

Pebworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

Held at the Pebworth Village Hall at 7:00 pm on Monday 6th February 2017.

Present: Cllrs. John Hyde (Chairman), Richard Weller, Simon Shiers, Sue Peace, Pam Veal & Denise Meynell

In attendance: The Clerk- John Stedman, Cllr Alastair Adams and three members of the public were present

239. Apologies were accepted from: Cllr David Cranage,

240. Disclosures of Interests:

- a) Members were reminded of the need to keep their register of interests updated.
- b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Items on the agenda and their nature.
- c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – None declared.

Other Disclosable Interests – None declared.

241. Open Forum:

Residents from Friday Street informed the council of extensive grass verge damage caused by a large HGV driving irresponsibly over a long distance on the grass verge. A request to consider placing bollards on the verge was put and the implication of this suggestion were discussed. Photographs of the damage were issued to the council. The Chairman confirmed the matter would be discussed under the highways item on the agenda.

Ward Members Report: Cllr Alastair Adams's report is appended to the minutes.

242. Minutes: The Council agreed the wording of the minutes of the January ordinary meeting and the Chairman signed them as a true record of the meeting.

243. The Clerk's Progress Reports.

- a. Wheelie bins permanently left in Broad Marston Road. Members reported the bins were no longer on the road but remained permanently on the grass verge.
- b. Broad Marston Manor building works reported to planning enforcement. The planning enforcement officer visited the site and confirmed there were no matters of concern or requiring enforcement action.
- c. Skip for the ditch clearance ordered from Budget Skips was paid for on the Clerk's credit card and reimbursed by a council cheque; Noted
- d. Severn Trent Water sewerage scheme for Pebworth and Long Marston. Members noted the extensive scheme which will pump all the sewerage from Pebworth and Long Marston to the treatment plant at Millcote.

244. Planning Matters

a. WDC Housing Survey questionnaire:

Councillors considered correspondence regarding the recent Pebworth Housing Needs Survey questionnaire put forward by the WDC Housing Officer Emma Jordan. It was stated in correspondence from the Officer that the questionnaire was sent to the Parish Council for consultation and amendments had been made by the Parish Council. It was confirmed that this was not the case as the council had not received the questionnaire to enable any consultation or comments. The Chairman reported on a phone call received on Wednesday from the officer who confirmed the questionnaire would be delivered to all Pebworth households on the following the Friday, 2 days later.

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A copy of the questionnaire was sent by email to the Chairman but he made no comment on its content and insisted it should be sent to the Parish Clerk for councils' consideration.

Members scrutinised the questionnaire which had been issued to all householders and consider it to be biased and contained leading questions with some questions lacking clarity, such as Question 10 has no option for "No Preference". Furthermore, one of the questions is contrary to a South Worcestershire Development Plan policy. Council agreed to write to the Head of WDC Housing department expressing the councils concerns over the misleading and poorly constructed questionnaire also the totally false statements made in the email from the Housing Officer Emma Jordan.

- b. Council noted the consultation documents for the Worcestershire County Council 2017 - 2030 transport plan
- c. Council noted the Cotswold District Council Local Plan consultation information.

245. Planning Decision noted:

- a. W/16/02573/PP: Evening Hall, Dorsington Road, Pebworth, two story side extension: **Granted** with 4 conditions.
- b. W/16/01928/PN: Rooftop Housing Association, Rural exception housing development (14 dwellings) with associated access and landscaping on Land off, Chapel Road, Pebworth: **Refused** for 2 reasons.
- c. W/16/02733/PN. Proposed MUGA for the Parish Council: **Granted** with 6 conditions

246. Neighbourhood Development Plan:

- a. Members enquired where the draft NDP questionnaire from Brodie Manning is and asked the Clerk to chase it up for council consideration.

247. Finance:

- a. **Grant Application:** Council considered a grant application from the PCC and agreed a grant of £250.00, payment to be made at the March meeting.
Note: Cllr Pam Veal declared a disclosable interest in the matter and took no part in the debate.
- b. **Payments:** Council approved the Clerk's schedule of payments receipts and balances which is appended to the minutes.
- c. **Internet Banking:** Members reported no progress with internet banking as no further information had been received, Clerk to investigate the delays in the matter.

248. Recreation Field and MUGA:

- a. The Clerk confirmed that planning permission was now granted with six conditions and it was agreed to request a cost estimate from the council's Architect to submit further plans and documents as required for the discharge of condition 3 of the planning approval notice. Costs to be considered at the next meeting.
- b. Clerk reported the MUGA procurement can now proceed as the planning details are resolved which include the condition to have black coloured fencing and extensive new landscaping.

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249. The Close:

- a. **Inspection:** The monthly safety inspection found no safety matters of concern.
- b. The Clerk confirmed the safety inspection by RoSPA will take place in March.
- c. The Clerk confirmed the youth shelter clean-up is now completed.
- d. It was confirmed the ditch clearance on boundary of The Close is complete but a small amount of cut vegetation remains on the embankment as the skip was full. To maintain control of the vegetation it was agreed the Handyman should keep the area strimmed on a regular basis every two months.
It was reported that bags of household rubbish were dumped over the fence onto the ditch embankment and council agreed to write to the nearby household bringing the matter to their attention.
- e. The replacement part for the Timber Play equipment is in hand but is still awaited.
- f. The Fencing contractor confirmed the fencing works on The Close is scheduled to start on 2nd March.

250. Highway Matters:

- a. New highway matters to be reported. –
 - i. Friday Street verge damage to be rectified by the Lengthsman
 - ii. The road surface is breaking up under the 2 bridges on the Honeybourne Road
- b. The Clerk reported the kerb replacement on Front Street is agreed by County Highways to be Blue Lias stone and not concrete
- c. **Sudo Gates:** The Highways Officer confirmed the sudo gates proposed for Middlesex would have to be made of plastic and not wood which is the Parish Council's preference. It was considered that plastic was not acceptable and the cost of the gates was very expensive and not budgeted for by the Council. It was agreed not to pursue the sudo gate options but to investigate costs and possibilities of having a SLOW sign installed on the eastern approach to Middlesex. Clerk to make enquiries with the County Highways officer.
- d. **Speed Limits:** The Highway officer's response regarding the change of speed limits between Pebworth and Middlesex was very negative therefore the speed limits and zones will remain unchanged.
- e. **VAS:** Council considered information and prices for VAS devices from Westcotec and as the devices are very expensive further consideration will be given to the purchase of a VAS at the next precept meeting in the autumn.
- f. **Friday Street Verge Damage** it was considered un-necessary to place any bollards on the verge as this unfortunate incident was quite a rare event. Restoration works would be carried out by the parish Lengthsman.

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251. Lengthsman/Handyman

a. New and outstanding Lengthsman or Handyman matters.

- i. The steps from Front Street into the Churchyard are in need of attention as some stone work is unstable
- ii. Carry out restoration works to the verge damage in Friday Street
- iii. Works carried out on the Town Pool metal fencing is completed

252. Public Rights of Way: PROW

- a. It was reported that the stile on PROW 522C off Dorsington Road is in a state of disrepair and needs attention, it was agreed the Lengthsman should carry out any necessary repairs to make the stile safe and fit for use.
- b. **Permissive footpath request:** The Clerk reported on correspondence with Gloucestershire County Council and is awaiting confirmation on the request to have a permissive footpath access Gloucestershire County Council land.

253. Street Lighting:

- a. Faulty lights to be reported. None reported
- b. The streetlight by Salford House in Friday Street is now repaired and working.
- c. **New LED Lights:** The requested amendments to the original quotation from Candela were considered by council and as the total cost for the replacement of 10 streetlights was £16,427.00 plus VAT it was agreed that Cllr Simon Shiers would pursue an alternative cost with the company representative to bring the scheme within the council's agreed streetlight budget.

254. Mowing Contract Review:

- a. A review of the amenity and verge mowing contract specifications was considered and the following two new items (i and ii) will be costed by the contractor for consideration at the next meeting.
Cllr Simon Shiers indicated PIB would initially tidy the area around the southern boundary trees base which mowers cannot safely access and it was agreed that the Handyman will then strim the unmown areas as and when required.
 - i. **Recreation Field** – add the maintenance of the war memorial site and mow the boundaries of the allotment site. Mowing to be carried out as close as possible to the southern boundary fence.
 - ii. **Verge Mowing** – add a mowing section on the Long Marston Road to extend the mowing beyond the Mill Field access

255. Cemetery

- a. The Clerk reported on the interment of John Bachelor in grave 861 which was purchased in 2004, a non-parishioner interment fee applies.
- b. Consideration of the annual review of cemetery fees – Due to time constraints, this was deferred to the next meeting
- c. The Clerk's reported on agreeing to an added inscription on the memorial of Sidney Taylor; Noted
- d. The removal of the brambles and other weeds from the new Laurel hedge in the Cemetery has been completed by the Handyman

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256. Parish Notice Boards:

- a. The quotations from HMP Long Lartin to construct 3 new hardwood notice boards were agreed and the Clerk is requested to place a purchase order with HMP.

257. Allotments:

- a. The notification for the relinquishment of two allotment plots (1 & 3) as of April 1st. was noted and the Clerk will advertise the vacant plots.
- b. The tenant of plot 7 reported that she plans to erect a shed and fence off her plot.
- c. PIB made a request to plant six fruit trees on the Recreation Field next to the allotment site. There will be two of each; plums, apples and pears, the council agreed to the proposal and requested they are spaced out to allow mowing machines access to the area.
- d. Review and any amendments of the allotment tenancy agreement and the condition therein. - Due to time constraints, this was deferred to the next meeting.

258. Pebworth in Bloom(PIB):

- a. Cllr Simon Shiers gave a full report on PIB activities which is appended to the minutes

259. Kiosk and Defibrillator:

- a. The Clerk confirmed the purchase order to supply and install a refurbished K6 telephone box was sent to the supplier. Cllr Simon Shiers confirmed the suppliers had confirmed the kiosk would be fully installed by the end of March.
- b. Defibrillator and associated cabinet costs will be sourced by the Clerk for consideration at the next meeting.

260. Matters Raised by Members: for consideration and or items for future agendas.

- a. **Chairman:** Service bus parking on the pavement; It was reported that the early morning public service bus regularly parked on the pavement between Pebworth and Broad Marston while waiting for the bus timetable to synchronise and the parking is causing the pavement surface to sink and breakup. It was agreed to write to the bus operators bringing the matter to their attention.
- b. **Chairman's Resignation:** The Chairman confirmed his intention to resign as Chairman of the Parish Council at the start of the March council meeting. The Chairman's formal resignation letter is appended to these minutes. Clerk to agenda the election of a new Chairman for the start of the March meeting.

261. Confirmation of meeting dates:

- a. Council confirmed the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council is scheduled for Monday 6th March at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.30 pm

Chairman _____

Date _____.

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Appendix A

Payments Authorised

Cheque Number	Payee	Details	Gross Payment	Net Payment
DD	Npower	Streetlight Energy	481.50	458.57
DD	Npower	Streetlight Energy	46.79	44.56
1651	Worcestershire CALC	Training Fee	345.00	295.00
1652	T E Bury	Architectural Fees MUGA	1,080.00	900.00
53	Hartwell & Co Timber Ltd	Maintenance materials	12.23	10.19
1654	J Stedman	Card payment Budget Skips	135.00	112.50
1654	J Stedman	Clerks salary and expenses	***	***
1655	John Hyde	Handyman works	247.50	247.50

Chairman's letter of Resignation

Dear John

I am confirming my resignation as Chairman of Pebworth Parish Council as of the next meeting on Monday 6th of March 2017.

I have found recently the Council has made some decisions I quite strongly disagree with and as part of the

Duty of Chairman is to ensure balanced discussion and help implement those decisions I have found it increasingly

difficult to perform those duties to the full.

I also think having been Chairman for quite a number of years it is time to pass it on to someone fresh.

Kind regards John Hyde

Pebworth in Bloom report:

2017 Britain in Bloom judging

- 2017 Regional Competition Britain in Bloom - Provisional judging date is 6th July.
- 2017 National Finals Britain in Bloom - We have been advised that national level judging will take place during the first week of August. Exact date for Pebworth is TBC

Other news

- The Woodland Trust have donated to PIB 6 x fruit trees (2 x apple, 2 x conference pear, 2 x Victoria plum) which we have agreed to plant on the recreation field next to the allotments.

Recent events

- January 2017 - Britain in Bloom judge visited Pebworth to provide further advice and recommendations to the committee
- February 2017 - 2 PIB members attended the Britain in Bloom national seminar in Nottingham as part of the village preparations for national judging

Forthcoming events

- 11th February - Bulb sale at The Knoll, Front Street, 1030am - 1pm in aid of PIB funds. Bulbs kindly provided by Hayloft Nurseries.

- 4th March - Annual WI litter pick

- Feb/ March - Proposed Hedgehog / Wildlife information afternoon in conjunction with All Things Wild from Honeybourne. Exact date TBC.

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District Councillor & County Councillor Report - Pebworth

Month: February 2017

Prepared by Alastair Adams

Honeybourne & Pebworth Ward, Wychavon District Council

Littletons Division, Worcestershire County Council

Pebworth Housing Need Survey – As I mentioned in last month’s report, the WDC planning Committee in January refused the planning application for 14 dwellings off Chapel Rd, and I detailed their reasons on why it was refused. It appears since then, the housing association, Rooftop, have asked WDC to do a Housing Need Survey for Pebworth. They seem to be in a rush as normally these surveys can take between 8-12 weeks, but they have requested to have it completed within 6 weeks. I can only assume Rooftop is aiming on re-submitting another planning application for this site off Chapel Rd as quickly as possible.

The Planning Committee refused this application for good reason on 12th January, and Rooftop should respect the decision, but it appears they are simply seeing the Planning Committee’s decision as a small hiccup, and appear determined to push ahead.

As the WDC Housing Department now state – a Housing Need Survey should have been undertaken before Rooftop submitted their original planning application. Rooftop’s failure to do this, and then to insist all the way through the planning process that there was a “proven need” for 14 dwellings was not only disingenuous but wrong. Now to see them requesting a Housing Need Survey urgently is galling to say the least.

I am surprised that the questionnaire was sent out before District Councillor saw it, and before the Parish Council saw it, and this seems unusual.

The Housing Needs Survey questionnaire that has now been delivered to all houses in Pebworth is different to the last Pebworth Housing Survey Questionnaire in 2011. Why? Are some of the questions designed to help Rooftop’s case ?

My fear is if this Chapel Rd development is built for 14 dwellings, then the majority of the new residents will not be from Pebworth, and so it will not be local residents that will benefit from this Rooftop development.

County Council Budget 2017/18, and Council Tax 2017/18

It is that time of year when Council Budgets are approved and this has direct impact on the Council Tax you pay.

Central Government have allowed County Councils to increase local tax by a maximum of 4.9% (of which 3% can only be used solely for Adult Social Care, and 1.9% for other uses)

As you have heard on national news, Adult Social Care is consuming ever more of the budget of all councils. This is partly due to the aging population, but one fact the media often forget to mention is that Council Adult Social Services are means tested, and so the majority of elderly people do not get any help from Adult Social Services, or if they do and have assets of more than £23,000, they are charged for the service used.

So what sounds like a simple media headline that all Adult Social Services need more money, is in fact much more complicated than at first glance. Currently Adult Social Services consumes £131million of the WCC budget (over 40%). How any extra money raised by higher taxes is used and what outcomes the extra money can produce is difficult. Also there are many elderly people that are above the threshold of assets so cannot claim free Adult Social Care, but have a limited income, and struggle to pay their existing bills, so any increase in their council tax has a direct impact on their livelihoods.

So you can see, there are many more issues that have to be faced when the County Council are determining the budget, and setting the council tax.

So there has been much debate at County Council over the last few months and they have decided not to increase council tax by the maximum of 4.9%. Instead at the Worcestershire County Council meeting on

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Thursday 9th February, the Council proposed a budget of £318million, and a 2.94% increase in council tax (2% ring-fenced for Adult Social Care, and 0.94% for other).

This 2.94% increase equates to £33 increase on the Worcestershire County Council tax band D for 2017/18.

District Council Budget 2017/18, and Council Tax 2017/18

The District Council are proposing to increase council tax by 2% which will increase District Council tax band D for 2017/18 by £2.35.

This cautious approach will mean there will be extra help for Adult Social Care in Worcestershire, but also keeps the council tax increases low. Worcestershire still has as one of the lowest Council Tax in the country.

Your local tax demand is made up of 5 different state bodies; the County Council, the District Council, the Parish Council, the Police, and the Fire & Rescue Services. Each of these can decide their own increase so when you get you council tax demand, you will see the breakdown between these 5 organisations.

New Sewage Works at Milcote – Severn Trent have informed me that the Pebworth Village sewage treatment works is life-expired and is to be demolished. The closure of Pebworth sewage works is part of the overall strategy for Pebworth, Long Marston and Stratford sewage treatment works. Flows from Pebworth are to be pumped to Long Marston via a new pumping station built within the grounds of the current works and conveyed via a new underground pressurised main. Due to the new development in Long Marston and the size/age of the works it is also proposed to close Long Marston sewage treatment works and the combined flows from Pebworth and Long Marston are to be transferred to Stratford Milcote STW via a new pumping station and pressurised main. Another benefit of the work at Pebworth is that the new pumping station at Pebworth will be able to handle increased flows from Broad Marston catchment which will alleviate flooding in Broad Marston area. Work on site will start in July 2017.

Flood prevention in Broad Marston – As mentioned in one of my previous reports, the Environment Agency had agreed to help clear the Noleham Brook to help prevent flooding. The good news is they have started to cut the vegetation and trees along the brook and will be de-silting it too in parts. This should all help reduce flooding in Broad Marston.

Highway issues:-

1. Front Street will be repaired and re-surfaced in March 2017, and Highways have confirmed that they will use real blue lias stone kerbs to replace existing perished blue lias stone kerbs.
2. Pavement along Dorsington Road by the junction has being repaired using the original kerb stone sets.

As always, if you have any issues on any Highways matters, please report it on the WCC website http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/homepage/98/report_it Also remember a photo of the Highways problem is as good as “a thousand words” so always take a photo where possible.

Divisional Funds.

1. Honeybees WI have put in a request for some new tables - awaiting more info
2. Cleeve Prior Wharf – grant requested for life buoy, table and sign – awaiting more info

Rural Cinema

Remember, the Pebworth Rural Cinema is officially launched on Friday 24th February and the film will be Eddy the Eagle.

Put the following dates in your diary for the Pebworth Rural Cinema:

Friday 24th February; Friday 31st March; Friday 28th April = Pebworth Rural Cinema Night

The showings will be in the village hall, and doors open at 7pm with food and drinks available. The tickets will normally cost £5 per person, so make sure you bring your friends and buy the popcorn! More details on the Rural Cinema will be published on the village website soon www.pebworth.org.

Your District & County Councillor, Alastair Adams can be contacted on adams.pebworth@gmail.com or mobile 07725 979 277