

# St Peter the Great County Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 7:45pm** in the **Village Hall, St Peters**.

**Present:** Chairman Cllr. Mr. A. Tidy, Mrs. B. Wheeler, Mr. J. Kemp, Mr. A. Tucker, Mrs. P. Clayton, Mr. P. Thorlby, Mr. R. Walker

**Attending:** Members of the public and a member of the press.

**5616 Apologies for Absence:** No apologies were received.

**5716 Declarations of Interest:** None received.

**5816 Adoption of Minutes:** Council agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 25th July 2016.

**5916 Casual Vacancy:** Council were asked to consider co-opting a new Councillor to fill the current vacancy. The self-nominated co-optee who had already notified the Clerk of his willingness to serve as a Councillor for the current electoral period was in attendance. Details of the nominee were provided and Council unanimously resolved to co-opt the following qualified elector as Councillor: Mr. Michael Johnson of 3 Tench Close, St Peter's WR5 3FE. The co-opted Councillor then signed the obligatory Acceptance of Office document and was provided with other obligatory documents for completion. The Chairman and Council welcomed Cllr. Johnson to the Council table.

**6016 Reports from District and County Councillors:** Council received and approved an update from City Cllr. Mike Johnson.

**6116 Financial Report:**

**(a)** Council received a verbal report from the Clerk on the current financial position of the Council and approved the latest bank reconciliation.

**(b)** Council agreed payment of accounts as presented at the meeting as follows:

<b>Cheque Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Payable To</b>	<b>Reason for Payment</b>
200273	£325.00	Jebb the Jester	Festival
200274	£250.00	Mr. G. Walker	Newslink
200276	£120.80	HMRC	Deductions
200277	£30.00	DCK Beavers	Payroll
200278	£815.00	ABC Print	Newslink
200279	£330.00	Dor2Dor	Newslink
200281	£5,400.00	Worcs City Council	Warden
200282	£200.00	Miss. A. Donaldson	Newslink
200283	£120.80	HMRC	Deductions
200284	£201.00	HMRC	Deductions

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**6216 Correspondence and Administrative Matters:** The Clerk presented recent correspondence.

(a) Council acknowledged receipt of the 'City Plan' from the City Council. Considerable consternation was expressed regarding the limited time-frame in which the Parish Council had been allocated to respond to the City Council.

(b) Council was presented with a letter from Acorns Hospice to thank the Parish Council for the recent donation of £447.50 following the successful St Peter's Festival.

(c) The Clerk also informed members of a letter received informing account holders of a planned lowering of the interest rate on the Parish Council Co-op bank account to 0% in the near future.

**6316 Planning Matters:** Planning portfolio holder Cllr. Kemp gave members an update on the latest planning matters.

<b>Application No:</b>	<b>Address:</b>	<b>Action:</b>
P16L0445	14 PERCH ROAD	No issue.
P16L0459	68 BATSFORD ROAD	No issue.
P16L0372	51 ARDEN ROAD	Issues pertaining to hedge removal reported to City Council.

Due to the summer break and deadlines for responses falling before the next Parish Council meeting, all planning applications had been shared and discussed via email. Planning applications P16L0445 14 PERCH ROAD and P16L0459 68 BATSFORD ROAD received no comments. However, concern had been expressed regarding Planning Application P16L0372 51 ARDEN ROAD. The relevant feedback had been previously issued to the City Council regarding the importance of retaining the boundary hedge surrounding the plot (as stated in the application itself). It had since transpired that the hedge in question had been removed. The Chairman had also received a letter from a concerned local resident. Cllr. Kemp agreed to progress the matter with the City Council planning Officer and report back to Council in due course.

**6416 Press and Media Policy:** The Chairman presented the new Press & Media Policy (circulated prior to the meeting via email). Council voted to adopt the new policy with immediate effect.

**6516 Amendment to Standing Orders:** Council agreed nem con. to delete in its entirety the wording of clause 28(b) which states that: "in accordance with the Council's policy in respect to dealing with the press and/or other media, Councillors shall not, in their official capacity, provide oral or written statements or written articles to the press or other media".

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## **6616 Portfolio Holder Reports:**

**(a) Highways and PACT:** Cllr Walker provided an update on the latest Highways and PACT issues.

**(i)** The Parish Council are yet to receive a response from County Highways regarding a proposed Safety Audit of the A4440 between the Norton and Whittington roundabouts. This essential documentation could potentially play a crucial role in deciding if there will be a pedestrian barrier installed once the roadworks have been completed. Cllr. Walker agreed to liaise with County Highways and report back to Council in due course.

**(ii)** Cllr. Walker also updated members regarding recent work carried out at the seating area on the Multi-Use Games Area with the aim of reducing instances of anti-social behaviour. This work included removal of the sides of the seating area and some remedial work to manage the vegetation so as to provide satisfactory CCTV coverage of the area.

**(iii)** Cllr. Walker also requested that Council note a perceived increase in instances of speeding on St Peter's Drive and suggested concerned residents should contact the police should they have relevant information.

**(iv)** Council agreed by majority vote to support Cllr. Walker's proposal to adopt the following resolutions:

*1. To endorse a proposal forming part of a combined County, City and Parish Councillor response to speed limits around the A4440; namely to reduce the speed limit between the Timberdine and Ketch roundabouts from 40 to 30 mph.*

*2. To endorse a proposal forming part of a combined County, City and Parish Councillor response to speed limits around the A4440; namely to reduce the speed limit between the Ketch and Norton roundabouts from 60 to 40 mph.*

**(b) Green Spaces:** Council received a report from Worcester City Cleaner and Greener and an update from Cllr. Tidy regarding the work of the Friends of St Peter's Parks.

**(i)** Cllr. Tidy reported on volunteer events in St Peter's since the last meeting. This included a Butterfly count, a bulb planting event and two successful community litter picks.

**(ii)** Cllr. Tidy also notified members regarding the imminent departure of Parish Warden Tracy Sutton on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October. Cllr. Tidy was joined by members in thanking Tracy for all the enhancement work that has been carried out in and around St Peter's over the last year and paid tribute to the continued development of the Friends of St Peter's Parks Group. Council wished Tracy well in the future. Members noted that the City Council was providing temporary cover for the Parish Warden role and that a full-time replacement would be recruited as soon as possible.

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## **6616 Portfolio Holder Reports (b) Green Spaces, continued...**

**(iii)** Cllr. Johnson noted that several of the trees planted by the City Council in Power Park in 2014 to cover the gap left by the removal of trees on the verges of the A4440 to make way for the new road layout had died. Cllr. Johnson and Cllr. Tidy are seeking appropriate replacements as soon as possible.

**(c) Newslink:** Cllr. Wheeler updated members regarding arrangements for a meeting between Parish Council representatives and the Newslink Advertising Manager to resolve current operational difficulties. Cllr. Wheeler may report back to Council in October.

### **(d) Strategic Planning:**

**(i)** Cllr. Tucker reported to Council findings from a recent review of the 'Civil Emergency Plan' as provided by the County and City Council. Cllr. Tucker requested that it be noted; "in an emergency, commencement of the Civil Emergency Plan places no responsibility or liability upon the Parish Council".

**(ii)** There followed a private discussion regarding contractual matters pertaining to St Peter's Village Hall Association (SPVHA). Members of the public and press were politely requested to leave. Cllr. Johnson withdrew from the meeting as he was conflicted due to his role as a director of SPVHA. Cllr. Tucker reported on his further discussions with SPVHA and the opportunity to secure a Parish office within the Village Hall premises. Both parties had concluded that an overall agreement to cover the Parish office and use of the large Hall for Parish Council meetings for an annual rental payment would be the best way forward. Some funds would also be required to set up the office with the necessary furnishings and equipment. There was also the opportunity to take on the phone connection for broadband provision.

Council supported Cllr. Tucker's proposal and authorised him to draft a contract with SPVHA on the basis he had outlined. Contract to be submitted to Council for final approval and sign-off.

### **6716 Date of Next Meeting:**

Confirmed as Monday 31st October 2016 at 7:45pm in St Peter's Village Hall.

Signed..... Chairman

Date.....