

The Parish Council Of Lower Peover

Comprising

Nether Peover
(Cheshire West and Chester)

Peover Inferior
(Cheshire East)

Clerk to the Council: Mr. Geoffrey Parker
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT -

The Annual Assembly of the Parish for LOWER PEOVER will be held at Lower Peover primary school on Wednesday 8th May 2024 at 7pm.

Local government electors for the parish will be entitled to vote at the meeting which will be open to the public.



Geoffrey Parker

Clerk to the Council, on behalf of the Chairperson, Councillor Ben Jackson
1st May 2024

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2023
3. Matters arising from the minutes, not already covered in an agenda item
4. Chairperson's Annual Report
5. Parochial Charities
 - Richard Comberbach Trust Report
6. Women's Institute Report
7. Questions from the public to the Parish Council
8. Open Forum

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF THE LOWER PEOVER
PARISH HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10th May 2023 AT 7.00PM**

Present: Councillor A Painter (Chair), B Jackson, S Wilson,

Clerk Mr G Parker

1. Apologies

George Dutton and Lousie Corlett

2. Minutes of the meeting held 11th May 2022

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

3. Matters arising from the minutes not already covered in an agenda item.

None.

4. Parish Council Chair's Annual Report

Received and noted.

5. Parochial Charities.

No report was received.

6. Women's Institute Report

Received and noted.

7. Questions from the public for the Parish Council

A question was raised about measures taken to reduce speeding in the village particularly given the danger posed to children going to and from the school. The Parish Council was asked that, further to the measures it had already taken and the actions by the school, it give ongoing and further consideration to this matter in the next year.

8. Open Forum

None.

Signed:

Date:

Chairperson's Annual Report

Lower Peover Parish Council

May 2024

1. Introduction

I am pleased to present my annual report for my first year as Chairperson of Lower Peover Parish Council. I was delighted to accept the role of Chairperson in May 2023, and succeed Councillor Alison Painter. I would like to thank Vice-Chairperson, Councillor Painter for her support in helping me take on the role of Chairperson and for her continued guidance throughout the year as I have settled in.

Yet again it has been another busy year in Lower Peover with the Parish Council working across many fronts to undertake several exciting projects in the parish, that we hope will be of benefit to both current and future residents.

2. Parish Councillors

As mentioned in last year's report we were sorry to say farewell in May 2023 to Councillor Heather Agan de Visser and Councillor Alan Brown. Shortly after we started the process of co-opting two new people onto the Parish Council and were very pleased to welcome Mr Paul Binyon and Mr Charles Warnes to the Parish Council in the summer of 2023.

3. Parish Plan

In 2023 the biennial review of the Parish Plan was undertaken. As reported in the 2023 annual report various workstreams had made good progress and new needs had arisen in the Parish, as such it was decided to close out the planning protocols, road safety & playground improvements, website & database and fibre broadband workstreams. It should be noted, that with the removal of these workstreams from the parish plan, this does not mean that the Parish Council will no longer work on these topics, but rather that their intended goals have been achieved and now additional focus is needed on other topics.

The new workstreams were defined and the full plan can be found here:

<https://lower-peover.co.uk/parish-plan>

A brief summary of each workstream along with example work undertaken during the year is set out below:

Work stream 1: Road Safety & Highways

The Parish Council will continue to monitor road safety in and around the village, and how safety might be improved along the main road arteries in the village. As a Parish Council we are frequently in touch with the highways authority to discuss concerns about the roads in our village. These discussions can often be long and protracted, but key developments have materialised in the last 12 months after extended discussions with high ways. During the year several speed watch sessions were held. The Parish Council also had discussions with highways to review the speed survey data that was obtained in 2023 and continue discussions on various speed calming measures around the village, notably the extension of the 30mph speed limit south along Middlewich Road.

As outlined elsewhere in this report, the Parish Council continues to work to arrange for the restoration of the historic fingerposts with one remaining for repair at the end of Plumley Moor road.

Work stream 2: Biodiversity and Environmental Sustainability

The main focus of the biodiversity workstream in the year has been the continued restoration of the pond at the junction of Barrows Brow and Free Green Lane. As recoded in the 2023 annual report a substantial amount of background work was undertaken last year on the pond, concluding with a community team spending several days in April 2023 cutting back overgrown vegetation. Thereafter large tree trunks were needed to be removed by a digger and approval from Cadent was needed for the digger to pass over the gas mains that runs alongside the lane. After an extensive amount of follow up, permission was granted and in November the contractor removed the large tree trunks and graded the banks around the pond.

Before deciding on next steps, the Parish Council was eager to understand the views of local residents and held a consultation evening on 30th January 2024 which was very well attended by no less than 22 residents, many of whom live in the direct vicinity of the pond. Valuable feedback from the residents was received and an extensive report compiled which was shared with residents and also with the Parish Council. The report made recommendations relative to planting, ongoing maintenance, dredging of the pond, carvings and verge markers. The water in the pond was also tested by a local resident and showed that pollution levels in the pond were low and the pH was neutral. The recommendations in the report were accepted by the Parish Council in full and implementation plans are now being considered along with options to fundraise to cover the costs of the remainder of the works.

Work Stream 3: Public Realm and Paish Built Environment

This new workstream will look to take care of all matters relating to the built fabric of the parish and all parish assets (e.g. benches, phone box, village signs (non-highway signage), defibrillator, Parish Council owned land). During the year several initiatives were undertaken to maintain the built fabric of the parish. These included:

- The painting of the fingerpost on Hulme Lane near The Crown
- The safe shoring-up of the fingerpost at the junction of Middlewich Road and Plumley Moor Road which was knocked over after a car crashed into it
- A consultation of residents as to how to repurpose the phone box on Hulme Lane by The Crown
- A preliminary review of matters relating to the maintenance of trees on Smithy Green
- An appraisal and maintenance proposal for the two village signs, one on Smithy Green and the other at Birchwood drive

As a result of these activities, in the next 12 months the Parish Council plans to:

- Repurpose the phone box as an information point containing information about the village and local historical information
- Undertake targeted maintenance on the village signs at Smithy Green and Birchwood Drive

- Arrange for a refurbishment of the fingerpost at the junction of Middlewich Road and Plumley Moor Road

With limited funds and rising costs, the above works will rely in part on the goodwill and generous support of many in the parish and the Parish Council proactively asking residents to help on the projects where possible.

Work Stream 4: Regional Project Liaison

This new workstream will act as a primary point of liaison regarding matters involving local, regional or national infrastructure, commercial, planning or transport projects where the residents of Parish may or may not be directly impacted.

The goals of this workstream are to act as the initial point of contact to assess the scope of external projects, ensuring that the Parish Council is consulted about such projects and possible impacts on Lower Peover. On a case-by-case basis, as projects arise, the workstream will establish working groups to evaluate proposals, collate community responses or feedback on public consultations and provide recommendations as to the further steps that the Parish Council can take.

In the last year the Parish Council has actively participated in consultations relating to the Future Airspace project at Manchester Airport, HyNet, gas storage facilities west of the M6 and the water treatment works refurbishment on Hulme Lane.

4. Other Council Business

a) Community Emergency Plan

During the year, in collaboration with the Cheshire Community Resilience Network, the first Lower Peover Community Emergency Plan was created. This document is intended to act as a guide for responding to emergencies that may happen in or adjacent to the Parish, detailing

possible risks and actions that the Parish Council could undertake to prepare for possible emergencies.

Part of this work has also included compiling a list of key contacts, establishments, resources and persons living the village with key skills that may be of assistance to the community in case of an emergency. It should be noted that the purpose of this work is by no means to substitute the role of the Emergency Services, but rather to act as an additional layer of preparedness, specific to the Parish. At the time of writing the document is still in final review and will be published in due course.

b) Fibre Broadband

This was a key project in the 2022 Parish Plan, which in the second half of 2023 finally received government approval and government grant funding was allocated. Work started right away on the installation and in the autumn of 2023 the VISPA network went live. The very first homes that were connected were in Foxcovert Lane – the area of the village with the slowest existing broadband speeds. Previously residents in this part of the village had internet download speeds of less than 10Mbps with one property only able to get 0.5Mbps. With the turn-on of the fibre connection speeds of over 100Mbps are now available. By the end of 2023 the network was extended to the centre of the village and at the time of writing about 50% of the properties in the village are in the area served by the VISPA network. Unfortunately, take-up still remains low, putting the rest of the scheme and further roll-out at risk so more work is still needed to make the scheme a success for the whole of the village.

c) Planning

As a 'statutory consultee' the Parish Council reviews all planning applications that we receive from Cheshire West and Chester Council, and Cheshire East Council. The Parish Council reviews the applications in line with the Parish Council Planning Protocol which can be found on the Lower Peover Parish Council's website.

d) Environment

The Parish Council has continued its work to ensure that the natural environment of the village is maintained to a high standard with activities including:

- Organising a community litter pick in October 2023 (these are undertaken every 6 months with the next one due on the 18th May 2024 at the time of writing)
- Giving a donation to St Oswald's Church for the cutting of the grass in the graveyard.
- Arranging for several grass verges around the village to be cut on a regular basis. In response to anticipated greatly increasing costs for the year ahead, the Parish Council went out to tender again for the grass cutting arrangements and a new contractor will be appointed in due course.

e) Communication

The Parish Council has continued to produce and deliver 3 newsletters to all the homes in the village regularly throughout the year. We are also trying move more households over to electronic delivery via e mail.

f) Christmas Tree

For the fourth year running the Parish Council put up a Christmas tree with lights on in the village. The Tree was located in the same position as last year on Hulme Lane. To celebrate the start of the festive season the Parish Council organised a switch on of the lights on the 6th December. Despite the rather windy and wet conditions over 120 residents attended and complementary food and drink was provided by the Parish Council. We were also very happy to once again welcome the Bostock Singers who performed various charismas carols. The Bostock Singers also took a collection for Stick'n'Step, a charity supporting children and young adults in Cheshire with cerebral palsy.

g) Lower Peover Welcome Pack

As recorded in the 2023 annual report a Lower Peover Welcome Pack has been created for new residents who move into the village. The welcome pack continues to be kept up to date and distributed to new residents.

h) Crime

Throughout the year the Parish Council meeting was attended on several occasions by the PCSO and the Parish Council receives regular updates on incidents of crime in the village and neighbouring parishes. The police also hold regular PCSO surgeries to discuss any worries or concerns.

i) Health and Safety

A defibrillator is available at 'The Country Store' on Hulme Lane, for the public to access.

j) Governance

Throughout the year our Parish Clerk has worked hard to ensure that all matters relating to governance are properly taken care of. This has included undertaking scoping work for a Neighbourhood Plan, maintaining the risk register, preparing out annual audit and managing the budget.

5. Support for Community Initiatives

The Parish Council have supported several community initiatives throughout the year:

King Charles III Coronation

On the 6th May 2023 the Village Events Committee, with funding support by the Parish Council, organised a celebration for the coronation of King Charles III. A life-size tableau of guards on horseback and a carriage was erected on Smithy Green depicting the coronation procession. On the evening of the 6th May a Coronation Celebration was held in a marquee Woodheys Field off Foxcovert Lane. Over 400 tickets were sold for the event which comprised of a band, bar and hog roast. On the following day a Coronation Celebration Big Lunch picnic was held in the same marquee. Both events were very well supported and appreciated by the community and sincere thanks must go to the Village Events Committee and all the volunteers who made the celebrations possible.

D-Day 80th Anniversary

At the time of writing, the Village Events Committee, with support from the Parish Council, is working to arrange a series of events to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day on the 6th June 2023. Commemorations will include:

1st – 9th June:

- Lower Peover in WW2: An exhibition in St Oswald's Church

6th June:

- An organised walk from St Oswald's Church to St Lawrence's Church, where General Patton worshipped
- Unveiling of a plaque at The Bells Of Peover to commemorate the role that Peover played in the planning of D-Day
- Fish and Chips supper at The Bells Of Peover
- Lower Peover Remembers: An evening of readings & music at St Oswald's Church, firsthand accounts of villagers who lived through WW2 and some who participated in D-Day and the Battle of Normandy as well as those who fought in other areas of conflict during the war
- Lighting of the beacon at St Oswald's Church

6. Conclusion

The last 12 months has been a busy time for the Parish Council. We have completed several legacy workstreams on the Parish Plan and updated the plan for the next steps as well as arranging and supporting several events throughout the year in the community. I would like to thank our Parish Clerk, Mr Geoff Parker, for all his hard work during the year and especially his support in onboarding myself in the role of Chair.

I must also thank all members of the Parish Council who give up their free time and use their skills for the benefit of the Parish Council, its projects and the other residents of the parish. The achievements and plans outlined in this report are a direct result of their service to the village throughout the year. I feel very fortunate to work alongside with such a super team of Councillors.

Ben Jackson

Chairperson

Lower Peover Parish Council

The Bucklow School Charity of Richard Comberbach and his Wife.

Trustees' Annual Report to Lower Peover Parish Council 2023

Since my report of last year, the Trustees have met routinely twice and had four extraordinary meetings.

The Trust owns School House and part of LP primary school and part of the surrounding land.

The principal objectives of the Trust are to support the school which may include some financial support.

The Trustees remain as before:

Chair: Sybil Crossman

Treasurer: Norman Withenshaw

Plumley with Toft & Bexton PC; Andrew Shaw

Allostock PC : Julia Wilson

Nether Peover (LPPC): Stephanie Taylor Wattam

Peover Inferior (LPPC): Alun McIntyre

Ex officio: Fr Murray Aldridge Collins

The charity is constituted by deed of Trust and is a registered charity. Charity number: 525858

The Annual return is completed. For details contact the correspondent.

July 2023 Extraordinary meeting

Following the death of Mr Wright, the tenant of School House, which is the owned by the Trust this meeting was arranged to initiate arrangements for the management of the property. This included inspection of the house and garden in order to conform with up-to-date requirements prior to letting the house. The Rental Tribunal, Insurance company and Cheshire West Council were notified. Electrical, Oil, and insulation agencies involved.

November 2023 Extraordinary meeting:

Work to act on advice/legal requirements from the above plans were implemented.

September 2023 ordinary meeting:

The registration of Trust property and land still being undertaken.

The Trust agreed to gift bibles to Reception class pupils and King Charles 111 books of Common Prayer to year 6 school leavers.

Work to maintain the peripheral part of the grass parking area on school land was carried out.

December 2023 Extraordinary meeting:

To reconcile payments and discuss letting arrangements of School House.

February 2024 ordinary meeting:

New tenants had moved into School House in January.

Other business regarding safeguarding issues at school were discussed.

April 2024 Extraordinary meeting

The updating of Trust property with the Land Registry is completed.

The trustees are investigating funding towards repairs to outbuildings.

They discussed the implication of the school becoming part of an Academy Trust as have they been invited to a meeting by the Governors to learn more about this.

The archiving of historical and new documents is to be carried out.

Next ordinary meeting: October 2024.

Sally Geake,

Correspondent to the Richard Comberbach Trust. April 2024.

Cc Allostock PC

Plumley with Toft & Bexton PC

Lower Peover Women's Institute.

Lower Peover WI continues to thrive drawing in women from all age groups and backgrounds. The majority are from the village and its immediate surrounds, but having gained a reputation for friendliness and fun we now have members from as far afield as Chelford, Hartford and Holmes Chapel. We have around 55 members now, and we are considering a waiting list as the school hall limits our intake.