

St Peter the Great County Parish Council

Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on **Monday 10th January 2019 at 7:30pm** in the **Village Hall, St Peter's**.

Present: Chairman Cllr. Mr. A. Tidy, Cllrs. Mr. A. Tucker, Mr. M. Steele, Mr. J. Kemp, Dr. D. Tibbutt, Mrs. P. Clayton, Mr. R. Knight, Mr. M. Johnson. Also present: County Cllr. Mr. S. Mackay, one member of press and three members of public.

0119 Apologies for Absence: Council received apologies from Cllr. Dr. P. Thorlby.

0219 Declarations of Interest: The Chairman and Cllr. Tibbutt declared an interest regarding Middle Battenhall Farm Land Action Group (MBFLAG).

0319 Adoption of Minutes: Council agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 26th November 2018.

Public Session: Three residents in attendance to discuss multiple issues: one resident suggested the use of outdoor gym equipment throughout Power Park, especially around the area 51 play area would be beneficial to local residents and a good use of a popular park. The same resident also raised the issue of the proposed pedestrian footbridge and the location of the landing site within Power Park, stating that the bridge installation may prove to be detrimental to the park. Cllrs. Knight and Johnson gave a verbal update regarding the proposed pedestrian bridge in their capacity as City Councillors. Other residents addressed Council regarding a recent instance of anti-social behaviour in which a stone was thrown by a group of minors at the resident's house, breaking a window and narrowly missing family members inside the property. The resident also raised concern regarding the manner in which justice is to be served to the guilty parties. Council addressed the residents through the Chairman and offered support and constructive comments where possible.

0419 Matters Arising: Cllr. Tucker confirmed that the City have now communicated the latest Tax Base figures to the Clerk at 2,197. The latest information has thus enabled the required readjustment to the Parish Council budget and therefore precept request to demonstrate a 2% rise in real term figures with the request at £38,453 + Benefit Grant at £993.

0519 Reports from District and County Councillors:

a) City Cllrs. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Knight gave a verbal update to Council regarding City Council matters.

b) County Cllr. Steve Mackay gave a verbal update on County Council matters and provided a written copy of his report for the Clerk's record.

0619 Financial Report:

a) The Clerk presented the financial position of Council and confirmed the most up to date bank statements show balances at £84k in the current account and £48k in the Money Market account.

b) The Clerk confirmed that outstanding claims with HMRC for previous VAT reclaims owed to St Peter's Parish Council have been resubmitted and payment is expected imminently.

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c) The Clerk updated Council regarding the newly opened HSBC bank account. Although some delay has been experienced due to the FATCA documentation, the Clerk has been assured the account will be fully active in a matter of days. Council therefore agreed to continue with the switching process and authorised the Clerk to take the necessary steps to transfer accounts from COOP to HSBC. Council also unanimously agreed to transfer a float of £3000 to the Newslink account for operating costs.

d) Council agreed payment of accounts as presented at the meeting as follows:

Cheque Number	Amount	Payable To	Reason for Payment
200491	£5,814.00	Worcester City Council	Warden scheme April – September 2018
200493	£60.00	DCK Accounting	Payroll
200494	£182.29	HMRC	Deductions
200495	£330.00	Dor2Dor	Newslink distribution
200496	£25.00	Worcester Arts Council	Member fee

0719 Clerks Report: The Clerk presented recent correspondence and addressed administrative items including:

a) Confirmation that the Wardens have now completed the landscaping at Area 51. The site is now consolidating before further works can be undertaken.

b) Confirmation that following a recruitment process over the Christmas period, the Clerk has appointed Mrs. S Archer as the Festival Organiser for 2019. The Festival Working Party is also reformed with a potential meeting date to be confirmed in February.

c) The Clerk presented correspondence received from contractors acting on behalf of County Highways to map the well documented flooding and drainage issues within Power Park ahead of the proposed pedestrian footbridge installation. The Clerk confirmed that a response would be agreed and returned to the contractors as soon as possible.

d) Council has received a letter of thanks from Acorns Children’s Hospice following the £500 donation from funds raised at St Peter’s Festival last year.

0819 Portfolio Holder Reports: The following portfolio holders provided reports to Council:

a) **Green Spaces:** i) Cllr. Tidy updated Council regarding the latest environmental issues, including a brief review FoStPP volunteer events including the now completed project to refurbish the signage in Power Park and the next proposed event to install the first of the newly carved Oak signs at the Pentangle Orchard in Battenhall Park.

ii) Cllr. Tidy confirmed that the Wardens have now fully completed the removal of the MUGA seating area following a long battle with constant littering and anti-social behaviour. Initial feedback from local residents has been unanimously positive and has resulted in a marked reduction of littering in this area.

iii) Cllr Tidy has written to the City Council to request clarification regarding the provision of the Parish Warden scheme for the next financial year.

iv) Cllr. Tidy’s proposal to utilise the remaining Green Spaces budget to purchase two line side benches for the football pitches at a price not exceeding £513.92+VAT and 10 Rose bushes price not exceeding £210+VAT to be planted outside the Village Hall as part of the 25th Anniversary of the introduction of the Parish Council was unanimously agreed by Council. Cllr. Tidy’s proposal to purchase a flag pole and three flags was not agreed and was withdrawn.

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b) Highways: i) Cllr. Kemp gave a verbal report to Council regarding the Freedom of Information request posed to County Highways last year. The final piece of redacted information to be clarified was merely relating to the author of the report and so adds no further relevant information.

ii) Council noted there had been an application for the removal of sections of established hedgerow on Red Hill Lane. Cllrs. Tidy and Tibbutt indicated their non participation in the discussion citing their earlier declaration of interest. Concern was expressed regarding the potential impact on the setting of the listed buildings and scheduled monument at Middle Battenhall Farm in the Parish and it was agreed the Clerk should write to the City Council to highlight the issue.

c) Website: Following continued discussion regarding the provision of a Parish Council website from previous meetings, Councillors unanimously agreed that following the decision to utilise a Parish Council Facebook page for community engagement purposes, Council would best be served by a simple website offering a document repository such as offered by the County Council for no financial charge. This would enable the Clerk to fully operate the content of the Website without requirement for extensive training or having to rely on Webmaster Cllr. Thorlby as is the current situation. Council requested the Clerk formally record a motion of thanks to Cllr. Thorlby for unfailing and dedicated service to singlehandedly create and maintain the current Parish Council website over the last 13 years. Council requested the Clerk liaise with Cllr. Thorlby to transfer any applicable information over the coming weeks and months with the final switch to the County Council website to be completed by October 2019. Council agreed to keep the domain name for security purposes and for the Clerk to communicate this request to the webhost based in Malvern in due course.

0919 Date of Next Meeting: Confirmed as Thursday 14th February 2019 in St Peter's Village Hall at 7:30pm.

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