

PETERSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of PETERSTOW ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on WEDNESDAY 10th MAY, 2017 in PETERSTOW VILLAGE HALL at 7.00p.m.

Present: Cllrs. M.Lown (Chairman), R.Townend, Frances Nightingale, Rob Hunter, Steve George and Sarah Beggs.

In attendance: Mrs Pat Newton(Clerk) and Cllr. Elissa Swinglehurst H.C.

05/17 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

None.

05/17 2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4th May, 2016 be signed as a true record of the meeting.

05/17 3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

On our roads the Parish Council has this year raised the Parish budget precept (up to the regional/national average) due to the continuing devolvement of responsibility by Herefordshire Council and the cessation of part funding for the Lengthsman Scheme. Whilst the County Councils contractor, Balfour Beatty, prioritise their decreasing budget on the road network the Parish Council sees great value in locally funding the Lengthsman to maintain the drainage clean road signs and repair small road defects on the B/unclassified roads.

The two bus stops have recently been 'spring cleaned' and the rubbish bins regularly emptied on behalf of the Parish Council. The Parish Council is currently in discussion with Highways England with regard to improving the other bus stops outside of the village.

The Community Speed Watch scheme to monitor the speed of vehicles through the village, reporting offenders when they trigger Enforcement levels and raising awareness of the 40mph speed limit, has been operated over the last two years. Whilst this speed education activity has a very visible positive impact on vehicle speed and driver behaviour when in operation the effect is not long lasting. The Parish Council have therefore budgeted for the purchase of a 'SID' (Speed Indicator Device) to give a constant reminder to drivers of their speed.

On our common and footpaths the Parish Council has provided a further Dog Waste Bin, with four now located on busy dog walking routes, to encourage owners to responsibly clean up after their dog. Thank you to councillors and parishioners for voluntarily emptying the bins when required.

The grass cutting season has commenced and the Parish Council continues to employ the Lengthsman to periodically cut the grass during the growing season, visually improving the look of the common, encouraging usage but also removing the attraction as grazing for horses and therefore deterring unauthorised encampment. The ongoing cost of grass cutting continues to be borne from Parish funds.

On behalf of the community the Parish Council are regularly consulted on planning applications and have to consider the benefits or detriment to the community; currently the Parish Council can only comment on material issues – such as waste treatment/disposal and surface drainage.

Planning and the future development of the parish is of interest to us all to ensure that our village is protected and sustainable – evident through the huge interest in the recent and ongoing Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) activity. A Working Group of volunteers is tirelessly working on behalf of us all to gather opinions and thoughts on all matters relating to planning and development – including housing, roads, business, energy production, services and amenities. Thank you to all Parishioners that replied to the NDP Questionnaire and attended the subsequent Public Meeting to consult on the draft Peterstow NDP Vision and Objectives. Following unanimous support the Vision and Objectives have now been approved and the Working Group are moving forward with the production of the NDP document. Once the NDP is drafted it will be submitted for approval, after which a referendum will be held (early2018?) before the NDP becomes a formal document which legally must be considered by Planning Officers. The Working Group must be applauded for their engagement and tenacity with this task; all volunteers, but with a mixture of skills, experience and support from consultants they are undertaking the work very

professionally on our behalf. We must thank them for this very important work, the outcome of which will be key in influencing the future development of our parish.

Without such volunteers and Councillors the Parish Council would be dissolved and all parish matters overseen by the County Council, losing local control for our community – therefore I would like to thank the serving Councillors for their continued service to the community. There is currently a vacancy on the Parish Council so if you are interested in representing the community in parish matters please attend one of the publicised meetings or speak to one of our Councillors. Thank you to our clerk, Pat Newton for her continued work supporting the Councillors, and to our Ward Councillor, Elissa Swinglehurst for her support, guidance and representation.

As we look forward to the Village Fete (22nd July) and Annual Village Show (26th August) may we all enjoy the summer on our lovely village.

05/17 4. OPEN DISCUSSION.

None.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.10 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....