

Pebworth Parish Council
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

Held as a virtual meeting via the internet at 7:00 pm on Monday 1st February 2021.

Present: Cllrs. Simon Shiers (Chairman), Richard Weller, Denise Meynell, James Pearson, SJ Morrow, John Hyde & David Cranage

In attendance: Cllr Alistair Adams, and J Stedman (Clerk)

376. Apologies: All members present

377. Disclosures of Interests:

Members were reminded of the need to keep their register of interests updated. Members were asked to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary or other Interests in Items considered in virtual meetings and their nature. **None declared**

Open Forum -

The chairman suspended the formal meeting at 7.20 pm for the ward members participation.

- County Councillor Alastair Adams presented his report on recent flood events and meeting with WDC officers and others from the Broad Marston area. His reports are appended to the minutes.
- The Chairman thanked Cllr Alistair Adams for his continued help in flooding matters and closed open forum at 7:45 and resumed the formal meeting.

378. Clerks Report noted

- a) Letter of support sent to the Stratford-Long Marston-Honeybourne-Worcester/Oxford railway support group – thanks and acknowledgement received.
- b) Letter sent to the Environment Agency supporting the proposal to create flood alleviation balancing ponds upstream of Broad Marston on the HoEF land.
- c) Alleged sewage in the water that is running down Back Lane reported to WCC via the website as it was considered to be emanating from a block road drain forcing water from a road gully.

379. Minutes:

- a) Members considered and approved the wording of the minutes from the January 2021 Parish Council meeting which will be signed by the chairman.

380. Planning matters

- a) PLANNING INSPECTORATE REF:- APP/H1840/W/20/3259338

Change of use of existing outbuilding to tourist accommodation and for owners recreational purposes. Removal of condition 4 of 07/02211 in order to remove restrictions on existing vehicular access Site at: Orchard Dene Hall Broad Marston Road

The council carefully considered the extensive correspondence from the applicant and residents in neighbouring properties along with the WDC planning documents.

It was agreed to offer the following comments to the planning inspectorate: -

The council notes the concerns raised by the local residents regarding disturbance and traffic reversing out of the holiday lets on to the public highway. Also, to request the inspector to examine the access and review any changes made to improve the safety of entrance and its visibility splays.

Clerk to action the response

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b) **Green Lane:** Council noted the ward member's report on the investigations into the field clearance at Green Lane Broad Marston. – see Cllr Thomas Havemann-Mart report appended to the minutes which stated no enforcement action is required.

381. Flooding

- a) **Culvert works:** Members noted correspondence regarding flood alleviation works at Orchard Dene Hall and received members reports on the latest flood events which confirmed the culvert enlargement and bridge works were successful but the culvert under Broad Marston road was overwhelmed which may be caused by the water levels on the north side of Broad Marston road.
- b) The Ward member reported the blockage of the watercourse at the Manor in Broad Marston has been removed. **Resolved**
- c) Members report on watercourse blockages on Long Marston Road and considered no immediate action is required and the watercourse will be monitored as it has extensive bramble growth which might cause a problem.
- d) **Flood Report:** Cllr Alistair Adams gave an extensive report on the parish wide flood event, his report is appended to the minutes.
- e) **Emergency Pump:** Members consider options for the proposed purchase of the floodwater sump pump and agreed it is not a feasible option for the council to undertake.

382. Finance:

- a) Members noted the Clerk's report on payments made since the last meeting.
- b) Council approved the February schedule of payments to be made by internet banking.
- c) Members noted the bank account balances as of 13th January; Treasures £ 78,427.36, Deposit account £38,135.55 uncleared cheques £90.00. Cllr Richard Weller confirmed the clerks accounts reconciled with the bank account online.

383. Community & Council Matters:

- a) **Pebworth response group:** Cllr James Pearson reported on the Pebworth response group's activities and confirmed the group were in receipt of funding in the sum of £2,000 from the parish council and a personal donation from within the parish of £500, that funded all of the activities of the group which supported a significant number of parishioners during the lockdown. The records of the group were inspected by Cllr Pearson and were found to accurately reflect the activities of the group. Over a period of a number of months, as documented in the previous minutes, an exercise was undertaken to review the sums billed by the group in order to ensure that receipts were maximised, this exercise led to the receipt of material additional funds by the group with the sum of £1,501.79 being held in the group's bank account after the receipts were collected. Representative costs covering the genuine operating expenses of the operation were deducted in arriving at a final remaining balance of the funds held by the group of £1,070.86, that sum was repaid in January 2021 in proportion to the funds introduced with the sum of £856.69 being repaid to the Parish Council.
- b) **Tree Labels:** Cllr SJ Morrow's proposed designs of tree labels was considered not to be appropriate at this time and the proposal was withdrawn by Cllr SJ Morrow.

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- c) **Broken Planter:** Cllr John Hyde confirmed the broken parish owned planted trough in Broad Marston is being investigated for a replacement planter of the similar size and design.
- d) **Holiday lets:** The Ward members reported on the allegation of using holiday lets at Norton Hall, the investigation by WDC enforcement officers found no problems and no action will be taken.
- e) **Dog fouling:** Council considered two parishioners reports on dog mess in Dorsington Lane and dog fouling on The Close. Members confirmed the problem had greatly increased as more parishioners were now walking with dogs throughout the parish. It was resolved the Clerk to create posters to be deployed around the parish bringing the problem to the attention of the villagers walking dogs.

384. Village Hall:

- a) **Report:** Cllr James Pearson reported Arden have fallen behind, principally down to two items.
 Firstly, the largest piece of glazing is delayed due to Covid issues at the factory – Secondly, although the paths have been prepared (and I have to say the preparation, especially to the path to the front of the hall which is one of the things which wasn't in the original spec but is being done within the agreed price, looks very thorough) the tiles which are going down require a particular adhesive which has to be put down in specific temperature and moisture conditions so that part of the work may be delayed for a while. That doesn't however prevent everything else being done and us holding back a specific retention against it.
 The remedial works to the concrete frame have now been priced up and are scheduled to be done – in the end although the works seemed pretty benign due to the technical nature of the materials involved the eventual cost, including a 5-year warranty, was over £7k – fortunately in negotiating the position with Arden this was one of the items they accepted fully including within their original budget so it is being done at no additional cost to the project.
- b) **Payments:** The Clerk reported on the payment of the January invoice received from Arden Construction.

385. The Close and Recreation Field

- a) The monthly safety inspection found no new safety matter of concern.
 - i) No new matter to report and the outstanding maintenance jobs will be carried out later in February weather permitting.
- b) **Trees:** The council's insurers confirmed tree survey can be carried out by a competent person therefore the council agreed the survey already completed by Mr Clive Warren and Cllr SJ Morrow to be suitable for the council needs.
- c) **Shelter:** Members confirmed the relocation of the youth shelter to be completed by Arden Construction.
- d) Playsafety have confirmed the RoSPA inspection will take place in March.

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- e) **MUGA:** The Handyman confirmed closing the MUGA and golf net to conform with Covid Regulations, but the defiance tape was torn down and the MUGA was used occasionally, new closure notice to be fix to the MUGA.
- f) Members consider correspondence from WDC on the expenditure of the available Sec 106 funds £5,953 for build sport and leisure. It was confirmed the funds cannot support new picnic benches or the replacement of the zipwire, only new equipment. In consideration of the small amount available and the restriction on the use of the fund's new plans for the use of the fund need to be considered. The Clerk will liaise with WDC to establish the date for the funds to be claimed by enabling an action plan to be initiated. Costs for trim trails and youth shelters will be available for the next council meeting. The Clerk will carry out a small public consultation for the project using the E-News and fuel group via email and publish the proposals in the Petrus

386. Allotments

- a) Members consider information and photos regarding cleaning out the drainage ditch at the allotment site and agreed some 15m of the ditch may need a clear out, but this action would not drain surface water from the allotment sites, the ditch clearance will be considered again in the summer when surface condition are favourable for clearance works.

387. Street Lighting:

- a) Faulty lights to be reported for repair. – no new faults
- b) The streetlights 34,42 & 38 were reported to E-on as faulty in December and were repaired on 22nd January. **Resolved**

388. Highway Matters: New highway matters reported

- a) The cracked condition of the wall on Front Street on the curtilage of Norton Hall to be reported to County Highways as it is a potential hazard to footway users.
- b) The footway from the Village Hall to the Masons Arms and along Broad Marston road has a very poor surface and is in need of resurfacing. To be reported to County Highways.
- c) Damaged gully gratings on Broad Marston road will be reported by the Lengthsman as he is aware of their location.

389. Lengthsman or Handyman Matters.

- a) New highway or maintenance matters in need of attention.
 - i) Verge repairs in School Street and Front Street will be investigate when soil conditions improve, and grass seed can be sown.
 - ii) A bollard in Front Street to be replaced, the Clerk confirmed the new bollard have been ordered from Hartwell timber

390. Public Rights of Way:

- a) Reports of any new PROW matters in need of attention. None at this time

391. Matters Raised by Members: for consideration and or items for future agendas. - None

392. Meeting Dates

- a) It was confirmed the next council meeting is scheduled for March 1st venue to be announced

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 8:55 pm

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Finance Report

| Bank Accounts | | Verified and Confirmed Account Balances | |
|----------------------|----------|---|------------|
| Statement | 13/01/21 | Current Account Balance | £78,427.36 |
| Date | 09/12/20 | Deposit Account Balance | £38,135.55 |

Payments Authorised

| Cheque Number | Payee | Details | Gross Payment | Net Payment |
|------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| DD | Npower | Streetlight Energy | 90.53 | 86.22 |
| 70 | John Hyde | Lengthsman Works | 52.50 | 52.50 |
| 71 | John Hyde | Handyman Works | 37.50 | 37.50 |
| 72 | J Stedman | Clerk's salary and expenses | *** | *** |
| 73 | Arden Construction Ltd | Village Hall contract works | 60,579.26 | 50,482.72 |
| | | | 61,456.99 | 51,356.14 |

| Receipts | Received from | Description | Amount | Banked |
|----------|----------------------|-------------------|---------|--------|
| | Parishioner donation | VH Fund Donations | 3299.50 | 08-Jan |
| | WCC | Lengthsman claim | 103.90 | 31-Dec |
| | EA Bennett | Cemetery fees | 165.00 | 16-Dec |
| | HMRC | VAT Claim | 9287.14 | 17-Dec |

County Councillor Report-

Month: February 2020

Prepared by Alastair Adams,

Littletons Division, Worcestershire County Council

Update on the vaccines rolled out in Worcestershire

GP's across Worcestershire are delivering COVID-19 vaccine. Patients are reminded that the GP's or NHS will contact people in priority groups when it is their turn to receive the vaccine. The majority of over 80 year olds have been vaccinated, and now over 70's, as well as care home staff and healthcare staff are receiving the vaccine.

The good news is many residents in Pebworth have already received the vaccine, and confirmed cases of COVID in Worcestershire are reducing.

Besides the vaccine roll-out, the other big news since my last report is the national lock down. For full details see - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

Leaving home

You must not leave, or be outside of your home except where necessary. You may leave the home to:

- shop for basic necessities, for you or a vulnerable person
- go to work, or provide voluntary or charitable services, if you cannot reasonably do so from home

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- exercise with your household (or support bubble) or one other person, this should be limited to once per day, and you should not travel outside your local area.
- meet your [support bubble](#) or [childcare bubble](#) where necessary, but only if you are legally permitted to form one
- seek medical assistance or avoid injury, illness or risk of harm (including domestic abuse)
- attend education or childcare - for those eligible

If you do leave home for a permitted reason, you should always stay local - unless it is necessary to go further, for example to go to work.

Even if you have received the vaccine, you must still follow the national lock down rules.

COVID-19 STATISTICS LOCALLY

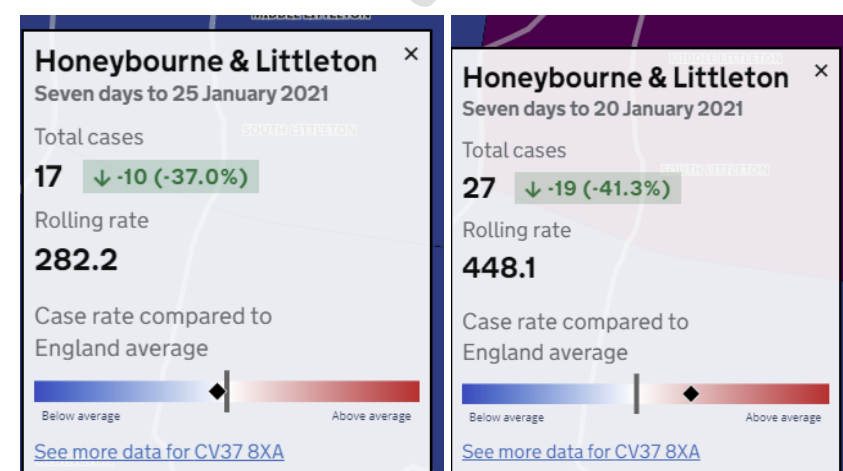
Last week in Wychavon



This week in Wychavon (30 Jan)



This week v's Last week in Littletons Division



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Official statistics and information are available on the links below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-track-coronavirus-cases>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-covid-19-surveillance-reports#history>

Download the NHS COVID-19 app today

<https://covid19.nhs.uk/>

Self-isolation support payment

From Monday, 28 September 2020, you are required by law to self-isolate if you are told to do so by NHS Test and Trace.

The Government has introduced a £500 support payment to help people on low incomes who have to self-isolate. The scheme will run until 31 January 2021 but is being kept under review by the Government. See for more details;

<https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/community-and-living/coronavirus-covid-19-update/self-isolation-support-payment>

How to get a COVID-19 test

Currently there is good testing capacity in Worcestershire. Supply is meeting demand in the county. To organise a test go to

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20769/coronavirus_covid-19/2247/coronavirus_covid-19_testing

Local Testing Centres:

- Redditch Trescott Road Car Park
- University of Worcester, Arena Car Park
- Pershore Civic Centre Car Park
- Bromsgrove Stourbridge Road Car Park: to open 9th Nov
- Kidderminster Harriers Stadium Close Car Park: to open 9th Nov
- Malvern Victoria Rd Car Park: estimated to open 23rd Nov (no dates confirmed yet though)

WHERE CAN I GET FURTHER INFORMATION, HELP AND ADVICE?

Reminder that the Here2Help website www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help is the first point of contact if people want to offer assistance or gain support. The other option is the telephone contact number which is staffed 8am-6pm 6 days a week – 01905 768053.

Carers who support a family member or friend who require support should contact the Worcestershire Association of Carers on www.carersworcs.org.uk or call the Helpline 0300 012 4272.

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/coronavirus>

NHS Website for information on Coronavirus

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Financial support for you

If you are struggling financially then the advice is to make a claim for Universal Credit, Council Tax Support and other benefits you may be eligible for.

There is more information on the [coronavirus employments and benefits page](#).

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Help paying your Council Tax

If you are of working age and already receiving Council Tax Support, you will get a one off reduction of up to £150. This will be applied automatically to your bill. New bills will be issued in the next few weeks.

You can apply online for [Council Tax Support](#) if you are struggling to pay your bill.

More information is available on our [Benefits and Council Tax page](#).

Even if you are not eligible for Council Tax Support, you still may be able to defer your payments for a short period or spread them over 12 months instead of ten.

Please contact the Council's team by emailing Revenues@southworcestershirevenues.gov.uk or call 03004 560560 to discuss your circumstances and they will do their best to help you.

Support for businesses

The Council's new business support programme, **Here2Help Business** is live http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20807/here2help_business

It is a £3m programme designed to assist local Worcestershire Businesses to recover, adapt, develop and support future resilience as lockdown measures reduce

Also see the Government website www.businesssupport.gov.uk which has details of all the support available to businesses.

Other support available

Please check the [Government's website](#) for information about support for business during COVID-19.

Worcestershire Business Central are there to advise local businesses on grant funding and support helping you restart and recover. Please see their [website](#), call them on 01905 677 888 or email info@business-central.co.uk.

Please also see the Chamber of Commerce Herefordshire and Worcestershire [Coronavirus information hub](#).

Furlough scheme extended

The furlough scheme is to have a five-month extension into Spring 2021 with employees receiving 80% of their current salary for hours not worked.

There will be increases to self-employed support through the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS). This will be increased, with the third grant covering November to January calculated at 80% of average trading profits, up to a maximum of £7,500. More information on the support available from these schemes is [here](#).

Flooding – Meeting with WDC flood engineers Wednesday 27th January

The meeting was with Martyn Cross (Engineering Manager at WDC) and his colleague Andrew Fell, but we did not enter the Hoef field. Instead, we stood on the road looking into the field and Martyn explained what he was proposing. Last month WDC had surveyed the Hoef field, and Martyn had looked at the EA modelling report (76 pages!) that I had forwarded to him. From these he has produced a rough design for a bund along the road using earth from the site.

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He stated the EA would expect engineering drawings of the bund, and modelling to prove no other properties would be flooded as part of the permit submission.

Philip Cole (Broad Marston Manor) offered to pay for an Engineering consultant (up to £10,000) to produce the documentation. As a director of Savills, he already has various contacts with engineering consultants but will liaise with Martyn and Hoef to get the documentation produced. Some national consultancy companies that specialise in this type of work were discussed, (such as JBA Consulting. See their website <https://www.jbaconsulting.com/flood-water-management/>). I think this has really helped the project, and I thanked Philip. To use someone like JBA to provide the back-up to the EA permit application at no cost to Hoef is fantastic.

Martyn has been a star, and I can't thank him enough. He has also offered to help Hoef with the submission of the EA permit application. If this all works out and we get the flood plain built, then I strongly recommend the Pebworth Parish Council write a letter of appreciation to Martin Cross and his department.

We also met with Tim & Mervyn Longford (local farmers) about works that can be done in their field that would help alleviate flooding in Broad Marston. Again they were amenable, and Martyn is going to survey their field too.

And finally we walked around the Broad Marston Manor and Priory Rd, and Martin described further works that can be done there. Again Philip Coles was willing to help as much as possible and stated he had already instructed the Manor's maintenance team to clear the Noleham Brook of fallen trees along their boundary. Martyn is going to survey the Manor's land too.

So a good day, with lots of agreed actions and I think we are so much closer to alleviating flooding in Broad Marston. Naturally the Hoef Wetlands project has really helped turbo charge this process, so once again we should make sure we thank Hoef

Once the EA permit is submitted and approved, Henson Plant Hire's owner (Brian Witheford who lives in Broad Marston) says he is willing to provide the plant and the manpower at cost to build the bund. Naturally once we have the engineering drawings we will have to see how much this is, but I will work with WDC and WCC and PCC to try and obtain grants to cover this cost.

Flooding in Broad Marston on Thursday 28th February & Saturday 30th January

Literally a day after the above meeting, Broad Marston suffered more flooding, and then again on Saturday! Interestingly, Pebworth's notorious flooding spots such as Friday Street did not flood at all.

On the Saturday I erected the road closed signs again along Honeybourne Rd/Stratford Rd early morning as the water under the Honeybourne Bridges was over 2 foot deep; I had only taking the signs down 24 hours previously !

On both days, I toured the area and took lots of photos and videos which all supported the discussions that had taken place at the meeting on 27th January.

1. You could see the water pouring off the Hoef field onto the road. The water in the Hoef field is fed from the brook at the top of this field.

Once the brook gets to a certain level, it runs along a tributary that then feeds into the field. **Solution – install at bund in the field to stop water from the field coming into the road, and make the field a flood plain.**

2. Likewise once the brook gets to a certain level, it breaks its bank and pours into to Tim Longford's field, and goes across the field into the road. **Solution – to build a bund along the side of the road and at the corner turning this field into a flood plain too.**
3. There is also another tributary at this point that backs up with water from the flooded brook, and starts to break its bank, and goes through the culvert under the road (by the Broad Marston Village sign) putting even more water onto the road. Solution – not yet sure but could build a bulkhead as mentioned below. But item 1 & 2 above will reduce the amount of water coming into this tributary
4. The third source of water that ends up on Broad Marston Rd, is the small road drain in front Cotswold View (owned by Eddie & Joy Thyeson). This drain goes into to pipe under the garden, and into a shallow ditch that runs along footpath. When this brook raises, this footpath becomes flooded and acts as a channel for water to

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go the opposite way from the brook onto the road. **Solution – to build a sandbag bulkhead with a small pipe to allow water out of the ditch in non-flood conditions. There will have to be a stile or steps to allow walkers to climb over this bulkhead.**

5. There are also some road gullies on Broad Marston which allow for water to come onto the road when the brook is in flood. **Solution – to fit some non return valves on the outlets into the brook.**
6. The water from Broad Marston Rd goes straight into Broad Marston Manor by the corner of Graham Fowles entrance. There is a ditch there that needs to be looked at to see if it can be improved.
7. Behind the barn in Broad Marston Manor is a bund that previous owners had installed. I suspect this was to stop the water from the brook coming into the barn from the Priory Lane side, but the view was it was better to get rid of this bund to allow the water entering Broad Marston Manor from Broad Marston Rd to escape.
8. Martyn Cross also suggested widening the brook all through Longford's fields and in the Manor's grounds by putting in a secondary channel so when the brook raises it flows into the wider part thus allowing more capacity. Also clearing the brook overgrown trees and shrubs.
9. The brook needs the fallen trees to be removed by Priory Lane Bridge which have fallen in from the Manor's side. This has been agreed by the owners of the Manor to be actioned ASAP.
10. The manhole cover at the entrance to Rainbows field down the little track before the bridge was rising in the flood conditions. Install a new grate type cover so water can escape.

So lots to action, but I do think we have got all the ingredients now to make the improvements with the help of Hoef/WDC/WCC/Hensons/PPC/Broad Marston Manor owners/Longford Brothers. The only potential pitfall is the EA as they need to give a permit to work in the Hoef field.

Highways:

To keep up to date on the roads affected see, <https://one.network/>

This is the new website and is very good to see all the roadworks locally and across the UK.

1. **Gritting map** – with the snow and icy mornings, you can check which roads in the area have been gritted by looking at the attached map
https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20007/travel_and_roads/381/gritting_ice_and_snow
2. **Honeybourne pedestrian crossing on Station Rd** –To be finished in week commencing 22nd March.
3. **Speeding on the B4035 at entrance to Badsey**– Mobile Camera opposite the entrance to Sladden Close will start to be regularly in place from the beginning of February.; so watch out and keep your speed down to the speed limit!
4. **Road closure Weston Road to Honeybourne** from 29th Jan to 12 Feb for patching works
5. **Temporary Road Closure Offenham B4510 Fish & Anchor** - start 18/1/2021 for up to 3 weeks – Road patching/ re-surfacing, and new gullies
6. **A46 night time closure from Junction 9 M5 Tewkesbury to Teddington Hands roundabout** - from **8 February 2021 to 19 March 2021**. Work will be carried out overnight when traffic counts are lower between **8pm and 6am, Monday to Friday**.
7. **Blocked gully on Back Lane just below pinch point – reported**
8. **Ullington - flood across the road near Ullington Hall that keeps coming back. – again reported.**
9. **REMINDER to clear all brooks, gullies and ditches and gullies before winter flood season** – a reminder to all land owners and Parish councils to check all ditches, gullies and brooks NOW to ensure no obstructions that could make things worse in flood situations.

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.

County Council Divisional Fund

- Cleeve Prior – New fence around the play area in the school's grounds.
- Badsey - 2 x benches for their new community garden
- Honeybourne Village News – grant to re-launch the service
- Pebworth WI – grant requested for Zoom annual charges so the members can continue to meet over the internet in these COVID times - Paid
- Evesham Vale Rail Trails for Cyclists – grant requested for a software programme that shows the cycle routes. – grant paid

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- Offenham Village Hall – grant requested for the terrace project
- Evesham Sea Cadets(South Littleton) – boat shed conversion – grant paid
- Pebworth Village Hall – a grant request to renovate the wooden hall floor. Paid

REMINDER – LAST MONTH TO APPLY If you run a community organisation that needs a little support to buy equipment or some essential service, then please apply for a Divisional Fund by contacting me.

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

District Councillor, Thomas Havemann-Mart Report

Pebworth parish council February 2021

Enforcement

Simon and I met with Tom Tudor the enforcement officer in broad Marston to look at the field and trees in question. Tom said he had been to the field before and that it didn't look like any of the large trees (that would be protected by conservation orders) had been felled. There were no tree stumps etc visible and Tom described it as clearing brush and tidying the field which the landowners permitted to do. Tom Tudor has spoken to the land owner Mr Longford he believes that all the substantial trees have been left and the landowner in toms view fully understand that he isn't allowed to fell them. He is still waiting for the tree officer of Wychavon to come back however right now he doesn't believe a breach has occurred. He is still investigating Norton hall regarding planning permission and what is allowed in Wychavon however he feels what is going on is probably allowable and any breach of COVID rules would be a police matter. Ali's report covers the flooding quite extensively so I won't repeat much but just to reinforce that the Wychavon engineering team is first rate and in my mind the best officers at the district. In general Wychavon's news,

Elections during Covid-19 pandemic

We are still planning for the county council and police and crime commissioner elections in May 2021, although there is speculation this may be postponed depending on the situation with the pandemic. A communications campaign will begin shortly to remind residents they can register to vote by post or by proxy if they are vulnerable or would rather not attend in person. Covid-19 secure measures will be in place at polling stations. The Government has written to all political parties to make it clear that leafleting or door to door political campaigning during lockdown is not allowed.

Read letter from the Government on political campaigning during lockdown. Business support Christmas campaign update In the lead up to Christmas we encouraged residents to shop locally with our Keep It Local campaign which we ran online and in print. This campaign saw over 9,000 people visit our dedicated web page to find a list of local traders they could support and tips for shopping safely.

Our Christmas Spirit Trails, which led families around the three towns in search of festive-themed characters, saw approximately 450 people take part. If everyone who took part spent just £5 with a local trader while they were completing the trail, it would have generated more than £2,000 for local businesses that may well have been spent elsewhere.

The Christmas in Broadway Competition, which offered customers of 23 participating businesses a chance to win prizes such as £100 vouchers and chocolate hampers, received 2,679 entries. The team are currently exploring how they can encourage people to support local traders without compromising the stay at home message, as well as try to prepare for when lockdown may be eased and nonessential retail will open. The last thing is a reminder that now is not the time to relax the precautions around COVID

Kind regards,
Tommy.

Your District Councillor, Thomas Havemann-Mart can be contacted on Thomas.Havemann-

Mart@Wychavon.net or mobile 07817 873 054