### **Peckforton Parish Meeting**

**A Meeting of the Parish convened by the Chair of Peckforton Parish Meeting was held immediately after the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 13th May 2025, at Peckforton and Beeston Village Hall.**

**May 2025**

1. **To receive any apologies for absence.** Apologies were received from Penny Shearer, Alison and Mike Barlow, and Jo Parsons. There were 9 residents present all of whom confirmed that they were eligible to vote at Parish Meetings.
2. **Declaration of interests – Officers are to declare any interests under the following categories: - pecuniary, outside body, family, friend or close associate**. None.
3. **Declaration of interests – Residents may if they wish declare any interests under the following categories: pecuniary, outside body, family, friend or close associate. It would be helpful if any attendees at the meeting who are not entitled to vote at a Parish Meeting were to make themselves known to the Clerk.** None.
4. **Chairmans Report to include,**
	1. **Speed Issue in Peckforton.**
	2. **Cheshire Police Cluster Group update**
	3. **Update on the United Utilities Vyrnwy Aqueduct Modernisation Programme (VAMP).**
	4. **Estate matters.** The Chair thanked Holly Shaw of Knight Frank for all her help and honesty whilst she has been managing the Estate, and looks forward to working with Charlotte Heath
	5. **Village Hall car park fencing and other current topics will also be covered.**
	6. **Elephant and Castle** The owners have reported that they are making progress with the repair, have an architect, are looking for a stonemason, and have said that lifting the carving is not going to be easy.

Please see below for the text of the Chair’s report.

1. **Approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2rd March 2025.** The minutes of the previous meeting
were approved.
2. **To receive the Clerk’s report, including any planning matters that come to hand.** There were no planning items to hand.
3. **The Chairman of the Parish Meeting will give an opportunity for members of the public to bring matters of interest to the meeting. Please note that any such matters will be dealt with under the provisions of the Parish Meeting’s Standing Orders adopted on 15th July 2021.** There were no items raised.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 19:57

**Chairman’s Annual Parish Meeting and Ordinary Meeting Report - May 2025**

The Chairman opened his report by commenting that 2024-2-25 had been a busy year with progress being made on several fronts. The Chair went on to say that he felt the AGM was the right platform to revisit the community priorities identified by his predecessor (John Doyle) and passed on to himself.

* + Road Safety & Speed
	+ Improving the local environment
	+ Action on land post trees and ensuring remaining works are done
	+ Trees behind Barns and at, Smithy Cottage
	+ Seeing improvements to common areas
	+ Building relationship with the Estate
	+ Working with the Village Hall
	+ Keeping abreast of what is going on in respect of Peckforton being under the AONB Designation.
	+ The Buzzard

In addition to the above, the Chair also mentioned the following items as ones which came on to the agenda in the last 2 years:-

* + Staying on top of the United Utilities Program
	+ Annual maintenance contribution from Estate

In summary, the Chair commented that all the listed items were ‘live’ and that, in general progress was being made on all of them.

**2024-2025 Update to Include normal PPM Update**

* 1. **Buzzard.** July saw the completion of the Buzzard statue and the formal unveiling supported by over 70 people. AS a Parsh we raised over £3,234 spent £3,044 leaving £190.00 which was retained in Parish funds.
	On the day of the unveiling a total of £330 was raised through the raffle which covered the costs of the drinks on the day and also enabled the Parish to donate £30 to the Village Hall.
	The attendance of Edward Tollemache was greatly appreciated by both the community and Edward, and it provided a great opportunity to showcase Peckforton at its best.
	May/June/July say a lot of work from folks across the village to prepare for the unveiling and the chair commented on how great it was to see how people got involved and ‘did their bit’, be that cutting grass, clearing pathways, sorting trees and hedges, cutting verges, replacing the posts around the village green, supporting the opening with the catering, providing sandwiches, cakes etc etc.
	On a personal note the Chair commented that it was a real highlight of the year and one which made all the work on the Buzzard worthwhile. He went on to once again pass on a special thanks to Mike Waston, for all his help with the structural elements of the project. The Buzzard would not be in place without Mike’s efforts!
	2. **Working with the estate**.

This continues to go well with several items either moved forward or closed.

* + 1. The Estate honoured the promise of an £800 contribution to support the maintenance of common areas and have agreed a figure of £1,000 for this year. The maintenance programme was progressing well and the Chair thanked Stuart Murphy for his efforts on this.
		2. Working with the Estate has ensured the rest of the trees felled (behind the barns and at Smithy Cottage), and that the replanting was completed. After some problems post the original felling, they are now responding to pressure to maintain the planted areas.
		The Chair commented that as part of this year’s maintenance program it has been requested the trees that have been damaged or not survived are replaced with ones of an appropriate age to match in with those that are growing quite well now
		3. The rubbish in the area between the Village Hall Car Park and Muir Homes cleared.
		4. The Estate have agreed to fund in the amount of £3,500 the purchase of the fencing for the VH car park. This will not only ensure the trees get the best chance of growing without damage, but also (again) helps the general tidying and appearance of the village. The Chair took the opportunity of saying a big **thank you** to the 17 people who turned out to help with putting the fencing up. Once again, a great community effort which hopefully resulted on a good outcome - We aimed to keep it looking rustic and I think that has been achieved.
		5. Having finally got to the bottom of who owns the fencing along the edge to the land in front of the Muir Homes, (it is the Estate… or at least Muir are adamant it’s not theirs!), provision has been included in the funding for the replacement of the fencing to this area. It was expected the work would be done in early June.
		6. Sheds along Quarry Bank. At the time of the meeting one had been let and the let of another was in discussion. The Chair commented that the refurbishment had raised some questions and concerns amongst some village members which had been fully investigated. The following summary was provided:-
			- In the main having reviewed the refurbishment of the sheds with residents along Quarry Bank, most confirmed they were happy with it.
			- The refurbishment had been discussed with CE planning in respect of any restrictions on the refurbishment given they sit in a conservation area. Planning confirmed that provided the materials of the cladding were not changed and the units broadly looked the same then this would be acceptable.
			- At the outset of the discussions with the Estate the Chair had requested that any lease/license agreement for the sheds should stipulate that the units should not be used for business purposes and that use should be restricted to storage only. This has been included in the license agreements. Further the Estate had confirmed that leasing would only be considered for people living along Quarry Bank to minimise any disruption.
		7. Woodland cabins. These have been installed by UY Recreational in conjunction with the Estate. Following some early concerns by the community, the Chair tracked down and spoke to Trotton and Chithurst Parish Council (South Downs) who entered into a similar arrangement with UY Recreational in 2022. The feedback was very positive, and they had not had any problems. At the time of the meeting (with one exception) it was felt the cabins had not had a major impact to the community.
		8. Finally, the Chair informed the meeting that unfortunately Holly Shaw our contact for Estate matters would be leaving later in the summer. The meeting as a whole agreed this would be a loss to the community as Holly had done a great job whilst she has been in place.
	1. **United Utilities – Vyrnwy Aqueduct Maintenance Project.**

A major project for Peckforton and one which had the potential to have a negative impact, the Chair commented that in the main he felt that United Utilities and Avove had not only done a great job to minimise disruption but had also been very supportive of the community.

* + 1. The Buzzard Project would not have got to completion without the funding from UU and Avove.
		2. Proactive in their communications, reactive when we’ve asked for updates, they’ve handled the project very well.
		3. Status at the time of the meeting:-
			- The two new pipelines installed through Peckforton were complete and commissioned.
			- Excavations were scheduled for back filled during May.
			- Replacement of the valves along PHL were complete. Seasonal reinstatement to be completed by end Summer.
			- Gravel for VH car park area. ….. This remained on the UU Agenda and UU (Harry Caton) were optimistic they would be able to help.

Finally the Chair reported that UU/Avove had asked that we formally pass on their thanks to the community for their support for and patience with the project.

* 1. **Road Safety Issues/Cheshire East Highways**

The Chair did not propose to revisit the history of the ‘road speed’ issue for Peckforton as this had been covered in detail at the previous meeting. However, he did emphasise that through continuing to report accidents, unsafe situations (or what we perceive to be unsafe situations), created by vehicle travelling at speed through the village, would give us the best chance of getting the speed reduced.

The Chair reported that following the March meeting the group who signed up to get involved had already submitted five reports to Highways. With a target of 3-4 per month for the period March – October it was key everyone got involved as this would give us the greatest chance of success. He reiterated that it’s simply about reporting something you’ve seen and consider to be unsafe, you don’t need to report names or car registration numbers, it can be anonymous, but needs to say something along the lines of ‘*I really feel that a speed limit of 60 MPH through Peckforton is dangerous and would ask Highways to give serious consideration to reducing this*’.

The review of the case for lowering the speed limit through Peckforton will take place in the autumn.

* 1. **Elephant and Castle Update –**

The Chair thanked Alison Barlow for her update on the project as follows:-

* + 1. The architect has done a site visit and has confirmed the boundaries.
		2. The land registry now has the old and new boundary markings and thei Architect is pressing ahead with the planning application(s).
		3. There remains a challenge to locate a Stone Mason to oversee the physical moving of the statue. Alison commented that the Achitect has one in mind but also has a couple of others in mind that he works with as well. They are all experienced in working with church spires which he thought was the best way to go.
		4. Community Police Liaison - Given the recent burglaries, the concerns raised about vehicle being parked on Hill Lane (and what was going on there), the Chair commented that he would periodically attend the Cheshire Police Community Support cluster meetings to both ensure Peckforton Matters are getting heard and to understand what is going on in the area, what the Police are working on and what we can expect….

Neil Dyer

Chair, Peckforton Parish Meeting