

The Council has been delighted to welcome Shane Carlson, a recent addition to the Community of Peterstow, who was co-opted in July 2025. Cllr Carlson has been able to take an active role and brings previous experience of Parish Council work.

The Council has been sad in equal measure to have to accept the resignation, in March 2026, of Cllr Brian Lampert, owing to ill-health. Cllr Lampert has given long service to our Community in both this and previous administrations and has occupied the vice-chair for the past three years. The Council thanks Cllr Lampert for that service on behalf of the Community.

It follows that once again Peterstow Parish Council (PPC) is reduced to just 4 Councillors, and we continue to welcome applications to the Clerk for the now 3 spare Council seats. With a quorum of 3 Councillors, there is little room to cover holiday and other forced absences. Thus far, we have been able to hold all scheduled meetings, but the Community needs younger Councillors to build succession as highlighted last year. The current Chairperson said in last year's report that he would stand down from PPC at the next elections in May 2027, and that position remains unchanged.

We are most grateful for the continued support of our Parish Clerk, Mrs Claire Hall, and we thank her for her valued service throughout the year.

Key Topics:

Our 2 Speed Indicator devices (SIDS) have been maintained. Budget has been allowed towards a third device near Everstone Rise. We need a Site on private land to give the desired features at an affordable cost (as at the Yew Tree siting). This is being actively pursued and offers of such sites from landowners are sought.

PPC continues to press for lower speed limits. Following letters exchanged with Highways England (HE), Councillors are to meet with HE representatives again in June. Updates on the drainage issues between the Village Shop and the Yew Tree Inn and a Pedestrian Crossing Scheme will also be requested. We are pleased to finally see the reopening of the footpath at Whitecross and PPC had been active in that process.

We are disappointed with policing of speed limits, although welcoming the current checks which reduce/eliminate speeding whilst checks are happening. We strongly believe that only frequent clandestine checks will cause real change. The camera van stand should be used. Nothing of substance has come of promised police intelligence-gathering via Neighbourhood Matters. Prevarication for over a year ref DBS checks delayed the reintroduction of Community Speedwatch for well over a year and we are now back to square one with a change of police personnel.

We now need new volunteers for Community Speedwatch to get this up and running again.

Strenuous, repeated planning objections to the Lowcop Lane development opposite The Pippins came to nothing. We all need to be aware that the hard work put into our NDP can now be ignored as, by Central Government decree, Herefordshire no longer has a five-year residential land supply. NDP funding has also been withdrawn.

PPC thanks Councillor Underwood for continued service with Common management, including dealing with Travellers who overstay. Trees have had to be removed at the North-West of the Common, as directed by Highways on Safety grounds.

PPC remains concerned about the vandalised signage for Broome Farm Orchard Walks and is in active discussion with Herefordshire Council to achieve a proposed solution.

Dog fouling has been causing concern. Owners are reminded of your responsibilities to the Community.

PPC continued with the Lengthsman program and with applications for any additional maintenance grants. Our thanks once again to our Lengthsman, Mr Terry Griffiths, for his work.

Finances have been carefully managed. Reserves have been improved and the Precept increase set at a lower percentage than the Herefordshire Council Tax increase for the year 2026/2027.

PPC's website has been changed during the year to www.peterstowparishcouncil.gov.uk, for security reasons and all correspondence should be addressed to clerk@peterstowparishcouncil.gov.uk, in order to avoid delays in response. This also helps to maintain records centrally for future Councillors.

HALC have audited PPC's accounts at a cost to the Community, as we still have no Volunteer Auditor.

Brian J Roe, Chairperson as at 13/05/2026