

# St Peter the Great County Parish Council

## Minutes

**Minutes** of a meeting of the Parish Council held on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7:30pm** in the **Village Hall, St Peter's**.

**Present:** Chairman Cllr. A. Tucker, Cllrs. Mr. A. Tidy, Mrs. L. Murray, Mr. J. Renshaw, Mr. P. Walters, Mr. M. Johnson and Mr. R. Knight (Mr. M. Johnson and Mr. R. Knight until confidential Agenda item 18).

Also present: Four members of the public, the Clerk, one member of press and City and County Cllr. Mr. S. Mackay

**0120 Apologies for Absence:** None received.

**0220 Declarations of Interest:** Cllrs. Knight and Johnson declared interests regarding SPVHA due to their position of Directors within the organisation.

**0320 Adoption of Minutes:** Council agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019 as a true record of events. The Chairman duly signed the master copy, held within the minute book.

**0420 Norton Juxta Kempsey:** This item was expedited from Agenda item 13.

- a) A local resident and Norton Juxta Kempsey Parish Councillor was in attendance to raise concern regarding aspects of the multiple proposed developments between St Peter's and Norton Parishes. Of particular concern was the total absence of street lighting on Church Lane and the danger this may pose for pedestrians accessing the new development.
- b) It was agreed that better joint working between St Peter's, Norton Juxta Kempsey and Kempsey Parish Council can be developed. Council requested the Clerk arrange a meeting with representatives from each Parish Council as soon as possible.

**Public Participation:** Four members of the public were in attendance. One member of the public questioned how the section 106 funding is to be allocated for the large-scale new developments.

**0520 St Peter's Parish Festival:** This item was expedited to enable the participation of the Festival Organiser. Council welcomed the new Festival Organiser, Mrs. Georgina Hopkinson and wished her good luck with the 2020 event. Following a recent Festival working party, the Clerk, Cllr. Renshaw and the Festival Organiser reported on progress made:

- a) There is uncertainty regarding the location of the Festival for 2020 due to proposed installation of a pedestrian footbridge entering into Power Park. The Clerk to request further clarification from County Highways regarding the bridge commencement.
- b) The working party requested a Festival date of 5<sup>th</sup> July. Council duly agreed to this date.
- c) The suggested theme for the Festival is 'keep it local' with an emphasis on local goods, services and entertainment.
- d) Next working party Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 in the Village Hall. The Chairman requested an evening meeting to accommodate working hours.

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## **0620 Councillor Vacancy and Election of Vice Chairman:**

- a) Following the resignation of Vice Chairman Cllr. Kemp, Council was requested to consider nominations for a new Vice Chairman. There followed a single nomination from Cllr. Knight in favour of Cllr. Tidy. A unanimous vote in favour of Cllr. Tidy followed and Cllr. Tidy was duly appointed to the position of Vice Chairman of St Peter's Parish Council. Council paid tribute to outgoing Cllr. Kemp for his many years of faithful service, continued dedication to the community of St Peter's and special attention to the Parish Festival.
- b) The Clerk confirmed that Council is currently in a period of Notice of Vacancy following the resignation of Cllrs. Kemp and Carney. This Notice of Vacancy period, as designated by the City Council, will run until the 27<sup>th</sup> of January, upon which, either a by-election will be called, or Council will be enabled to co-opt new Councillors at the February meeting.

## **0720 Reports from District and County Councillors:**

- a) City and County Cllr. Mackay presented a report which included:
  - i) An update regarding A4440 road works and bridge installation timeframe.
  - ii) Confirmation that the opening of the new Worcester Parkway train station has been delayed.
- b) City Cllr. Johnson gave an update on City Council matters.

## **0820 Matters arising & Action Sheet:** The Chairman reported on progress of matters arising from the previous meeting. Items outstanding include:

- a) Clerk to provide Cllr. Mackay with original resolution regarding the speed limit on A4440,
- b) Using the above information, Cllr. Mackay to undertake to remind highways of the Parish Council original decision.
- c) Cllr. Tidy to reconvene the Newslink Working Party.

## **0920 Financial Report:**

- a) The Clerk presented a financial report to Council and confirmed reconciled balances as £48,376 in the savings account, £67, 245 in the community current account and £19,694 in the Coop current account. The Clerk confirmed that a financial report set against budget headings would be created and shared amongst Councillors before the next meeting.
- b) Council agreed payment of accounts as presented at the meeting as follows:

| <b>Amount</b> | <b>Payable To</b>      | <b>Reason for Payment</b>  |
|---------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| £682.00       | HMRC                   | Q3 contributions           |
| £6,142.80     | Worcester City Council | Warden Scheme contribution |

## **0920 Clerks Report:** The Clerk presented correspondence and administrative items including:

- a) Gym equipment project. Following a successful site meeting with a representative from a prospective provider of outdoor gym equipment, the Clerk confirmed that a detailed

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quote has been received indicating material and installation costs of £12k. Additional installation costs may be required. Council requested the Clerk seek further clarification to obtain a full suite of potential costs for the project thus enabling Council to progress with consultation and funding options.

- b) Following news that Worcester has been allocated up to £25m from the Government's Towns Fund, the Clerk confirmed that the City Council have made a request for a Parish representative to sit on the board to assist with allocation of funds. Following a previous circulation of emails, Council have requested Cllr. Knight to act as the Parish representative and report to Council in due course.
- c) The Clerk has received a request from Welbeck land for a Parish representative to attend a Design Code Stakeholder Workshop for the proposed Hopfields development on land between Norton, Kempsey and St Peter's. Cllr. Johnson was suggested and duly accepted the invitation.

**1020 Budget:** The Chairman updated Council following a recent budget working party. Council agreed a precept request of £39, 944, not including benefit grant, and requested the Clerk communicate the request to the City Council.

**1120 Code of Conduct:** Council noted the revised Code of Conduct proposed for adoption by the City Council. The Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer at the City Council has agreed to attend a Parish Council meeting to talk through the document. The Clerk to arrange attendance with the Monitoring Officer.

**1220 Highways, Developments & Planning:** Council received updates on the following sites:

- a) Broomhall Green – Cllrs. Tidy and Mackay continue to investigate request to designate Broomhall Green with Village Green status.
- b) Skate Park – City Council continue to explore request for skate park facility.
- c) Hopfields Development – Cllr. Johnson to sit on design workshop.
- d) A38 speed limit – Following a long history of concern over confusing and varied speed limits on the A38 Bath road, Council requested the Clerk write to County Highways to request implementation of one fixed speed limit.

**1320 Newslink:** Council reviewed the performance of the Newslink Parish Magazine. Council has not received an updated advertising analysis from the Advertising Manager. It is estimated that each edition of the magazine is running a deficit of between £800 - £1000.

**1420 Portfolio Holder Reports:** The following portfolio holders provided reports to Council:

- a) **Green Spaces:** Cllr. Tidy updated Council regarding environmental issues, including:
  - i. There will be no FoStPP volunteer event in January.
  - ii. Following accidental damage by the Parish Wardens to a privately owned fence, Cllr. Tidy requested that Council authorise expenditure of up to £50 on replacement panels to be installed by the Wardens. Council duly agreed to the request and authorised the Clerk to proceed as required.
  - iii. There is a missing bollard that was removed by County Highways during path resurfacing works on Duck Brook Pedway between Battenhall park and Springfield Play area. Cllr. Tidy to visit site with Cllr. Mackay and report to Council in due course.

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**1520 Confidential item:** Council entered into a closed session to discuss sensitive commercial issues in relation to the future of the Village Hall. Cllrs. Knight and Johnson left the meeting at this point as detailed in minute 0220 Declarations of Interest.

The discussion followed the paper referred to in Minute 11819 of the Meeting of the 14th November 2019 and the presentation of a Possible Options Discussion Paper presented by Councillor Tucker. Further discussion followed enabling Council to agree the following:

- i. The Council wants to see a replacement facility if the current location for the Village Hall cannot continue beyond February 2027.
- ii. The Council believes that the responsibility is on the City Council to ensure that a replacement facility is delivered and refer to the Community Buildings and Halls in South Worcestershire (2019) - Forming part of the South Worcestershire Open Space Assessment and Community Buildings and Halls Report .
- iii. The Council would recommend to the VHA and support the Village Hall being registered as an Asset of Community Value
- iv. The Council will support the Village Hall Association in their discussions with Tesco and the City Council on securing a facility long term.
- v. The Council will not use its reserves to fund the purchase of the existing Village Hall or the Construction of a new one.
- vi. The Council is prepared to use its reserves to support the running of a new or enlarged facility after 2027
- vii. The Council will not raise the precept to provide capital funding for a new or enlarged facility.
- viii. The Council will not borrow local authority loan capital for a new or enlarged facility.
- ix. The Council noted that previously the VHA had asked if the Council would have up to two representative directors from Parish Council on the VHA Board. The Council would like to take up this offer.
- x. The Council is prepared to support or take on the running of a new or enlarged facility if the terms are right (and this includes the Council becoming the Charitable Trustee if required).
- xi. Although the Council fully supports the VHA directors to ensure the existing facility runs until 2027, the Council believes that it should not do anything that stops or diminishes the City Council responsibility to provide such a facility.
- xii. The Council strongly supports the view that at the earliest opportunity a formal meeting is arranged between senior decision making representatives of the City Council, and representatives of the VHA and Parish Council to discuss and make decisions on the future of the Village Hall in St Peters.
- xiii. The Council will be fully active in planning and undertaking an information and media pressure campaign with the VHA and with the support of parishioners and other interested parties.

**12219 Date of Next Meeting:** The date of the next Parish Council Meeting was confirmed as Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in St Peter's Village Hall at 7:30pm.

Signed..... Chairman Date.....