

PEOPLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th January 2022 at 7.30pm in Peopleton Village Hall

1. **Members and Officers present:** Cllrs Mason (Chairman) Phillips, Bailey, Wall, Whittingham, Darby, Baxter, District and County Cllr Robinson. Three members of the public attended.
2. **Apologies:** Cllrs Smith and Hennerley sent their apologies
3. **Declarations of Interest:**

Public Question Time

The time allocated is at the discretion of the council/chairman. Residents are invited to give their views and question the parish council on issues on this agenda or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the chairman. Members of the public may not take part in the parish council meeting itself. This period is not part of the formal meeting; brief notes will be appended to the minutes as an aide memoire.

4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th November 2021 were approved as true and correct, as proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Wall.
5. **County & District Councillors report:**

Firstly, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy new Year.

I hope to join you all later but have a very full day of virtual meetings plus an early start for a full day at County Hall on Thursday so may not stay long. It is my intention to take the increase in cases as outlined below very seriously, so I hope you will be happy for me to wear a mask and stay at the back of the room with the doors open behind me for the duration of my visit.

Last week on the 7th January our Coronavirus infection in Wychavon rate was up by 46.5% at the highest it has ever been at 1,253 per100,000, by 8:30am this morning it had risen again to 1,401. The highest rate in the County is currently in Wyre Forest at 1,974.

Infection rates are climbing now in every age group including the over 60's.

Fortunately, the Omicron variant is proving to give milder symptoms, but we still have 60 patients in our Acute Hospitals with 4 in intensive care. There were 7 deaths due to Covid since Xmas.

The NHS is widely reported to be under significant pressure due to a combination of more covid 19 patients, usual winter workload and staff absences. The Government has extended Plan B measures until 26th January.

The advice remains to stay alert and take precautions to stay safe and encourage further take up of vaccines.

Both County & District Councils are busy preparing their draft budget proposals for 2022/2023 having finally received their local government Settlement. WCC are proposing an increase of 3.94% to their share of Council tax. which will equate to £1 per week for a band D property. Three quarters of the increase is to be ring fenced for Adult social care Services.

Finally, I would like to attach further information re The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations as shared to LOCAL Authorities and the boundary review which is up for consultation.

6. Planning: The following applications were considered between meetings:

1/02646/LB	The White House Main Street Peopleton Pershore WR10 2EG	To remove cement; repair timber frame; re point with lime; repaint as existing.	No objections
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Cllr Mason stated that the trailer in the field upon entering the village was still on site and the track refused planning permission from Wychavon at Stone Arrow Farm had not been re-instated yet. Clerk to write to Wychavon planning department regarding these issues and copy in Cllr Robinson

6. **Progress reports:**
 - a) Chairman's- TM

Progress has been made on the welcome leaflet which is now in its final draft.

Little progress made regarding the community speed watch initiative which requires someone willing within the village to take on the project and undergo the necessary training- Cllrs to spread the word in case of any interest.

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b) Village Trust- LB

The Village Hall finances are healthy and there are some works still outstanding on the new play park with three trees and signage to go in before the final invoice is paid. There was a working party sweeping the car park last week and the annual football match took place on Boxing Day which went well.

c) Village shop-TM

Finances have broken even for the past year with a possible small profit which was always the aim of the shop.

d) PACT- PH

Nothing to report

e) Lengthsman-LB

Some blocked drains outside the Village Shop before Christmas which the lengthsman cleared, he didn't work in December due to illness.

f) Footpaths- LB

A footpath on entry to the village near Stone Arrow Farm has now been cleared so that people are able to walk it.

g) Highways & Byways issues- LB

Faulty manhole cover still outstanding- Clerk to chase highways for an inspection.

At Jim Crow corner (Upper Norchard Lane) there is also a 7-8 metre stretch of road that requires inspecting as the road has sunk- Clerk to contact highways and copy in Cllr Robinson

h) Flooding- DW

Good news that the culvert has been inspected by Martyn Cross in December, Cllr Wall has been in touch with Peter Lewis regarding clearing the ditch the other side of the culvert and the farmer has asked to wait until lambing has finished and then this will be carried out. Cllr Bailey is going to mention the other ditches surrounding the village to landowners when he sees them next.

7. Finance

- a) Update on the budget/ Bank balance as of 6th January 2022
Treasurers Account £12,236.06 (community bus funds held)
Business Instant Account £10,309.23

- b) The following payments were approved for the Clerk to pay-

Worcester Wheels (Oct)	£120.00 (paid 15/11/21)
Pershore Volunteer Centre (October)	£249 (paid 24/11/21)
Clerk's salary	£432.62
Clerk's expenses	£13.14
Lengthsman November	£72.00
PATA Payroll	£12.95
WCC(Grit)	£127.16
Pershore Volunteer Centre (November)	£197.00 (paid 14/12/21)
Worcester Wheels November	£135.00 (paid 15/12/21)

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- c) The budget for 2022/23 was agreed at £9150 with the precept set at £8785 as proposed by Cllr Mason and seconded by Cllr Wall. This represents a 1.43% increase on last year. All Cllrs agreed as proposed by Cllr Bailey to increase the lengthsman's hourly rate to £13 per hour from 1st April 2022- Clerk to email the lengthsman

8. **The Queens Green Canopy UK**

Cllr Bailey has been in touch with Pershore College to acquire two evergreen oak trees and a black pear to be planted in the recreation area. Cllrs Phillips and Mason agreed that it would be nice to plant these at the Picnic in the Park in the summer if possible and have a label or plaque attached to them-Cllr Bailey to check options.

9. **Village Bus service**

Cllr Mason reported that Worcestershire County Council has submitted a transport improvement plan to the Government in October but has not received a response as yet. It is hoped that under this plan the two public bus routes would be re-instated but in the meantime the funds raised the Space Hive are subsidising the service with £4000 left in the budget.

10. **Allotment update**

Cllr Mason has spoken with Mr Righton who owns the land at the end of Perry Mill Road but there is little interest in pursuing allotments on the land. Cllrs discussed that it would not be big enough anyway as at least one acre would be required, 13 parishioners have expressed interest in having an allotment. Cllrs discussed possibly buying some land in the village in the future if a suitable opportunity came up and turning it into allotments or a community orchard for the village, to keep in mind.

11. **Correspondence for Information**

None received.

12. **Future agenda items and reports:**

Cllr Bailey noted that the new grit bin had not arrived- Clerk to chase
Cllr Darby raised concerns regarding the bad bend upon entering the village from Upton Snodsbury direction, having noted that there has been several accidents and there is no warning signage before the bend, this could one day result in a collision with a vehicle travelling on the opposite side of the road. Clerk to flag to Cllr Robinson and try and arrange an on site meeting with highways and Cllrs Mason and Darby to represent from Pepleton.

13. **Date of next meeting:** To confirm the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 9th March 2022 at 7:30pm.

Signed

Dated.....

Future meetings

March	09/03/22
May	11/05/22

AIDE MEMOIRE

Public Question Time

One parishioner thanked the Parish Council for their persistence with obtaining a drainage inspection as this was conducted on 26/11/21 and thankfully the section within the village was clear. Martyn Cross the drain engineer also promised that the ditch will be cleared by the same contractor as before in March.