

Pebworth Parish Council
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at the Pebworth Village Hall at 7:00 pm on Monday 5th February 2018.

Present: Cllrs. David Cranage, Richard Weller, James Pearson, Pam Veal, John Hyde & Denise Meynell

In attendance: seven members of the public, John Stedman (Clerk) and Cllr Alastair Adams

241) Apologies were accepted from: Cllr Simon Shiers

242) Chairman: In the absence of the Chairman Cllr Richard Weller took the chair

243) Disclosures of Interests:

- a) Members were reminded of the need to keep their register of interests updated.
- b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests 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.

244) Open Forum:

Summary of matters raised by the public:

Questions were asked regarding the sale of the Masons Arms public house and whether the site would be developed into housing and the pub lost for ever.

The chairman informed the meeting that as the council had carried out investigations under the asset community value registration of the property the chairman read out a prepared statement as follows: -

"Pebworth Parish Council have recently received contact from Andrew Clarke at Peter Clarke estate agents and positive information has been provided to us regarding the proposed sale of the Masons Arms.

It has been confirmed that a sale has been agreed by all parties and is currently in the hands of solicitors although contracts have not yet been exchanged.

The buyers wish it to be known that they are not property developers and have no plans to redevelop the site for housing. Their intention is to re-open a pub/restaurant, this may be through a full redevelopment of the existing building or a complete rebuild, all dependant on the economics of such a project and planning permission.

The buyers recognise the importance of the community pub to all who live in this village and wish to engage further with the Parish Council and the community once contracts have been exchanged. This will hopefully be within the next few weeks".

Ward Members Report: Cllr Alastair Adams gave his report part way through the meeting which is appended to the minutes if made available.

Chairman re-convened the meeting at 7:15

245) Minutes: The Council agreed the wording of the minutes of the January ordinary meeting of the council and the chairman signed them as a true record of the meeting.

246) The Clerk's Progress Reports were noted.

- a) Precept demand confirmation received from WDC: Noted
- b) Cllr Denise Meynell and the Clerk attended an audit training event at County Hall, the information received will be considered at a members' meeting with the Clerk and reported to a future Parish Council meeting.

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- c) Receiving a report of the dangerous state of some trees at Norton Hall reported to WDC via Cllr Alastair Adams: Noted
- d) Several community requests received from PIB are added to the agenda under various headings

247) Planning Application

- a) 17/02583/HP Location: Ullington Hall, Buckle Street, Ullington, Proposal: Erection of domestic garage and workshop; repair of existing garden wall; new garden wall.
Applicant: Mr M Morgan. The Council has no objection or comment on the application.
- b) **18/00183/LB** Associated Ref:18/00183/LB Location Ullington Hall, Buckle Street, Ullington, Proposal: Construction of an Orangery, Reconstruction of Historic Outbuildings and Demolished Cottage Applicant: Mr M P Morgan.
The Council has no objection or comment on the application.

248) Panning Decisions: Noted

- a) 17/02196/FUL Meadow Rise, Pebworth Road, Ullington, Pebworth, Proposal: Erection of new shed; **Granted** with 2 conditions
- b) **17/01876/FUL** - Low Furrow Farm Dorsington Road Pebworth: Change of use of mixed use building barn 1 (Class B1 and agriculture) to a mixed use commercial kitchen, bar, restaurant and function room, associated internal and external alterations, porch extension, change of use of agricultural land to amenity land and installation of solar pv equipment, modification of Long Marston Road junction, demolition of stable.
Granted with 6 conditions
- c) **17/02251/LB** Ullington Hall, Buckle Street, Ullington, Proposal: Minor internal alterations, repairs internally and externally, replacement windows and doors.
Granted with 4 conditions

249) Neighbourhood Development Plan:

- a) Members reported on the last NDP meeting and noted the various issues on the consultations on Local Green Spaces or strategic gaps, a letter will be sent to all the landowners of the seven as their consent will be required to include their land as a Local Green Space.
Many of the NDP policies are now agreed or in draft form ready to be finalised at the next meeting on February 15th.
- b) Members noted the amended layout plans for Fibrex Nurseries site received from CALA homes land buyer and sent to the NDP group

250) Finance:

- a) **Payments:** Council approved the Clerk's schedule of payments receipts and balances which is appended to the minutes.

It was further agreed the payment to Candela for the streetlight contract would be retained until the Chairman had inspected the installation of the 10 lights and reported to the Clerk that the works are completed and satisfactory.

- b) **VAT:** The Clerk reported on the receipt of a VAT refund for £6525.11

- c) **Banking:** The Clerk reported on internet banking problems whereby more members need to be delegates to the accounts. It was agreed that Cllrs Denise Meynell, John Hyde and Simon Shiers will gain delegation access to the bank accounts, Clerk to download the necessary form for the next meeting.

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d) Precept; it was noted the precept confirmation note from WDC indicated an increase of 10.2% while the council's calculation was recorded as 7.1%, the reason for the disparity to be investigated by the Clerk.

251) Community Matters:

- a) **Community Asset:** The Clerk reported on correspondence from WDC and Malvern Hills DC regarding the community asset registration for the Masons Arms Pub and bidding moratorium imposed by WDC and subsequently withdrawn by Malvern Hills DC. Members noted the correspondence and the chairman's statement issues in open forum and agreed the current situation to be resolved. It was also noted that a community asset registration can be reapplied for when the current sale contract is completed.
- b) **Village Hall:** Members agreed to progressing the funding of the Village Hall refurbishment project as proposed at the budget meeting. It was further agreed that a meeting with council members and the Village Hall committee will be arranged by Cllr Pam Veal to progress the initiative. It is hoped a project can be progressed sufficiently to enable a report to be presented at the APM
- c) **GDPR:** The Clerk's report on the General Data Protection Regulation requirements and the need to comply by 25th May 2018. Further information will be available following a training seminar.
- d) Council agreed to undertaking an internal audit of procedures carried out by Geoff Bradley, Clerk to action the audit.
- e) Council agreed remedial works to resolve the problems with the new noticeboards i.e. stuck doors, timber warping, stiff locks and leaking rain water will be carried out by the handyman
- f) Council agreed to issuing noticeboard keys to PIB to allow access to the locked section. Cllr John Hyde will loan his set of keys to PIB to allow copies to be made.

252) Recreation Field and MUGA:

- a) Cllr Richard Weller reported the MUGA contractors are waiting for favourable weather conditions to apply the line markings to the tarmac surfacing. Some snagging is resolved, and other snags are in hand. The extension to the golf mat will be installed shortly
- b) Members consider a request from PIB to have the power cables across the WW1 memorial site transferred to underground. The Clerk reported the cables are in fact telecom overhead cables and are not a danger if the under planted tree did grow to reach them. Clerk to inform PIB that the suggestion will not be pursued.
- c) Members noted the annual RoSPA safety inspection will take place in March or April. Both The Close and Recreation Field will be inspected.

253) The Close:

- a) **Inspection:** The monthly safety inspection found no safety issues needing attention. one incident of dog mess in the play area was cleared away and members noted dog mess has increased in other areas, the situation will be monitored.
- b) The Handyman reported the wire mesh filter under the bridge to The Close seems to work satisfactorily but needs to be stronger. Remedial action will be taken to improve the mesh.

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- c) It was noted the new roundabout and play equipment will be considered following a site visit by the Fenland Land Play representative. Clerk to pursue the site visit.
- d) The Handyman reported the youth shelter will be repainted by the end of February to allow the new Perspex panels to be fitted.

254) Street Lighting:

- a) Faulty lights to be reported.
The Clerk report streetlight #14 in Friday Street had suffered impact damage and the streetlight contractor had re-fixed the metal cover on the base of the column.
- b) The Candela streetlight replacement project is under way and some of the new streetlights are installed and working, progress to be monitored.
- c) It was noted that PD Long has permanently closed his streetlight maintenance business as of 27th January.
- d) The Clerk report on the procurement of a new streetlight maintenance contractor whereby two contractors have been approached for contract details and costs requested. To enable costs a fully detailed inventory of the streetlights is required which the Clerk will carry out. Further update on the procurement at the next meeting.

255) Highway Matters:

- a) New highway matters to be reported.
 - i) Pavement repairs from the Church to Little Meadows were reported to WCC and they confirmed the works are in hand, but no date is set for the works. Council agreed to pursue the matter as the pavements is unwalkable and dangerous.
- b) The traffic monitoring data report collected from Friday Street in January was not available for the meeting. Clerk to pursue the data for the next meeting
- c) A request from PIB to install extra wooden bollards extending to the bottom of Front Street was agreed in principal, permission from County Highways will be obtained and the Lengthsman will inform the Clerk of the number of bollards required to enable the Clerk to get a quotation for the bollards and fixing spikes. The matter will be considered again in March.
- d) A request from PIB to get highway verge restoration works carried out in various locations was considered as many areas of verge damage were identified as needing repairs and mitigating measures taken to prevent further abuse by vehicles. It was noted that Severn Trent Water contractors have confirmed they will restore all the damage they have caused when the local engineering works are completed. Added to the verge damage it was reported that the contractor's HGV's parked on and drove along the footways in Broad Marston Road causing the surface to subside and become waterlogged and permanently flooded. The Clerk will liaise with the site manager to ensure all the restoration works are carried out as agreed.
A further issue of verge damage was reported in School Road opposite the School where inconsiderate parking causes vehicles to drive on the verge to pass cars which park well away from the kerb forcing passing traffic to drive on the opposite verge which has caused a considerable rut on the carriageway edge. It was agreed to write to the school bringing the matter to their attention. Remedial measures will be considered at the next meeting when the Lengthsman will issue a report on the damage.

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256) Public Rights of Way: No new PROW matters reported

- a) The report on a new initiative for parish wide PROW maintenance is reported in Cllr Alastair Adams report appended below.

257) Lengthsman/Handyman

- a) New and outstanding Lengthsman or Handyman matters. –
 - i) The Lengthsman report on the VAS placement on Honeybourne Road for 3 weeks recorded over 3000 vehicles over 30mph The VAS is now on Long Marston Road
 - ii) A sizable log lodged in the roadside ditch on the junction of Friday Street and Long Marston Road was removed.
 - iii) A road sign at Long Marston Road junction near Birds yard has been re-installed
 - iv) The ditch on The Close was cleared of storm debris and the filter at the bridge was cleared.
- b) New Lengthsman or Handyman matters.
 - i) Carry out remedial works on all the new noticeboards as indicated in the PIB report

258) Allotments

- a) Members reported that plot 7 has still not been cleared of weeds and debris and it was agreed to write again to the tenant stating the condition of the plot was not of the expected standard for allotments plots and urgent attention is required to completely tidy the whole plot. An offer to reduce the plot area to a half or quarter plot will also be made.
- b) The Council was informed that heaps of manure are blocking the access routes around the allotment site and have been in place for some time. As this storage will kill the underlying grass and is blocking access for grounds maintenance equipment, a generic letter will be sent to all tenants insisting the manure is removed immediately and stored on the owners' plot.

259) Pebworth in Bloom(PIB):

- a) The Chairman reported that PIB has gained a substantial grant from the Party in the Park group to help fund the replacement of the hand rail on the church steps at the top end on Front Street. The new hand rails will be made of wrought ironwork and created by a local tradesman. The Parish Council fully endorsed the proposal.

260) Defibrillator:

- a) Cllr Richard Weller reported that defibrillator training held on January 18th trained 9 local people in the use of the Defibrillator and basic first aid, their names and contact details will be put with the Defibrillator to enable trained locals to help in emergency situations. The training event and trained volunteers have been confirmed to WMAS

261) Matters Raised by Members: for consideration and or items for future agendas.
None received

262) Confirmation of meeting dates:

- a) Council confirmed the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council is scheduled for Monday 5th March 7.00 pm in the Village Hall

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:10

Chairman _____ **Date** _____.

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Payments Authorised

Cheque Number	Payee	Details	Gross Payment	Net Payment
1744	Mr Scott Avery	Defibrillator training	50.00	50.00
1745	John Hyde	Lengthsman Works	110.75	110.75
1745	John Hyde	Handyman Works	22.50	22.50
IB	J Stedman	Clerks Salary and Expenses	***	***
1746	Candela Lighting Ltd	10 new Streetlights	14,898.72	12,415.60

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District Councillor & County Councillor report by Alastair Adams

February 2018

Road drains/Gullys

I visited the Highways depot at Lydiate Ash just off junction 4 on the M5 recently to be shown how the County Council keeps our roads clear of water. They use a clever computer system that shows all 126,000 road drains in the county, gives it a reference number, if there is any logged issue with an individual gully, and when it was last cleaned and even how full it was last time. GPS sensors on the special lorries used to clean these gullys, feedback live data to this computer, and the information is used to improve the cleaning rota. Some drains get silted up very quickly so have to be cleaned more regularly, whilst others need less cleaning. This interactive system is constantly being improved, which hopefully means that in the future all 126,000 road drains will be working at peak performance!

One of the things I have been trying to do is to get the County Council to share more of this live data with the parishes. Now, on a trial basis, County Highways have agreed to share their live information on gullys with the parish clerks so they can check on what is happening on any particular road drain in your parish.

Litter Picks

Pebworth in Bloom have requested 20 new litter pickers (10 x standard size, & 10 extra long for ditches) WDC have agreed to supply these free of charge for the next litter pick on 3rd march

Council Tax 2018/19

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

Your local tax demand is made up of 5 different 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 your council tax demand in March 2018, you will see the breakdown between these 5 organisations.

I list below the 3 councils and their approximate budget per year, and a summary of their main areas of responsibility:

- **Worcestershire County Council** - £324m/year - Highways, Education, Social Services (Adult & Children Services), Economic development, Environmental services
- **Wychavon District Council** -£10.6million/year - Planning, Waste collection, Street cleaning, Community services like leisure centres & parks, assessing and payment of housing benefits, and Social housing. Wychavon also invest in buildings and business parks like Vale Park in Evesham to help the economic development of the area.

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- **Pebworth Parish Council** – £32,000/year - grass cutting including cemetery. Maintenance of parish property including playground and street lighting.

Worcestershire County Council is proposing a 4.94% increase in council tax (3% ring-fenced for Adult Social Care, and 1.94% for other). As you have heard on national news, Social Care is consuming ever more of the budget of all county councils as people live longer.

Currently Adult Social Services consumes over £125 million of the WCC budget (nearly 40%). As part of the new budget, they are proposing to increase spend on Children's services, increase spend on Adult Services, and have a substantial investment in Highway infrastructure including improvements to the Southern bypass around Worcester by building a major new bridge.

Wychavon District Council have announced a council tax freeze - zero increase. Wychavon already has one of the lowest District Council taxes in the country at £120.08 at Band D. However, they do manage to achieve a lot for the money they spend as you can see from the above list of responsibilities. They are also investing heavily around Evesham trying to kick start improvements to the town centre, and are developing business parks to encourage more businesses into the area to provide more jobs.

Pebworth Parish Council is increasing parish council tax by 10.24%

I attach a list of the Band D charges for each Parish council in Wychavon for 2017/18 and 2018/19, and the level D band for Pebworth is £77.19. (the average across all 70 parishes in Wychavon is £44)

Masons Arms

A lot of correspondence has been generated in the last month about the sale of the pub and the moratorium and the Asset of Community value rules. However, the end result is the sale is going ahead without the moratorium but the agent assures us that the new owners will be using the building as a pub and are committed to making it a thriving business.

Dangerous Trees at Norton Hall

A resident complained that the trees in Norton Hall gardens looked dangerous so the tree warden at WDC was informed and agreed to inspect them.

Superfast Broadband to Ullington & Buckle Street

Ullington residents should now be able to sign up for Superfast Broadband

Highways

1. **Front St Pavement** – Repairs to this pavement will use a special sealant to seal the cracks. This is now planned to be done sometime in 2018.
2. **Pothole at entrance to Acre's End, Broad Marston** – being investigated by Highways
3. **Traffic and traffic speed past Pebworth School** – Highways have agreed to install better signage to help slow down traffic
4. **Flooding in Broad Marston** - I met the WDC flood engineers near Cotswold View in Broad Marston with some residents to look at the ditches and road drains to see what can be done to reduce flooding on this stretch of road. An action plan was agreed and both the District council, and the County Council are working together to help reduce the flooding issues. Road gully has been jetted but blocked or a soakaway. Suggestion is to connect it to ditch which will mean a road closure.
5. **Pebworth public rights of way** – A meeting took place in January to start a “Pebworth Countryside Volunteer Access Group” to help keep our local public footpaths in good condition. If you want to help, please contact Yvonne Rose, or me. Already many footpaths have been walked and all defects recorded

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6. **Street Cleaning** – various roads around the area have recently had extra street cleaning (carried out by WDC but funded by WCC) The aim is to remove the detritus and dead grass and weeds along the kerbs to protect and improve the rural pavements. WDC will review the schedule in these rural areas and may increase the frequency to help clear the weeds and grass from growing along the kerbside.

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 Fund

1. Cleeve Prior – grant requested for new computers for pre-school
2. Badsey – Freedom Day Centre for people with learning difficulties – grant requested for new computers
3. Offenham First school PTA - laptops for school.
4. Pebworth in Bloom have requested a grant to wards the replacement of the metal fence around the cemetery that were damaged many years ago
5. Mats for Cleeve Prior village hall for Yoga & Pilates
6. Littleton Junior Football Club – line marker
7. Offenham Cricket club – mobile pitch covers
8. Cleeve Prior – equipment for footpath warden
9. Long Lartin Residents Association – new play equipment for the new playground
10. Littleton Scout Hut – new doors

If you run a local Community organisation and need a grant for some vital equipment or service, then please feel free to apply for one from the Divisional Fund by contacting me at adams.pebworth@gmail.com

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