

The year 2024 to 2025 leaves Peterstow Parish Council (PPC) with only 4 Councillors. Cllr Fletcher was unable to attend meetings following the birth of her daughter and, to the community's loss, had then to resign as a Councillor. PPC thanked Cllr Fletcher for her service.

We welcome applications to the Clerk for the now 3 spare Council seats. New Councillors would allow us to spread the workload and the community needs to build succession. PPC needs younger Councillors. The current Chairperson will stand down from PPC at the next elections in May 2027.

Our Parish Clerk, Mrs Claire Hall, continues to support Councillors well and we thank her for her valued service throughout the year.

Key Topics:

Despite PPC's strenuous objections, the application for the Electrical Storage Scheme by the gas pumping station was approved. This strong recommendation came from the Planning Officer, Rebecca Jenman, who admitted the development to be against policies of PPC's Adopted Neighbourhood Development Plan. Cllr Roe gave the permitted address of three minutes to Herefordshire Council's Planning Committee. This was to no avail: 5 Councillors voted 'for' and 4 against'. 4 Councillors abstained. At least one of the 4 abstaining Councillors admitted to not understanding the issues sufficiently well.

Road Safety continues to be the major issue and there was lively discussion at the meeting in March when John Campion, the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia attended, having met with Councillors to walk the Village beforehand. Representations are being made for an Official Safety review of the A49 in Peterstow, with the support of The Police and Crime Commissioner. The Right Hon Jesse Norman MP has been asked to support this.

PPC achieved some random speed checks by Police within the Village. Efforts continue to clear the site for the Road Safety Van, although we remain unclear as to whether this will be used.

There has been relatively high expenditure maintaining our SIDs which are perceived to have influence on speeds through the Village.

We are to look again at another SID at Winters Cross. Grant could be available for 50% of the cost but we still have to solve the siting issue.

Drainage issues between the Village Shop and the Yew Tree Inn remain with Highways. Highways have done work to improve sightlines exiting Church Lane by vehicle. A Pedestrian Crossing Scheme remains with Highways.

Councillor Underwood has continued with the Common management and to lead action to improve the condition of the footpath from Bowers Lane to Woodbine Cottage.

Following a court ruling regarding the legal position on Parish Council donations towards upkeep of Churchyards, PPC have been able to resume support for that work.

PPC continued with the Lengthsman program, supported by the additional funding that goes with that. We thank our Lengthsman, Mr Terry Griffiths, for his work.

The accounts for the Year have been audited by HALC with a cost to the Community, as we still have no Volunteer Auditor.

Brian J Roe, Chairperson as at 14/05/2025