

PETERSTOW PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Peterstow Parish Council on
Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 7.00pm at St Peters Hall, Peterstow

Present: Cllr's Brian Roe (Chairman) Brian Lampert, Rachel Underwood & Rebecca Fletcher

In attendance: Claire Hall (Peterstow Parish Clerk)

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were RECEIVED and ACCEPTED from Cllr Beggs and Cllr Straker

2. To receive declarations of interest & written dispensation requests.

None

3. To consider the minutes of the previous meetings held on Wednesday 22nd November 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd November 2023 were APPROVED as accurate & signed by Cllr Roe.

4. Open Session

A period of 10 minutes to receive views of local residents on parish matters - No views received.

5. Finance

5.1 To consider payment of all outstanding invoices within budget, including but not limited to:

- 5.1.1 Terry Griffiths Contracts - TGC2499 - £87.12 – Bins Account - Approved
- 5.1.2 Terry Griffiths Contracts - TGC2528 - £87.12 – Bins Account - Approved
- 5.1.3 Herefordshire Council – 91591367 - £158.10 – Election Charges - Approved
- 5.1.4 Autela Payroll Services – 13134 - £57.98 - Approved.
- 5.1.5 HMRC – PAYE & National Insurance - £275.80 (October 2023 – January 2024) - Approved
- 5.1.6 To acknowledge payment of the Clerks December Wages, as determined by the payroll provider – Acknowledged & approved.
- 5.1.7 To acknowledge cheque re-written for Terry Griffiths Contracts for Cheque 101169 which was lost in the post for the following invoices.
TGC2378 / 2382 / 2390 / 2415 / 2421 – Acknowledged & approved.

5.2 Completion of Paperwork for the Lloyds Bank application – Councillors Roe & Underwood along with the Clerk signed the relevant paperwork, the Clerk will arrange to follow up with Councillors Beggs and Straker to complete the paperwork. This will then be submitted to Lloyds for processing.

5.3 Update on 2024-2025 Precept

The Clerk advised that the Paperwork for the 2024 – 2025 tax year had been submitted at £17,000.00 and receipt acknowledged from Herefordshire Council. The average increase to Peterstow residents from tax year 2023-2024 to 2024-2025 would be £0.13 per week.

6. Planning

Cllr Roe will endeavour to follow up with the planning on Lowcrop meadow and the reasoning behind the planning being granted.

7. Road Safety:

7.1 Update from Councillor Roe & Lampert from their meeting with Highways and West Mercia Police. A report prepared for the meeting was accepted and will be made available together with minutes of the meeting.

The Clerk will follow up with Highways and the Police.

It was noted that in Councillor Swinglehurst' latest report that Llangrove have a TRO for 20 MPH.

8. Update on 2024 meeting dates

Dates for 2024 Parish Council meetings at 19.00 as agreed with Peter Gratton would be as follows:

10th January

13th March

8th May

10th July

11th September

13th November

Othe Notes

Clr Underwood to follow up with Adam Cordy on the clearing of the trees for the speed van.

Meeting closed at 19.56

Signed: 

Dated: 13/03/2024

Richard Timothy (RT), Highways; Ian Connolly (IC), CPSO; and Councillors Brian Lampert (BL) & Brian Roe (BR). This group of 4 is referred to as "The Party"; RT+IC as "The Visitors".

This had been postponed to 4th Dec owing to a pressing family issue for RT.

The Party walked from the Yew Tree Inn to the cross-roads with Lowcop lane and back, pausing to highlight key points. Afterwards, BR drove the Visitors to Wilton roundabout, then West to Pengethley Garden Centre, returning East to the Yew Tree Inn, again highlighting key points of concern.

This very wet day was probably to our advantage. Traffic flow can become more dramatic in adverse conditions. The narrows at the Shop, complete with Bus Stop, felt more threatening. The last fatal accident at the Shop, probably about 25 years ago, was mentioned. The Visitors said they would check records back – they thought they would still be available.

The Party of 4 accepted that our high-viz jackets slowed the traffic. No incidence of 40+ mph whilst we stood at the Western Cross-roads. There was a suggestion from the Visitors that we might encourage all Peterstow Residents to wear High-Viz jackets when moving ordinarily around the village. This is known to have an effect.

Removal of the National Speed Limit (NSL) section from Whitecross to Peterstow seems possible. RT needs to check on why the NSL was ever used there. There is now a policy of trying to remove speed limit confusion with frequent changes which could help us.

We also asked for extension of the 40mph limit further out to the West to give more time to adjust speed before the downhill section into the village. RT could see 'Road-view' conflict, as we drove in from the West, with the 50 mph repeater, just before, & in plain sight of, the 40 mph limit signs.

There is likely to be the usual push-back against a 30mph limit. Our case – the community is split by the A49, which is frightening; – doesn't our community deserve to be less afraid? Why should residents live in fear? Elderly and young populations were highlighted, together with approximate percentages of population in those groups.

There is a policy not to change limits & rules because of isolated cases of really bad driving.

There is a rule about sightlines which could prevent some double white-lining. There is for example the case along the Yew Tree frontage. Our point: as up to 20mph slow moving traffic can be overtaken on double-whites, under what circumstances is other overtaking along that stretch safe?

We identified the proposed Pedestrian Crossing site to the Visitors. They looked at sightlines and said it made sense in terms of where the community is; and that the sightlines were workable. A crossing with lights would slow the traffic. It could also be that to make the crossing safe, a 30mph limit could be argued.

There are 3 cases under RT's supervision where pedestrian crossings are being put forward. Unfortunately, his colleague is/has been, away and he had no update on the current state of progress.

At the crossroads, discussed we discussed the unwanted Lowcop lane development & the 'no problem' comment from Highways (probably Council Highways) – RT would ask how that view was formed. We would send RT a copy of our PPC response to the Lowcop lane development.

The double rubber strip monitoring, then in place at the shop, was not known about by either of the Visitors. Enquiries would be made.

We learned, by the way, that speed monitoring was conducted in May (not using rubber strips). IC thought he remembered the result gave a V85 at 44. We asked why this had not been communicated to PPC? Mentioned Inspector James Ashton – his purview. IC would check where monitoring was placed and get the results to us.

IC said he would speak with the A49 Road Policing Team and ask to have impromptu speed checks initiated within Peterstow when crews could be spared. This could be either Police Car or Motorcycle based.

Concern was expressed about very fast unmarked 'Police Cars' on Blue Lights occasionally passing through the village, asking whether such high and dangerous speeds were really warranted? IC said that it could be that some such cars were not Police Cars at all, but other emergency vehicles, perhaps linked with State Security issues.

RT was aware of the drainage issue and could not have seen it at a better time as we walked down the path by Laburnum in the 'stream'. RT was critical of monitoring of contractors who had not been pulled up on the amount of planing to be done before resurfacing. He was critical of colleagues involved and would continue to press for action to correct with adequate funding to properly solve the problem.

Brian Roe 08/01/2024

