

PECKFORTON PARISH MINUTES OF MEETING

TUESDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2021 AT 7PM

	PRESENT	Action
	Penny Shearer (Chairman) Laura Maddocks (Joint Vice-Chairman) Richard Edwards (Joint Vice-Chairman) Debbie Sargent (Clerk) Stan Davies (Ward Councillor)	
	Hilary & Mike Watson; Alan Cooch: Neil & Leslie Dyer; Dan Pendlebury; Carol and Phil Maddocks; Stuart Naylor; Laurence Woodhouse; Beki Cooch; Jo Bigland; Andrew Scorer (part), Mandy Salmon; John & Amanda Doyle	
1.0	APOLOGIES	
	Apologies were received from Nick & Jean Fairclough and Pat Holmes-Henderson	
2.0	MINUTES	
	The Chairman read out an amendment to section 5.4.2 of the previous minutes as it was felt it misrepresented what was said. The minutes were then proposed as being accurate by Stuart and seconded by Dan (see attached).	
3.0	FINANCIAL STATEMENT	
	The Clerk informed the meeting that there was a healthy £1,075 in the bank. Predicted spending was for salary and expenses £250, subscription to Cheshire Community Action £20, leaving a balance by 31 March 2021 of £805.	
4.0	HIGHWAYS ISSUES	
	<p>The Chairman stated that the main issues were, speeding, pot holes, flooding and Parking and these had all been drawn to the attention of Highways, but that due to Covid Highways were not able to attend to repairs. Residents should continue to report issues to the Council. These were also highlighted in a recent independent study carried out by Peckforton resident.</p> <p>On speeding - one resident questioned the Ward Councillor as to why the parish was not able to establish a 30mph limit when many other villages in the area had. It was suggested that residents write in to Highways to demand that something is done in the village. A resident offered practical help but did not have local knowledge, so a working group for traffic issues was suggested, the Ward Councillor was in favour of this. Carol, Phil, Amanda John, Jo and Richard all agreed to be part of such a group.</p> <p>It was suggested that signage might help but the village is generally not in favour of many signs.</p> <p>Parking at Horsely Lane continues to be atrocious. The Ward Councillor confirmed that the issue at Horsely Lane is dangerous and he has successfully secured funding of £1,000 for Highways (Cheshire East) to complete a safety report. He also identified a significant issue at Bulkeley Hill with 90 cars recorded as parked there. He suggested care must be taken to ensure dangerous parking doesn't escalate. The Chairman confirmed that that Horsley Lane and Stone House Lane is a 'junction' and vehicles parked causing a vehicular obstruction or a visual impairment can be dealt with by the police.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>CM, PM AD, JD, JB, RE</p>

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5.0	TREE REMOVAL	
	The Chairman reported that there had been complaints regarding the removal of a Highways tree, believed to be a lime tree, which was sited on a highway verge in a conservation area. No permission had been given for this action and CE Highways have been informed. Highways have passed this on to their legal Department and Environmental Planning are investigating as it is a criminal offence to interfere with a Highway Tree. She will report back when more is known. Jo confirmed that proper procedure had been followed.	PS
6.0	DEFIBRILLATOR	
	The defibrillator has been purchased with funding from the village hall and installed on the side wall of the hall. The Chairman thanked Stuart very much for doing this. Stuart is currently checking it every week. He confirmed the battery should last 4 years. To use the defibrillator call 999 and instructions will be given. Training will be provided to anyone interested once Covid regulations permit.	
7.0	PARISH BOARD	
	It was agreed that any resident could use the parish board to inform the parish so long as the subject matter was factual and unbiased.	
8.0	NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN	
	The Chairman confirmed that there had been much debate about a neighbourhood plan and the parish had at one time been thinking of joining with Burwardsley to create one. Laura was invited to set out the principles of a neighbourhood plan and how it would benefit the village. She felt that a group aim would unite the village and residents could have control on how things go forward, not necessarily limited to issues in respect of Planning but also to look at the villages aspirations for issues such as infrastructure and facilities. It also offers an opportunity to identify the demographic and ensure the needs are being met. Peckforton is said to be the most isolated village in Cheshire it is important that we ensure we are future proofing and looking to secure infrastructure and facilities. One resident felt it would be useful to talk to a parish who had already done one, Jo has contacts in Bunbury who have been involved in the preparation of their plan. The meeting felt this was very positive and it was agreed that residents would be contacted to ask how they saw the future of the village and what they would like to see happen. It was agreed that Peckforton Castle would be consulted on any proposed Plan	PS/LM
9.0	VILLAGE AMBIENCE	
9.1	It was hoped to improve the village ambience with planters around the village, a Christmas tree, a tidy up of the village green area (including moving the buzzard on to a stone plinth whilst cutting out the rotten base) and replacing parking posts which had also rotted over time. Several suggestions were made concerning the Christmas tree and there was a positive response to planters at the three entry points of the village; it was thought this may also help identify that people were entering a village and as well as looking good would encourage people to drive more carefully.	LW PS LD
9.2	It was thought that a village party or get-together would promote a sense of community. Laura will suggest some dates for this.	LM

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9.3	The carol singing on Christmas Eve had been such a success it was felt that it should become an annual event.	
10.0	WEBSITE	
	Laura was aware that new regulations had come out concerning parish websites and was investigating this. It was agreed that a village website is essential.	LM
11.0	PLANNING APPLICATION 20/4795N	
	There was considerable discussion concerning the planning application at Pheasantry Cottage and the way forward, bearing in mind the date for final representations closed the following day. This a contentious issue and there is a concern that the Planning Application is open ended and that the size of the area involved. It was generally agreed that the planning application had not really changed and the meeting requested that representation was made by the Clerk to Cheshire East to state that the feelings of the parish remained the same. The Ward Councillor also agreed to speak to Ed Cratchley, the planning officer, tomorrow (Wed 3rd Feb) stating that the parish would like the application either to go to Committee or to extend the time allowing the parish to make further representations. Issues were raised that the objectors had not identified a supporter of the planning. One resident offered that he had written to support the Application. Penny was not present while her application was considered. <i>Stuart left the meeting during discussions</i>	DS SD
12.0	BEESTON STATION	
	The Chairman wished to inform the meeting that the Beeston Station enquiry was on-going and that a steering group had been appointed with a budget of £50,000 to take the project to the next stage. It was agreed that reopening the station would be a good thing for Peckforton.	
13.0	PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION	
	Laura suggested the possibility of a photographic competition with a category for children and a section for pictures of pets, the theme of Peckforton was also suggested. Dan very kindly offered £50 towards prizes. Eventually it was hoped that the photographs could be displayed in the village hall. <i>Lesley left the meeting</i>	LM DP
14.0	POLICE UPDATE	
	The Clerk had been informed by the local police that the only issues had been parking problems with more walkers in the area and 4x4s using Peckforton Gap. Tattenhall Police had reported the theft of a laptop and many incidents of flooding.	
15.0	CORRESPONDENCE	
15.1	The Chairman reminded the meeting that the support group was still in existence for any residents who need assistance.	

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15.2	Dan confirmed that he had donated £250 worth of meals to mid-Cheshire Food Hub in the name of Peckforton Parish as a thank you for being able to use the hall for the shoebox appeal. He was warmly thanked by the Chairman for this. A TV set was kindly offered to Dan for anyone made homeless by floods, Dan gratefully accepted.	
16.0	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
16.1	One resident wished to know what was happening about pavements close to the postbox. The Council had previously been contacted about this. The Chairman offered to speak to Highways to see if they had programmed it, otherwise a working party would be organised.	
	The Chairman was asked if she would also mention the new flood where a nick in the grass verge would allow the water to drain away. The sand pile at the bottom of Peckforton Gap was mentioned as being an issue.	PS
16.2	Alan was intending to re-stain the noticeboard.	AC
16.3	The flood that runs from Quarry Bank was referred to - Dan offered to speak to his contact at Muir to try to resolve this issue.	DP
16.4	Dan confirmed that a litter-collection would take place this Sunday, meet at the village hall car park at 12 noon.	ALL
17.0	DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING	
	This will be the AGM on 11th May	