

PEOPLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th May at 7.30pm in Peopleton Village Hall

1. **Election of Chair.** Cllr Mason was elected as Chairman, proposed by Cllr Wall, and seconded by Cllr Phillips. Acceptance of office to be signed by Cllr Mason.
2. **Election of Vice Chair.** Cllr Phillips was elected as Vice chair, proposed by Cllr Wall and seconded by Cllr Bailey.
3. **Members and Officers present:** Cllrs Phillips, Wall, Bailey, Smith, Hennerley and Darby
In attendance: Clerk, CC & DCllr Robinson & 3 members of the public
4. **Apologies:** Cllrs Mason, Whittingham & Baxter.
5. **Declarations of Interest:** None
Register of Interests: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests.
To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in terms on the agenda and their nature
To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature
Written requests for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) are to be with the clerk at least four clear days prior to a meeting
Councillors who have declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, or an Other Disclosable Interest which falls within the terms of paragraph 12(4) (b) of the code of conduct, must leave the room for the relevant items.
6. **Standing orders & Code of Conduct** was adopted by all Councillors
7. **Members were appointed to the following working groups:**
Staff working Group: Cllrs Mason, Phillips and Wall
8. **The following documents were adopted by the Parish Council:** Financial regulations, Risk assessment, Asset Register and Insurance Requirements.
9. **Minutes:** Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 9th March 2022 were approved as true and accurate.
10. **Councillors were appointed to the following roles:**

Village Trust	LB
Village shop	TM
PACT	PH
Lengthsman	LB
Rights of Way	LB
Website	TM
Flood Alleviation Group	DW

11. County & District Councillors' report:

As tonight is both your Parish meeting & Annual Parish Council meeting, I would like to say a few words of appreciation. It is hard to believe that nearly a year has passed since I became your new County Cllr. Taking the role on from Rob Adams was quite daunting and I would like to thank him for being a valued advisor for me as I got to grips with this new position. My thanks also go to all your parish councillors particularly your Chairman and Clerk.

Writing an Annual report is a useful exercise as it makes you reflect on the previous year so here is a brief overview from my perspective.

A large percentage of my time is now spent on highways issues dealing with 11 parish councils and three parish meetings in our large Upton Snodsbury Division. I have been made Vice Chairman of Planning & regulatory services at County which is far more strategic than at District. We have decided applications for major infrastructure projects like a new footbridge across the River Severn and some large quarries. I have also become a member of the Hereford & Worcestershire Fire Authority which is very interesting.

In May last year we were in the middle of the Coronavirus pandemic and I would like to thank all those in your community who gave their time to help others. Now we are involved in yet another crisis with the war in Ukraine and once again many of our residents are doing sterling work to help refugees and raise funds and send collections of essential items for those still in Ukraine. Please see below for the latest details from Wychavon & County.

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Covid-19 update

April saw the end of free testing and this has affected the reliability of infection data. While official testing rates have fallen significantly, information from other sources presents a different picture, although data is still patchy.

What is clear is infection rates are significantly higher than the headline rates. In the south of the county, it is estimated about 1 in 14 people have Covid-19 which is the same rate as England and only slightly above the West Midlands (1 in 13). This is being felt by our acute hospitals. As of 25 April, 129 patients had been admitted with Covid-19 in the last 7 days with about 158 now in hospital. Not all are being treated for Covid-19 though some may have arrived for a different reason but also have Covid-19.

Homes for Ukraine update

Staff continue to work hard to deliver the Homes for Ukraine scheme in Wychavon. As of 28 April, we have been made aware of 99 hosts in the district, with an anticipated 242 guests. We are finding that some guests are choosing not to travel after their visa has been issued for a variety of reasons so we are treating this figure with caution. As of 26 April, the number of visas issued by the Home Office for guests intending to travel to Wychavon was 160. We have been told the Home Office is speeding up the issuing of visas. We are expecting further guidance on the local authority role in 're-matching' (e.g., when a sponsorship relationship breaks down) next week. As of 27 April 2022, 72 applications for school places have been received countywide with 41 children and young people already offered places. 8 could not be offered their first preference school and have been offered an alternative. There are currently 23 applications still to be processed.

Community Recovery Fund

We've just opened applications to our Covid-19 Community Recovery Fund. The £150,000 grant fund has been set up to support to community groups/organisations that require funding to assist with their day-to-day running costs to aid recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. We expect grant awards to be between £300 and £10,000 depending on need. You can find more details and a link to our web-based application form on our website here. The fund will stay open until the end of October 2023 unless all the money is allocated before then.

Cost of Living Crisis

The third crisis it looks as though we are going to be facing concerns the rapid increase in the cost of living. The war in Ukraine and consequent sanctions against Russia have resulted in rapid increases in fuel and household energy costs. As part of the Government scheme to help households living in Band A to Band D properties will receive a £150 payment to help with recent increases in energy bills.

Residents will start to receive their Energy Bills Rebate from this week starting on 9 May.

Residents paying by Direct Debit are advised to check their bank account throughout May for the payment. Direct Debit payers who have not received the payment by 1 June 2022 should email Revenues@southworcestershirevenues.gov.uk with Energy Rebate in the subject line.

Those who pay their Council Tax using other methods will be able to claim the payment through the Post Office with a special voucher which will be sent to them. Wychavon will begin sending these vouchers to households from the end of May.

Wychavon is finalising the details of the discretionary scheme announced by the Government. This allows councils to make payments of £150 to people living in Band E to H properties who are on low incomes. Once the scheme is confirmed, more information will be available on Wychavon's website.

Food costs have also increased and we are aware of increased demand at our food banks. Wychavon and County are offering 'Here to help' schemes so please let me know if you know of any families that are struggling and we can signpost them in the right direction.

SWDP.

The SWDP publication which was scheduled for consultation in July has been delayed. Work on the key documents relating to development sites and the infrastructure to support them is yet to be completed.

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How Worcestershire's gritters travelled the equivalent of three times around the Earth this winter

GRITTERS covered almost 70,000 miles across Worcestershire this winter as staff sought to keep the county open for business.

Since October, Worcestershire County Council has carried out 51 gritting runs, spreading 5,341 tonnes of salt, keeping roads moving and safe for motorists. This covered 69,972 miles in total, which is the equivalent of approximately three times around the circumference of our planet.

WORCESTERSHIRE's roads will be given a new lease of life when the county's surface dressing programme hits the streets.

The programme will see road surfaces across the county restored, with more 160 sites set to be treated over the spring and summer. Surface dressing works follow on from the winter gritting season and various other ongoing works taking place to maintain and improve the county's road network. Surface dressing is a very effective way of restoring the road surface to extend the life of an existing surface, prevent deterioration, improve skid resistance, and seal the road against water preventing potholes forming in winter. Signs will be displayed on roads prior to any work taking place and works are subject to change if weather conditions are suitable to carry out the process.

Visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/surfacedressing for the list of roads which will be subject to the works in 2022 and stay up to date with the surface dressing schedule on Twitter @WorcsTravel.

12. Planning

The following planning application was considered with no objections:

W/22/01003/HP	Norchard Cottage Norchard Lane Peopleton Pershore WR10 2ED	Erection of Detached Timber Garden Room within Rear Garden	Pending Decision
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13. Progress reports:

a) Chairman's report

Cllr Mason had left notes asking that the planting of the trees be finalised at the Picnic in the Park- Cllr Baily advised this was in hand and the Worcester Pear tree would be planted that day.

b) Village trust

Cllr Bailey advised that the Hall was very busy with bookings including the Pony and Dog Show this weekend and the Picnic in the Park on the 4th June. Cllr expressed the sadness of the death of John Seageant and that the planting of an Oak tree was planned later in the year and a bench engraved in his memory

c) Village Shop- Nothing to report

d) PACT- Three Police incidents for the year noted in the feedback from Julie Pardoe

e) Rights of way- Nothing to report

f) Website- Nothing to report

g) Flooding- Please see Parish meeting minutes

h) Parish Lands- It was noted that a Parish lands representative needs re-electing, Cllr Wall proposed Cllr Mason for the position and this was seconded by Cllr Phillips.

14. Finance

- a) All Cllrs approved the end of year accounts as follows, circulated by email along with the AGAR forms were signed by Cllr Phillips

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1. Approval of Certificate of Exemption
2. Approval of Annual Governance Statement 2021/2022
3. Approval of Accounting Statements 2021/2022
4. Approval of Proposed Dates for Exercise of Public Rights

b) The followed payments were approved and paid by cheque:

Worcester Wheels (Feb)	£130.00
Pershore Volunteer Centre (Feb)	£148.00
Clerk's salary	£568.06
Clerk's expenses	£37.91
Clerk tax (cheque to sign)	£52.60
Lengthsman March	£192.00
Lengthsman April	£TBC
Pata Payroll	£17.95
Pershore Volunteer Centre (March)	£208.00
Worcester Wheels (March)	£155.00
Worcestershire CALC subscription	£407.27
Limebridge April	£403.20
PM Lewis Ditch maintenance	£1740.00

15. **Correspondence for Information:** None received

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

Cllr Bailey asked the Clerk to check the excess amount from Limebridge this month for the grass cuttings to be cleared- Clerk to check and invoice the Cricket Club
Cllr Wall suggested a thank you letter to be sent to Nigel Clay for auditing the accounts- Clerk to action
Future agenda items: Bus service

17. **Wednesday 10th May 2023** is the date set for the next Annual Parish Council Meeting and **Wednesday 13th July 2022** will be the date set for the next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting in the Village Hall

..... **Signed Chair** **Date**