

PETERSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES of PETERSTOW ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on WEDNESDAY 9th MAY, 2018 in PETERSTOW VILLAGE HALL at 7.00p.m.

Present: Cllrs. M.Lown (Chairman), Rob Hunter, Roger Townend, Steve George and Paul Speed.

In attendance: Mrs Pat Newton(Clerk)
4 members of the public.

05/18 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Cllr. Sarah Beggs.

Cllr. Elissa Swinglehurst H.C.

05/18 2. The guest speaker Dan Guerche – Community Ambassador (Herefordshire) for the West Mercia Police, was unable to attend owing to illness, he will arrange to come at a later date.

05/18 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10th May, 2017 be signed as a true record of the meeting.

05/18 4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

The last year has focused on the continued development of our Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) and it's evolution to the Regulation 16 consultation, currently being conducted by Herefordshire Council. Subject to any required amendments or challenges the Plan will hopefully soon pass scrutiny and progress to become a legal document that will have a positive influence on planning matters affecting our Parish for years to come. Recognition must go to the NDP Working Group for their dedication and commitment over the last two years to complete this most important work on behalf of the Parish Council and the community – a huge THANK YOU to the team! And THANK YOU to all those that contributed responding to the questionnaire, attending the public consultation days and feeding in local knowledge, ideas, views and suggestions during the process.

The Parish Council has continued to prioritise the devolved budget to maintain the Parish and make improvements where possible – we continue to fund the lengthsman scheme providing us a valuable resource, to fill the gaps where Council services are cut back. The new Speed Indicator Device was installed to 'educate' those drivers exceeding the speed limit and hopefully influences driving behaviours. Road safety continues to be a key issue for our community – once the NDP has hopefully been finalised the Parish Council are keen to learn of parishioners views and the strength of support to begin a campaign for the provision of a crossing point on the A49 to provide a safe place to cross and link the two sides of the village giving safer access to village amenities.

Our planned Community Safety Day ironically had to be cancelled due to 'safety' during one of the significant snowfalls that we experienced earlier in the year. We are increasing the number of grit bins and procuring a manual grit spreader to target footpaths and bus stops to make us more resilient during these weather events. The Community Safety Day is being rescheduled for the Autumn and will provide very useful advice such as Safeguarding, falls prevention, crime prevention and fire/road/water safety – please come along! And the Parish owned benches on the Common are to be replaced to encourage us all to take time out, to sit and enjoy our Common and the views over the surrounding countryside.

I must thank Cllr. Frances Nightingale for her service on the Parish Council, recently stepping down due to moving away and her husband Richard, who was our Parish Paths Officer, – we wish Frances and Richard every happiness in the next phase of their lives. I welcome Cllr. Paul Speed on his recent return to the Parish Council and tonight we hope to welcome a new Councillor, with two parishioners standing for the vacant position. And thank you to the remaining Councillors and our Clerk who continue to serve our community, it is only through volunteers standing as Councillors that protects our voice as a community with Local Government. All Parish Council meetings are open to the public, the meetings opening with Public discussion – so please attend and share your ideas and views, dates are publicised on the community notice boards and the website.

05/18 5. OPEN DISCUSSION.
None.

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

Signed.....

Date.....