

St Peter the Great County Parish Council

Minutes

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

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

Also present: Two members of public and the Clerk.

02825 Apologies for Absence: All Parish Councillors present. Apologies from County Cllr. Mackay.

02925 Declarations of Interest: Cllrs. Knight & Tidy for matters relating to St Peter's Village Hall Association.

03025 Adoption of Minutes: Council agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 13th February 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, matters raised included:

- A question about how Parish Council meetings are advertised.
- A report of an alleged incident at the pump track where a child on a bicycle on the pedway queuing for the pump track was in the way of a member of public walking past. Council agreed to enquire with the City Council regarding potential measures to reduce instances of bikes crossing onto the pedway from the pump track.
- PC James was in attendance and reported – kids accessing the pavilion across the Kings Fields. No major spikes in any burglaries, thefts, shed break-ins, generally low crime and no major concerns.

03125 Report from City Councillors: City Councillors Cockeram and Round were not in attendance and had not submitted a report.

03225 Report from County Councillor: County Cllr. Mackay was not in attendance but had provided a written report which the Clerk had circulated prior to the meeting. Council noted the report, which included:

- a. Reports have been passed to County Highways regarding recent traffic collisions at the Ketch roundabout. The matter has been escalated to the Major Projects Team for a review of protection of pedestrians and cyclists.
- b. Extra signage in Battenhall Park making it clear which sides of the path are for cyclists or pedestrians.
- c. An upcoming briefing on the noise monitoring from the Southern Link Road.
- d. Traffic delays on Bath Road are due to ongoing Cadent gas main works.
- e. County elections are going forward in May 2025.

03325 Matters arising and action sheet: Council reviewed the latest actions not covered elsewhere on the agenda, updates as follows:

- a. Council agreed to fund matting to be fitted around the outdoor gym equipment at a cost of £850 to increase accessibility of the equipment and instructed the Clerk to progress the project.
- b. Council agreed for the VAS to be formally transferred to Parish Council Ownership. The Clerk is working with insurers to ensure appropriate cover is in place.

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03425 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:

Formal Application	Location	Action
25/00234/HP	35 Tiree Avenue	No comments.
25/00121/FUL	14 Sheringham Road	Comments submitted to City Council regarding application. Council has concern over social impact of development.
25/00145/HP	16 Partridge Close	No comments.

- a. The Clerk has made enquiries with the City Council Planning Team regarding the use of a property on Jasmine Close. The case officer has yet to provide further information.
- b. Cllr. Saunders updated Council following a recent meeting with the senior planning team at the City Council.

03525 Devolution & government reorganisation: The Chairman provided an update on recent activity:

- a. In February 2025, Council agreed to establish a devolution and governmental reorganisation working party. This working party met on the 11th March to discuss the process and potential position of Council. It was agreed that any plan our outcome should note the importance of maintaining and protecting the cultural and historical attributes within St Peter's and Worcester City and should retain at its heart the strong links with the communities that make up the ward. Three points were recommended by the working party, and ratified by Council:
 - i. That the Parish Council has a preference for two unitary authorities in Worcestershire (North and South).
 - ii. That the Parish Council support Worcester City Council holding discussions with other councils to explore possible options for the creation of the Mayoral Authority which Worcester could form a part of. It was noted however, that the Parish Council currently has no preference on this matter.
 - iii. That in the event Worcester City Council wishes to explore the option of creating one or more Town/ Parish Councils in the unparished parts of Worcester, St Peter's Parish Council's preference is to remain a separate Parish Council and not become part of a Town Council covering the whole city.
- b. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Clerk met with David Blake, Managing Director of Worcester City Council on 12th March to discuss devolution and governmental reorganisation.

03625 St Peter's Parish Festival: Cllr. Simmonds & the Clerk provided a verbal update:

- a. The Festival Organiser and Cllr. Simmonds are planning to run an open event in the Village Hall on 15th March at 2:30pm. The 'volunteer and ideas' open day will ensure the local community have the opportunity to contribute to the planning of the Festival in 2025, everyone welcome to attend.
- b. Council discussed the range of roles and responsibilities as defined within the Festival management documentation.
- c. Council agreed to a number of recommendations for expenditure as recommended at the Festival working party on 5th March and presented to Council by Cllr. Simmonds:
 - i. Pampered Ponies - £700
 - ii. Juice Smoothie Bike - £199
 - iii. Stilt walkers - £345
 - iv. Got2Sing - £25
 - v. Inflatables - £430
 - vi. DWAEC 'Animal Man' - £530

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- vii. Laurance Harper Merry Go Round - £350
- viii. Dog Show - £100
- ix. DJ Chris - £600
- x. Sure Loos - £455
- xi. Midlands Bike Marshals 1st Aid - £250
- d. The next Festival working party meeting date is 2nd April, 7:30pm via Zoom, everyone welcome.

03725 Finance:

- a. The Clerk had circulated a draft schedule of due payments in advance of the meeting for the financial year 2025/26. Council reviewed and adopted the document.
- b. The Clerk presented a financial report including a year-end forecast and an updated current budget position that was circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting via email.
- c. Council approved the following payments, including those made since the last meeting under delegated authority:

Amount	Payable To	Reason for Payment
£85.00	R. Gurney	Internal audit 2024
£534.00	Greenwood Projects	Community Facility – quantity surveying
£170.00	Severn Trent	Community Facility

03825 Clerks Report: To receive a report from the Clerk on correspondence to the Council and other pertinent administrative matters.

- a. The latest news from Clerks and Councils Direct.
- b. The Clerk has received the quote for upgrading of the outdoor gym equipment.

03925 Portfolio Holder Reports:

- a. **Environment:**
 - i. Next litter pick is 27th March meeting at the Village Hall at 10am at the Village Hall.
 - ii. The signage in the parks need some maintenance including retreating.
- b. **Newslink:** Delayed to April. Deadline for content is Friday 11th April.
- c. **Street scene:** Cllr. Evans provided a verbal update, including:
 - i. 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.
 - ii. The flaking red railings have been reported to the County Council, City Council and the land management company that take care of Abbotsbury Court.
- d. **Police Liaison:**
 - i. The Police charter is due for renewal, Council agreed the three priorities to remain unchanged are graffiti, speeding, and ASB.
- e. **Community Facility:** Cllr. Knight provided a verbal update on recent developments following a ground survey.

04025 Date of Next Meeting: The date of the next Parish Council Meeting is proposed as Thursday 10th April 2025 at 19:30 at St Peter's Village Hall, Worcester WR5 3TA.

Signed.....

Chairman

Date.....