

Parish of Pebworth
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
Held on 8th April 2019 at Pebworth Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. Simon Shiers (Chairman), Pam Veal, David Cranage, Richard Weller and James Pearson

Mr J Stedman (Clerk) and 28 parishioners, Cllr Alastair Adams

Apologies:

Apologies were received from – Cllr John Hyde, Denise Meynell & Peter Harrison

Graham Fowles

Graham gave a report on the new public rights of way, a summary is appended to these minutes

PC Jamie Lee

Jamie gave a report on local policing matters, a summary is appended to these minutes

Mr Colin Badham

Colin gave an update report on the progress with the Masons Arms Public House and his future aspirations for the business, a summary is appended to these minutes

Minutes: The minutes of the annual parish meeting held on 9th April 2018 were circulated to the meeting and the minutes were confirmed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising from the minutes –

No matters from the minutes were raised

Cllr Alastair Adams, Ward Member, gave his report will be appended to the minutes when available.

Pebworth Parish Council's Annual Report

Presented by the Chairman Cllr. Simon Shiers, the report is appended to the minutes

Parish Organisations: Reports were received from:

The Village Hall – Oz

Pebworth in Bloom Group – Yvonne Rose

Pebworth WI - Jenny McLeish

Pebworth Church Wardens' Report - Liz Spencer

All organisation reports are appended to the minutes.

Open Discussion.

- Comments were received over the removal of the diseased trees on The Close

There being no further business;

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 pm and thanked all those present for their attendance and invited all to enjoy tea and cakes kindly supplied by Cllr Pam Veal.

Chairman _____

Date _____

Graham Fowles CAPV

Graham is now the WCC footpath warden for the parish which means he is the local liaison officer for dealing with landowners on footpath matters. He gave a report on the 25 strong Countryside Access Pebworth Volunteers (CAPV) excellent work on the local public rights of way whereby several stiles have been changed to kissing gates to improve access and large ditch crossing bridges install by the group. Much more work lies ahead as many more stiles need to be changed to gates as resources become available. The group now organise walking parties to walk the footpaths in the local area and the walks are up to six miles in areas where all the stiles have been changed to gates

Graham gave thanks to all the volunteers for their time and effort, the Parish Council and PIB for financial support for essential equipment.

PC Jamie Lee

Jamie gave a report on local policing matters and confirmed that the spate of shed break-ins earlier in the year has subsided but reiterated the need for good shed locks and alarms. There had been three house burglaries in the last year and crimes in general are very low. Jamie is well aware of speeding issues in the parish and will try to have more enforcements carried out when resources allow. He noted the parking issues at the school and confirmed it is a people problem that exists at every rural school, unless serious highway offences occur he will not be taking action over parents dropping off children at school. Jamie confirmed drug use and dealing has increased over the last few years and problems do exist in Pebworth as in most other villages, the police are aware of the problem and resources are being applied to address the problem with some success.

Mr Colin Badham Masons Arms

Colin confirmed he is the landlord of the Masons Arms with a five-year lease from the owner and his son, Harry Badham is the pub manager. Colin also runs the Butchers Arms pub in Mickleton. Colin reported on the progress with the Masons Arms as the skittle alley is now open and in regular use. His future aspirations for the business will take some time to materialise as there is a lot of work and expense to bring it all back into full use. The kitchen facilities need to be completely renewed and many structural repairs carried out. Colin and Harry intend to stage community-based events in the coming months when the pub is fully refurbishment and operational.

Pebworth Parish Council Annual Report 2018 - 2019

Parish Council – Our council consists of 7 members who meet monthly to consider all matters within our jurisdiction which affect the running of the Parish. Our aim is to continually maintain or improve our surroundings and provide support to community organisations and individuals. We are ourselves supported by our Parish Clerk John Stedman who is now in his seventeenth year as Clerk to our council. Our ongoing thanks are always due to John for his commitment to ensuring that everything we do is correct and meets the strict requirements, and for his unending work to guide us and produce a stream of administration work to progress and record our actions. The role of Parish Lengthsman and Handyman has been held for a number of years by Cllr John Hyde. These duties include maintenance of Parish assets (play equipment, fencing, etc) as well as clearing vegetation, pruning and removal of tree branches and dead trees, weed spraying on pavements and gutters, and numerous other jobs which keep the Parish running. We thank John for his continued hard work and support, often in difficult conditions and bad weather.

2019 is an election year, and there are changes all round. At District Council level it means that we will unfortunately lose our Councillor, Alastair Adams who is standing down after serving as our District Councillor for the last 8 years. His campaign slogan of “energy and enthusiasm in local issues” has been especially felt in his home village of Pebworth where he has worked tirelessly and channelled his considerable influence to improve so many aspects of local people’s lives, including championing the flood alleviation schemes in Broad Marston and Pebworth, representing us on major planning decisions, influencing the design and build quality of new housing, organising numerous upgrades to roads and footpaths, helping local organisations to obtain funding, and being the driving force behind superfast broadband arriving in Pebworth and the surrounding villages. We pass on our most grateful thanks to Alastair for all he has done for us.

At Parish Council level no election will take place as no other candidates have come forward, therefore the existing Parish Councillors will continue to serve. We have one vacancy which is to be filled by co-option and we encourage anyone who may be interested in a role as Parish Councillor within our community to come and talk to us and find out more about what this involves.

This vacancy has arisen as Cllr Pam Veal has decided to step down after serving the parish council for almost 15 years since her co-option in September 2004 when she topped the poll of three other candidates.

Pam has been hugely influential in her support of the main village institutions, including the Church, Village Hall, and the School as well as continually championing new initiatives for young people and for the future of the village. We thank Pam for her selfless long service and invaluable contribution to our community over so many years.

The Parish Council continues to provide our support to the community across a range of issues large and small. Some of the main matters to report on this year are:

Precept - Precept will rise by £1,500 to £33,500. This is a 3.6% rise or £2.82 per band D house. This compares to a rise of £3,500 or £7.17 per band D house last year. This additional funding will be used as a contingency to help cover cost for the Village Hall refurbishment and to continue the streetlight upgrade project.

The councils total net expenditure for the year was £80,245 which includes £24,990 for the new play equipment.

Play equipment on the Close - 4 new items of play equipment will be installed on The Close starting tomorrow 9th April 2019. These will be:

- Inclusive roundabout (to replace the old one which had to be removed for safety reasons)
- Double swing Eagle with nest seat
- Rope tree aerie with metal posts
- Ground trampoline jump XL 2x3 m

The purchase and installation of these items is costing approx. £25k of which approx. £21k is paid for by Section 106 funding from the Cala Homes development, and the remainder from Parish Council reserves.

Neighbourhood Development Plan - Work continued all year on bringing the NDP towards its final stages, and we thank the NDP steering committee who have led the process, Brodie Planning Associates who have provided their expertise and direction, and everyone else who has taken the time to come along to meetings or made comments to assist. The current position is that the final draft plan is now with an independent examiner who is making sure that all elements comply with policy and requirements. If he agrees and signs off the plan it will go to a referendum of Pebworth parishioners. The referendum is a straight Yes or No vote to the adoption of the plan, if Yes it will become a legal document which will help to guide policy in this village for the period to 2030. The cost of this project has been funded entirely by a grant of £20,000 which Pebworth Parish Council applied for and received on the grounds that we were one of the first Parishes to take this initiative.

The draft plan is published on the WDC website.

Planning - 24 full planning applications were considered by the council during the year, the applications varying from a change of windows to sizable development for dwellings such as the 3,100 new homes proposed on Long Marston airfield.

Within the Parish the approved outline application by Persimmon Homes to build 380 homes on the Sims Metal site has encountered a number of delays, namely in discussions around the amount of affordable housing and the connectivity to the adjacent St Modwen site. This proposal now appears to be moving towards implementation, and this scheme will represent a significant boost to housing supply within the Parish.

Within the village, the NDP supports the inclusion of 10 – 12 new dwellings on part of the Fibrex Nurseries site during the plan period, which was indicated by most parishioners as the preferred number and location.

Village Hall refurbishment project - Parish Council are supporting the village hall committee with funding applications including the recently successful application to WDC for the NHB legacy fund for £100k. We are committed to ensuring that this project can go ahead and will support with further financing or administration work as required.

Recreation Field – It was encouraging to see that the MUGA was well used over the summer months last year, especially for tennis and football. In support of this the tennis net was left up permanently over the summer and the intention is that this will happen again this year. The large mounds of soil that were left over from the excavations were removed at the end of last year and the area is now recovering and being re-seeded as required. As a new addition to the Recreation Field a new outdoor table tennis table will be installed shortly, and hopefully during the summer a new flagpole, both of which have been made possible by being fully sponsored by the generosity of individual parishioners.

Traffic and speeding – We periodically continue to monitor traffic and speeding within the village and aim to raise awareness or promote enforcement action where possible. It is clear that the effect of speeding is felt most in Little Meadows and on the Honeybourne Road coming past Fibrex. Other village roads are narrower and speeding cars are thankfully limited by bends and parked cars, however verge damage from large vehicles remains a constant problem. The installation of oak bollards on Front Street has helped to stop the constant erosion of the grass bank by vehicle tyres, but flatter verges are still at risk. This can be helped by considerate parking of vehicles at roadsides wherever possible.

Parking outside Pebworth School and Pre School at peak times has also been highlighted as a growing problem and our clerk has written to the School and Sunflowers Nursery to ask for their assistance in controlling this.

Streetlights –The council’s project to upgrade all the Parish streetlights has continued throughout the past year. So far 18 out of the total 42 lights in the Parish have been changed to the new design and the next phase will continue this year. Obsolete concrete columns are being removed and all new lights will have grey painted steel columns, new curved brackets and carefully chosen lanterns with improved LED lighting. When completed the project will bring a number of improvements in terms of energy efficiency and an overall reduction in electricity and maintenance costs, as well as ensuring that all streetlights within the parish are of a smart, high quality, and consistent design.

Thank you to all parishioners who support us in our efforts.

Cllr Simon Shiers
Chairman Pebworth Parish Council

Countryside Access – Pebworth Volunteers (CAPV) –
Annual Report March 2018 to April 2019

I am the current Pebworth Parish Path Warden appointed by WCC in May 2018. This role reports to the WCC to support resolution of issues on PROW around the village and also coordinates the efforts of CAPV.

The CAPV was established in early 2018 following a determined effort by Pebworth In Bloom committee & Evesham Ramblers with vigorous support from Alastair to trigger action to improve condition of PROW around Pebworth. This activity resulted in a comprehensive survey of the condition of all of the Pebworth Paths which was presented to WCC to encourage corrective actions and enable greater use of paths to be made by all and the establishment of the CAPV.

The strategy worked, and the last year has seen significant activity in the parish with improvement works carried out on a roughly monthly basis. We now have a volunteer register of some 25 residents and can rely on a turnout of 8 or 9 of these on a regular basis for projects. Its been a learning time for all of us but we are now virtually self sufficient with our own tools provided by WCC and materials provided as required again by WCC. We are also actively supported by PIB and the Parish Council and have established a working budget to enable purchase of more specialist tools to support our work.

Much of the work can only be completed with cooperative landowners and our dealings so far with Stuart Lyall, Nick Holdsworth, Robin Bowen, Nigel Smith and Jason Lewis have been excellent although still some challenges ahead.

We have so far completed some 11 pedestrian gate installations (replacing old and damaged stiles), 6 ditch crossings, 8 waymark posts and numerous path clearances.

Our first projects were in and around Lyalls wood and resulted in the installation of the excellent bridge crossings into and out of the wood in May/June 2018 and hopefully many of you have benefitted from this excellent walk.

Works continued on various paths including:

- the path from Pebworth to Ullington through Little Meadows Farm – three new gates and repairs to a ditch crossing
- the start of this path behind Hill House opposite the Church – two new gates
- Up on the hill at the top of the village – two new gates, hopefully this will help Pebworth Morris gain the summit without falling over the stiles on May 1st.
- Numerous strimmings and clearance of paths and gate entrances.

We held our first village footpaths walk on 17th Nov 2018 where some 22 residents joined us on a 5 mile ramble across Pebworth Downs towards Dorsington and back up Dorsington Lane. All were delighted with both the views and variety of the walk. We replaced about 30 waymark discs on the way round which will help to guide others around this walk. This route will now form the basis of one of the walks planned for the Evesham Walking Festival in July 2019.

Last week we commenced replacement of the stiles around The Field House (towards the watery hole) with gates and repairs and installation of ditch crossings – one more to complete and this access will be complete through to the Heart of England Forest and the path towards Honeybourne although WCC will also need to complete the more difficult replacement of the stone constructed ditch crossing on one of the paths.

We still have many improvements to make to meet our ambitions of completing the original listing generated by PIB (if you want to join us please sign up to CAPV). Our desire is to replace as many stiles with gates as is possible. We hope this year will see the footpath from the Church to Ullington totally stile free and opening of the longer paths towards Long Marston and Honeybourne as well as resolving issues in and around the Priory in Broad Marston.

Future projects will also include regular clearance of paths/stiles, with safety related repairs always a priority but if any concerns are noted by residents please get in touch and we will try to ensure issues are addressed promptly. (graham.fowles@btinternet.com)

In summary I'd just like to thank the members of the CAPV for the hard work completed and also the land owners involved for allowing access. Obviously thanks also to PIB and the Parish Council for their enthusiastic support.

Many Thanks

Graham Fowles

WI Report for Parish Meeting April 2019

In the recent edition of our WI magazine my eye was drawn to a headline which read "The WI is the bedrock of society". The article written by Sir Stuart Hetherington, chief executive of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations described our organisation as "women supporting one another in local communities, raising issues, creating learning opportunities and actively doing stuff. What members do is crucial to the fabric of society". This sums up Pebworth & District WI but Sir Stuart forgot to mention the laughter and of course the cake !! We're now in our 68th year with 45 members of all ages and what an active organisation we are !

In the past year speakers have included the legendary Countryfile Farmer of the Year Joan Bomford ; we have been introduced to the beauty of Lundy Island and to the history of Chatsworth

and the most dissolute man in London. We have been inspired by the charity work being undertaken in Kilifi, a village in Kenya and marvelled at the work it takes to stage an exhibit at Chelsea Flower Show by the chair of the Hardy Plants Society.

Some of us have met Strictly Come Dancing's Erin Boag and BBC chief newsreader Huw Edwards. Some have visited Blists Hill and an exhibition of the suffragettes, others went to the Black Country Museum and to see the SS Great Britain in Bristol. And we enjoyed a very humorous play "Lilies on the Land" about the women's land army in WW2. And a memorable evening was spent learning African drumming in Elaine Jeffrey's garden

We learned new skills such as brooch making from scraps, magic painting and willow weaving – this latter one resulted in some willow hearts to hang on our front doors in support of the WI campaign on climate change. And we spent an evening learning how to tango with Liz and Lawrence. Our own talented members Sue Jordan and Jean Sullivan organised workshops sharing their own skills as we made Christmas table decorations and roman blinds. And we have an Easter wreath making workshop this month so watch out for decorated front doors again. In addition the Knit and Natter group continues to produce warm clothing such as scarves and mittens for children in eastern Europe and a whole bagful of twiddle muffs for dementia sufferers was delivered to a local care home. The weekly Keep Fit class is increasingly popular, the skittles team is sometimes very successful and the quiz team won the group competition against 9 other WIs and came 4th in the village hall competition.

We have supported the Campden Home Nursing organisation this year and also our own village school by not only donating a huge Christmas hamper for their raffle but by accepting the invitation to take part as judges in their Bake Off competition. Our scarecrow was highly praised at the NGS Open gardens event, our annual litter pick resulted in tons of rubbish being cleared from the parish ditches and we are preparing to provide teas again at Party in the Park.

Our support of local businesses has included this year providing teas at the very successful Fibrex Open Weekend event and a fabulous fashion show put on by The Attic, Chipping Campden which saw some of our own members sashaying down the catwalk ! We are also keen recyclers so our book bonanza next month will provide lots of bargains and the magswap has enabled members to pick up expensive magazines which would otherwise end up in the green bin.

We have planned a lovely afternoon tea party next month with entertainment by the fabulous singer Ruby Lamont for invited guests in support of the WI national campaigns to fight loneliness and to help those suffering with dementia and alzheimers , we will soon be off to the theatre in Stratford, will be going ten pin bowling and learning a new sport – archery, we will be visiting 2 local gardens and we're much looking forward to the visit to a local vineyard !

So I will end this report with what Sir Stuart Hetherington said about the WI in general and Pebworth & District WI must have been on his mind when he described it as "women supporting one another in the community, raising issues, creating learning opportunities and actively doing stuff ". And add laughter and cake and that describes our WI.

PIB annual report to the PC 8th April 2019

It's been another busy and successful year for Pebworth In Bloom and for our village.

Over the past twelve months PIB volunteers have worked hard, continuing to care for and enhance key village communal sites including the Village Hall grounds, the Town Pool car park, the Churchyard, the WW1 memorial site, Elm Close entrance, the mini orchard, the Close, the Mound and Pipers Corner. The volunteer mower team have done a sterling job in mowing the communal areas and key verges around the village, and this work has been greatly aided by the purchase of a new PIB community mower, mulcher and strimmer last summer.

The 54 village troughs and containers have also been regularly and carefully tended, planted with summer bedding last year which, with the drought we experienced, was a bit of a watering

nightmare and replanted in the Autumn with Spring flowering bulbs and plants which, I'm sure you agree, have looked particularly stunning this year.

Our major horticultural developments this year included the 'Glorious Garden Village Hall Makeover Competition' aimed at improving the kerb appeal of the village hall, with low maintenance planting (hopefully!) and insect/wildlife friendly planting. The standard of entries was very high and imaginative, the winning scheme by Wendi Weller was initially planted up last Autumn and enhanced with further planting this March. It already looks really good and we're excited to see how the garden will display and develop over the summer.

We have also redesigned and replanted the long bulb bed alongside the Close footpath. This bed, which looks stunning in the Spring suffers from dry shade in the summer so, under the leadership of Ursula, we have made a stumpary and planted it up with shade loving and drought tolerant plants such as Ferns and Hostas. We have our fingers crossed for a really interesting show this year. In addition, the Mound at the bottom of Front St was also redesigned last year with perennial planting and thankfully was watered during the drought by Pebworth Fire Brigade until the new plants were established.

The WW1 memorial site has also been greatly improved with protective metal rings placed around the five 'Peace' trees and a further protective metal ring put around the actual memorial stone which has been back filled with white stone chippings. We have also planted white flowers and bulbs and the overall effect is quite special. We are very much looking forward to the addition of the village flag pole on the site later this year.

The village mini orchard down on the allotment site continues to develop under the guidance of Clive our Tree Warden, we planted three more fruit trees in December and having received PC blessing we will continue to plant more trees up to the allotment boundary over the coming years, probably up to twenty more depending on the species.

Conservation and biodiversity continues to be an important aspect of all of our work.

We acquired an additional two pairs of hedgehogs to re home last year, we purchased hedgehog boxes and carefully selected the sites where they were placed and have since been monitoring sightings of the hedgehogs throughout the Parish.

This February we asked the Vale Wildlife Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre to come to Pebworth and give a talk in the on the role they have in caring for the sick and injured wildlife in our area. The village hall was full with residents who heard about the wonderful (and often very distressing) work undertaken by the Centre, it was a marvellous afternoon and following the talk the Centre were really pleased when new sponsors and volunteers from Pebworth came forward to offer help.

PIB members have also attended talks and seminars such as Rural Networks to learn what more we could do to maintain and enhance the biodiversity in our Parish.

Our main aim has always been to engage as many community members as possible in everything we do so, as in previous years, we've held many community wide events over the past twelve months. Ranging from two talks by Jenny on the history of many of the graves in St Peters where forty five people listened to some fascinating tales and the proceeds were given to the Church for the Porch Appeal, the Wassail event in January where the fruit trees were again blessed with great ceremony and where it was wonderful to see so many residents and also new village members present having fun.

On the 11th November we joined with St Peters Church for a very special 100 years WW1 commemorative service at the Church and then down at our memorial site. It was a lovely and moving morning with loads of residents taking part followed by coffee and biscuits in the Masons.

We held a village tough and container competition and awarded numerous prizes and certificates to parishioners, the annual Christmas Tree lighting ceremony was a huge success despite the fact

the Christmas lights had been destroyed by over enthusiastic Churchyard mowers and the W.I./PIB litter pick was really well attended with, unfortunately, again trailer loads of rubbish collected from verges and ditches across the parish.

The November all village 'big leaf clear up' in the Churchyard and Town Pool area was well supported and we also ran three plant and bulb sales during the year to raise funds courtesy of Hayloft Plants. An evening Pebworth in Bloom open meeting was held at the village hall to which all residents were invited, many community members attended and made really useful points and suggested actions for future PIB and volunteer projects.

We worked with the Countryside Access Pebworth Volunteer team to help set the footpath group up and we continue to support the invaluable work they are doing on our Parish footways.

Last year's NGS Open Gardens weekend was the most successful ever. Under the coordination of Wendi, thirteen lovely Pebworth gardens were open to the public and the public arrived in their droves. The scarecrow competition commemorating 100 years of Women's Suffrage was won by Pat Loughran for her brilliant Beatrix Potter with Amy Johnson and Freda Carlo coming joint second. Over the weekend we made £5080.00 for NGS cancer funds and £2000.00 for village projects and enhancements which is an amazing result for our small community.

We entered Pipers Corner into the regional Rooftop Housing Association Best Community Garden competition and were pleased to be awarded third prize at a lovely ceremony at Wood Norton Hall last September.

Heart of England In Bloom came to judge us on a beautiful July day last year, the village looked amazing, colourful and pristine so we weren't really surprised but just as thrilled to be awarded yet another Gold at the awards presentation day held at Burton in Trent in the Autumn.

We've got lots of ideas for the year ahead, we plan to enter the best Churchyard competition again, our grand potato challenge kicks off on Good Friday, we'll be also holding a garden tool and machinery sale to help raise funds for the church porch.

The plans for this year's Open Gardens In May are well in hand as are the plans for the Produce and Craft Show at Party in the Park in September. We have already booked this year's Britain in Bloom judging day which will take place on Thursday 4th July, so we would love to see you all there on the morning.

It only remains for me to thank both the Parish Council and Cllr Adams for their continued support and a huge thank you must go to the PIB steering committee for their unstinting hard work, enthusiasm and commitment and finally to all the volunteers, sponsors and supporters without whom none of these marvellous things would happen.

Yvonne Rose
Chair Pebworth in Bloom - April 2019

Report to Pebworth Parish Council for their Annual Parish Meeting April 8th 2019 Church Wardens' Report for St. Peter's Church Pebworth 2018 – 2019

Last year residents of Pebworth were shocked to discover that not only had the Beast from the East severely damaged the 16th century North Porch resulting in a repair bill of £20,000.00, but the lead had been stolen from the Lady Chapel roof. Fund raising soon got underway with a series of concerts under the title of 'A Musical Box of Delights' and a series of Jenny McLeish's fabulous historical talks relating to villagers whose graves are in the churchyard. So far nearly £5,000.00 has been raised from donations, talks and three delightfully different events. A woodwind autumn serenade performed by Ted and Veronica Watson with Maria; Vale Connexions – a female acapella choir and Tarantara, a 60 strong mixed choir from Alcester. Preparations are in hand to welcome a brother and sister, Jono and Robyn Morely, Neon Sky, who wowed festival goers at last year's Pebworth Fringe with their acoustic set. We will also be holding an organ recital and a concert with Pebworth First School's brass band who will be joined

by friends from Bretforton's Silver Band and concert pianist Marcel Zindarni. Work has commenced on replacing the Lady Chapel roof with terne coated steel. Fortunately, this will be funded by the insurance company as the lead was painted with smart water.

It is almost two years since Scott our vicar was installed on 28th June 2017 and his charismatic, pastoral ministry is reaching out to the people of the village. He visits the school on a weekly basis and plays the tuba in their brass band and the school is holding its Christmas and Easter services in the church. Harvest, Remembrance, Carol and Crib services were full to capacity. St Peter's sits at the heart of the community and we are extremely grateful that the village has come together to support fund raising for the fabric of our beautiful church. Thank you to everyone, for your generous and much needed support.

St Peter's Church Electoral Roll is currently being renewed. This is your church's register of electors: it is the list of those qualified to attend and to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting: - where elections take place for the Parochial Church Council, and the Parish representatives on the Deanery Synod. Any person at the meeting can raise any question of parochial or general church interest. It enables people at every level to play their part in decision making. For an application form please contact Rachel Jarrett. The AGM will be held in the Church, on Sunday 7th April, following Family Service. St Peter's Church is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of everyone within our church community and every member of the PCC must undertake safeguarding training.

We are extremely grateful to Pebworth in Bloom and their team of willing helpers who meet every Thursday morning to weed the beds, remove ivy from the gravestones, clear the leaves in the autumn, tend the plants in the Garden of Remembrance and gather everyone to the lighting of the Village Christmas Tree in early December. This year, to mark the Centenary of the Armistice, Pebworth in Bloom planned a joint Act of Remembrance with the Church. It began in St Peter's church with a half-muffled peel and the reading of the role of honour of the names of the men dear to Pebworth and Dorsington, who gave their lives in the Great War and all subsequent conflicts. The church was enhanced by the installation of silhouettes of Tommy Figures which were positioned in the pews amongst the congregation. These seated silhouettes are a commemorative installation to the fallen of the First World War, as part of a project by the charity Remembered called "There But Not There". The church was also decorated with artwork from the pupils of Pebworth First School and a cascade of ceramic poppies from the font and a magnificent pedestal arrangement of poppies – thank you to Sally Donnison and Rachel for making the church look so beautiful. From the church the procession was joined by other villagers at the memorial site on the sports field for a second act of remembrance. The role of honour was read for a second time, the last post sounded by Raffe Wood, wreaths laid, and the Vicar led those assembled in prayer. Those in attendance included representatives of the Sea Cadets, the Police, the Pebworth Fire Service and retired members of the Armed Forces. Afterwards the Publican from Masons' Arms served refreshments. Representatives from the parish then travelled to Gloucester Cathedral, at the invitation of the Lord Lieutenant, to attend an Act of Remembrance. We are very grateful to Martin Penny -Tower Captain and his band of ringers for marking the Armistice by ringing at 7pm in the evening, simultaneously with churches and cathedrals across the British Isles. In addition, the team has rung a quarter muffled peel to mark the centennial of the death of each soldier on the role of honour.

We should also like to record our appreciation of Pam Illot for playing the organ and to Peter Harrison conducting the Village Choir singing at key points in the church's calendar. We also have to thank our hard working 'Holy Dusters', Flower Arrangers and all those who contribute to keeping our church looking beautiful and well cared for, a special mention must go to Sally and Rachel for their decoration of the church prior to the Carol Service and to Jean Cotton for overseeing church refreshments.

PEBWORTH VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chair's Report 2018/19

The year has felt a very positive one for the Village Hall overall – bookings have continued to be strong and we have delivered our annual events which as ever were well supported. A highlight of the year, due to the work of PIB has been the 'wow' factor enhancement on the outside grounds at

the front of the hall, thanks to Wendi Bowron Weller for her winning design. A low point was the phantom water leak which engaged many of us to watch swirling water metres with not a drop to be found – but primarily meant a lot of sorting it out time for Barrie, our Treasurer's with insurers and water companies.

Most significantly has been the long strides forward with our capital development plans. Due to the co-operation between the PVH committee and Parish Council and with the support of Councillor Adams, we have secured significant funding from Wychavon via the New Homes Bonus Scheme (just over £57,000) and the Legacy Fund (£100,000) so that we can move forward with our plans to extend and redevelopment the hall.

We completed two further rounds of consultation with the Parish and our Architect's plans are now being developed to working drawings so tender documents can go to builders. Our aspiration is that work can begin in the late summer, early Autumn however we will require additional funds (in the region of £150,000) to complete the list of work and capital replacement required. Sub-committees within the Village Hall and Parish Council are working together to keep moving everything forward so that the necessary funds are raised, and the improvements and work required are completed whilst keeping the hall operational as much as possible.

The main thrust of the work is to put a second meeting room with stand alone entrance and toilet facility at the back of the hall, to reconfigure and renew the front facilities and storage areas, to replace the stage, sound and lighting in the main hall, make the hall entrances fully accessible, review the heating system and the overall ambience within the hall. One thing leads to another, but we are full of intent that we will be able to achieve a difference to make the hall fit for purpose for the next few decades.

The continuing support of the Parish will be essential and yes – further fund-raising. We have with some ambition decided this year to arrange a Summer Ball (July 13th for tickets contact Jane Cromack) and support the Pebworth in the Park, so we have a very busy few months ahead – so any offers of help or donations in kind or cash are welcomed.

As always, many thanks to the Village Hall Committee for delivering all they do and in particular, to our Secretary, Mary Harrison who is such an integral part of the running of the Hall. Our thoughts are with her and her presence at this time is sorely missed.

Jane Cromack.
Chair
April 2019