

# St Peter the Great County Parish Council

## Minutes

**Minutes** of a meeting of the Parish Council held on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 19:30** via Zoom **remote video link** due to Covid19 social distancing restrictions.

**Present:** Chairman Cllr. Mr. A. Tucker, Cllrs. Mr. A. Tidy, Mr. J. Renshaw, Mr. P. Walters (from agenda item 5), Mr. R. Knight, and Mr. M. Johnson.

Also present: The Clerk, one member of press.

**8520 Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs. Mr. D. Saunders, Mrs. L. Murray, and Dr. D. Tibbutt.

**8620 Declarations of Interest:** Cllrs. Knight and Johnson declared an interest in matters relating to St Peter's Village Hall Association.

**8720 Adoption of Minutes:** Council agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020 as a true record of events. The Chairman duly agreed to sign the master copy when possible, held within the minute book.

**8820 Public Participation:** No comments.

**8920 Reports from District and County Councillors:**

- a. City and County Cllr. Mackay had submitted a written report covering County issues. The report was noted by Council.
- b. City Cllr. Johnson presented a verbal report regarding City Council issues. Particular interest was centred on a planning consultation currently taking place. The report was noted by Council.

**9020 Matters Arising & Action Sheet:** Matters arising from previous meetings not covered elsewhere in the Agenda.

- a. Gym Equipment. Following a meeting with the Clerk and the rep for Sovereign Play, the company supplying and installing the outdoor gym equipment, the Clerk confirmed that preparations are underway for installation during Winter. The Clerk is taking guidance on the grant application and will aim to submit the required documentation during September to be considered during November. A detailed site map is being agreed with the City Council.
- b. Southern Link Road. Multiple closures are expected in the near future including the A38.
- c. Police presence in St Peter's. Following correspondence with West Mercia Police in June 2020, the Chairman questioned the Police response to speeding and in the handling of the recent Traveller encampment.
- d. Anti-social behaviour. Multiple Nitrous Oxide cannisters have been found and vehicles have been driven at speed around St Peter's Baptist Church car park. Cllr. Renshaw has been communicating with the Baptist Church to review CCTV footage and to also liaise with the Police. The Clerk has referred the issue to the City Council Community Safety team.
- e. VAS. The Clerk has a meeting arranged with Cllr. Saunders on site to process the information from the VAS. The unit is currently not charged due to the Warden being on sick leave. Data retrieval is not possible until charged.

**9120 Travellers and Park Security:** Following two recent breaches in park security at Power Park and Grasshopper Park by Travellers accessing the green spaces, Cllr. Tidy gave a verbal reports regarding this issue, and also a recent site meeting involving City, County and Parish Council representatives to identify weaknesses in park security and methods to improve matters. A report

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of the findings from the meeting as prepared by County Cllr. Mackay was circulated by the Clerk. The financial expenditure required to meet the requirements of the findings of the site meeting is currently being considered by the County Council and will be circulated once available.

Council noted that the Government has recently been reviewing processes for dealing with Travellers. As Council is not clear on the status of the review, Council agreed to write to Robin Walker MP to request an update, and to inform him regarding concerns of multiple Traveller incidents in the Parish.

Council are clear that the main authority with responsibility for this issue is the County Council with some secondary responsibility at City Council level. Land ownership appears to be a constant problematic area, Council therefore requested the Clerk write to the City Council to clarify ownership details with focus to be applied initially to the four main parks in St Peter's.

Council requested the Clerk write to the PCC to ask what the current strategy is for dealing with encampments and driving on footpaths. It may be possible to create a local byelaw to reduce path access by vehicles.

## **9220 Financial Report:**

- a. The Clerk confirmed that the required documentation was submitted for external audit and confirmed that The Period for the Exercise of Public Rights runs until 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020.
- b. The Clerk presented a financial report covering the period from April – August 2020. The current reconciled balances were provided, and the income and expenditure information set against the budget spread sheet for 2020/21.
- c. Council approved the following payments, including those made since the last meeting under delegated authority.

<b>Amount</b>	<b>Payable To</b>	<b>Reason for Payment</b>
£787.90	HMRC	Deductions
£42.00	DCK Accounting	Payroll
£14.39	Clerk	Zoom fee August 2020
£350.00	G. Walker	Newslink Editor
£848.00	ABC Print	Newslink Printer
£330.00	Dor2Dor	Newslink delivery
£225.00	A. Donaldson	Newslink Advertising
£600.00	SPVHA	Hall and office agreement
£43.75	WCALC	Good Councillor guide

Following the conclusion of the accounts, Council accepted a proposal from Cllr. Tidy to consolidate the two six monthly payments to SPVHA for the room agreement into one annual payment to streamline administration.

## **9320 Clerks Report:** To receive a report from the Clerk on correspondence to the Council and other pertinent administrative matters.

- a. Confirmation that play equipment previously removed from Area 51 has been collected by Peopleton Parish Council for re-use. £100 has been received for this item.

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- b. Dog fouling on Barbell Close. Communication has been received regarding regular dog foul on the footpath running from Aldi to Barbel Crescent. The Clerk confirmed that the issue has been raised with the City Council and also via the Poo Watch webapp. Posters and dog bag dispensers are expected in the area in the next week.
- c. A request for clarification of ownership of Willow Trees on land near Aldersey Park has been received by a resident. The Clerk is following up communications.
- d. Basketball wall/net in Aldersey Park. The City Council has confirmed that the equipment has reached end of life and will be removed when possible. Park users have contacted the Clerk to request a replacement of this facility.
- e. Reports of glass in play parks have been reported by a resident. The matter has been reported to the City Council.
- f. A report of fallen trees in Battenhall Wood has been received by the Clerk. This matter has been escalated to the City Council.
- g. SPHVA have communicated the Village Hall Covid19 preventative measures for building use to the Clerk.
- h. Weeds and issues with block paving have been reported in Kingfisher Close. The Clerk to follow up with the City Council.
- i. Multiple reports have been received regarding Travellers in the open green spaces of St Peter's (as covered in Minute 9120).

**9420 St Peter's Festival:** Council reviewed the prospects of a Festival during 2021. The Chairman suggested a deadline should be established detailing if the Festival is possible or not with clear timescales and Covid19 measures. Cllr. Renshaw, as Festival Portfolio Holder, is keen to progress the event, including a site meeting with the Clerk and Festival Organiser. The Chairman is working on the draft financial regulations for the Festival.

**9520 Parish Warden service:** Cllr. Tidy gave a review of proposed changes to the City Council Parish Warden service. Council is awaiting the renewed Service Level Agreement (SLA). The City Council is moving to 'Place Working' covering a larger City designated area than the current 'Zone' system. The proposal also makes the reduction of the service from two Wardens working together to just one. Cllr. Tidy recommends taking Lengthsman services out of the City Council SLA and instead dealing directly with the County Council. The City Council are currently consulting with staff regarding the proposals. Concerns were raised including the size of the area covered, the lack of understanding from the City Council regarding the Warden duties and expectations of the role and the long periods for which the Warden service has been unfulfilled.

**9620 Newslink:** Cllr. Tidy gave a verbal report regarding the new format of the Parish Magazine. The new format will see a limited print run and online availability via a webapp. The next edition will be published during October 2020.

**9720 Norton Connector:** Council noted and supported the new service running between Norton and St Peter's. Cllr. Tidy and Cllr. Knight had recently attended the launch event in Norton to promote the service and thus provided a verbal report.

**9820 Strategic Principles:** The Chairman requested feedback from Councillors.

**9920 Highways, Developments & Planning:**

- a. Crookbarrow Way pedestrian bridge. Council noted that the bridge and access path is now fully open.
- b. Broomhall Way Pedestrian Bridge. Following communication between the Clerk and Highways, visual plans for major changes to Power Park to accommodate the landing site of the pedestrian bridge were shared and discussed. Council requested the Clerk write to Highways to request a full site map and to request further detail regarding the flood attenuation

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pond which appears larger than previously expected and in an elevated position therefore of questionable value.

**10020 Portfolio Holder Reports:** No reports provided.

**10120 Date of Next Meeting:** The date of the next Parish Council Meeting was confirmed as Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020 19:30, format of meeting to be confirmed.

**10220 Confidential matters:** Members of press and public were excluded from the following items due to commercially sensitive nature of discussion:

**St Peter's Village Hall Association.** Cllr. Tidy gave a verbal report regarding attendance at the SPVHA AGM during August. Council welcomed confirmation that at the AGM, Cllr. Tidy was voted on to the Management Committee of SPVHA as the Parish Council representative. Agreement was confirmed at the meeting that both the SPVHA and Parish Council are keen to work towards a beneficial outcome for the residents of St Peter's regarding provision of a community facility.

Cllr. Knight confirmed that correspondence has been exchanged with Tesco regarding the future of the Village Hall. A future site meeting is proposed as is liaison with other organisations managing community facilities in Worcester.

Cllr. Tidy proposed to suspend Standing Orders to enable continued discussion due to the length of the meeting, Council agreed to the proposal. Cllrs. Knight and Johnson left the meeting at this point. Council welcomed the common understanding of shared objectives between the two authorities and look forward to a productive working alliance with SPVHA.

Signed.....

Chairman

Date.....