the farmers and Land Girls who cultivated the fields to keep the country fed. Fish and chips was among the few foods not rationed by the Government during the conflict.

Public Rights of Way

I recently attended a LAF (local access forum) meeting and learnt from County's Public Rights of Way team that there is to be a ROWIP consultation in June. Questions will be about their network, how people use it and what their views and aspirations are. They welcome responses from parish councils so asked me to let you know in case you have any issues you may wish to raise.

Secondary School Places

Worcestershire County Council received 6,592 applications this year and everyone who made an application for a secondary school place has received an offer of a place.

9 in 10 of Worcestershire's children will be starting secondary school in their first-choice preference in September.

Parents are also being reminded to apply for school transport for their child/children as early as possible for the September 2025 school term.

For more information, please visit the apply for school and college travel assistance pages of the county council website: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooltransport.

7. Planning:

a) Cllrs considered planning application W/25/00180/PIP Land At (Os 9392 5017) Peopleton Permission in Principle for the proposed erection of up to 5 dwellings.
Cllrs agreed to object to the planning due to a number of reasons including flooding risk and Peopleton being a category four village- Clerk to compose an objection and post on the planning portal asap.

Cllrs also considered application W/25/00307/CLPU Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed construction of a 25 metre x 50 metre hardstanding at Stone Arrow Farm and agreed to object- Clerk to compose an objection and post on the planning portal asap.

b) Enforcement Updates

On 25th February Wychavon Enforcement attended Stone Arrow Farm and served notice on the occupants to clear the area of commercial waste by 9th April. A community Protection Notice has also been served on the occupant at Stone Arrow Farm and the landowner.

Highways have agreed to install permanent bollards on the junction of the A44 with Main Street Peopleton Due to heavy vehicles damaging the verges and utilities on the land, these will also be installed on the verge opposite Stone Arrow Farm to try and prevent verge damage.

If residents have further complaints with how the authorities have dealt with the concerns raised at Stone Arrow Farm they are encouraged to write directly to the Leader of Wychavon Council Mr Vic Allison and the Leader of Worcestershire County Council Mr Simon Geraghty.

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8. Progress reports:

a) Chairman's- TM

As covered above but Cllr Harbon added that there are no further updates with regards the Beltane Bash Festival revisiting Peopleton this year as a TEN'S licence has not yet been applied for.

b) Village Trust- LB

The Village Hall remains busy with 2025 possibly being their best year yet.

Another dog group has added bookings and there is a Live and Local Drama group staging a Show.

The Scenic 6 takes place on 27th April, Pony and Dog Show 18th May and 6th September is the Autumn Show.

Steve the Chairman of the Village Trust is retiring, and a new person is being appointed and a new Hall Manager and Cleaner are now in post

c) Village shop-TM

Trade has been slow so far this year- hoping that this will pick up.

d) Community policing charter-DH

Police drop in sessions started at the Shop last week with 8 people attending- this will occur regularly and be advertised to residents.

e) Lengthsman-LB

Nothing to report

f) Rights of Way-LB

The track has now been levelled out at Barrells Bridge which is a big improvement- much thanks to WCC Highways for this.

Researching a new kissing gate and fence for Lomax Field currently

g) Flooding- DW

Clerk requested to follow up with Severn Trent on outcome of the ditch inspection at Norchard Lane.

9. Finance

a) Bank Balance- As of 2nd March 2025 the bank balance is:

Treasurers Account £7,355.28

Business Instant Account £15,524.76

b) The following payments for January and February were approved to pay:

Lengthsman January	£104.00
Clerk's salary	£556.22
Clerk's expenses	£25.50
Lengthsman February	£192.00
PATA Payroll	£43.80
HMRC Clerk tax	£119.80
Licensing Fine (M.Constanduros)	£337.50
VLHT (Lomax Field)	£10,000.00

Cllr Mason shared that the licensing fine is a copyright fine for image usage on the Village Website, this now has been checked again and any images removed that were unsure of ownership. Cllr Mason proposed that the Parish Council reimburse the fine out of Chairman's expenses- all Cllrs agreed for the fine to be paid.

10. Land acquisition Monk's Way

The purchase of Lomas Field is now complete and owned by Vale Landscape Heritage Trust (VLHT).

Sixty trees were successfully planted last week with the help of village residents and there was a good turnout.

This Summer there will be a formal opening and naming ceremony for the Orchard.

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Residents are encouraged to become a 'Friend' of VLHT.

11. Streetlights

No further updates as yet.

12. Youth Council

Cllr Killoran shared that when the weather improves he will visit the Riverside Centre in Pershore and do some research with local youth on the demand/ viability of a youth council in Peopleton.

13. Correspondence:

A Parishioner has written to the Parish Council regarding School Parents parking inconsiderately outside Bowbrook School- Cllr Mason agreed to write to the School.

The Clerk shared that there is £250 available to spend from WCC towards a VE Day celebration to commemorate the 80th anniversary. Cllr Bailey agreed to instigate a meeting with The Church and the Village Hall Committee and the The Crown Pub to explore possible options of working together to organise an event.

14. Future agenda items and reports

Cllr Bailey shared correspondence from Limebridge the grass cutting contractor- that there will be a 5% increase in the mowing going forward for the year.

Cllr Mason shared that's Cllr Darby will be resigning in April, in time to co-opt a new Cllr at the May Meeting. Cllr Mason also shared that he will be stepping down as Chairman at the May Meeting.

15. Date of next meeting: This will be held on Wednesday 14th May at 7:00pm in the Village Hall, this will be the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting

Signed

Dated.....

Future meetings

May	14/05/25
July	09/07/25
September	10/09/25

AIDE MEMOIR

A parishioner added that a Community Orchard page has been added to the village website.

A parishioner stated that 4-6 kerbstones have come away outside Bay Tree Cottage opposite the School, Clerk to ask highways to inspect.

One parishioner who objected to the HGV Operators licence at Stone Arrow Farm has been invited to a Public Meeting with the Traffic Commissioner.

One parishioner commented on the difficult visibility when pulling out of Norchard Lane- Cllr Bailey is going to try and cut the hedge back to help and the landowner opposite agreed to install a mirror on his tree to help increase visibility.