

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 11th May 2022 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 Alison Painter
29th April 2022

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of minutes of the meeting held on 5th May 2021
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 5th May 2021 AT 7.00PM**

This meeting was held remotely using Zoom

Present: Councillor A Painter (Chair), Councillor L Corlett, Councillor S Wilson,
Councillor S Geake, Councillor G Dutton, B Davis, A Bradbury

Clerk Mr G Parker

1. Apologies

None

2. Minutes of the meeting held 10th May 2019

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.

The report of the Richard Comberbach Trust was received and noted.

6. Women's Institute Report

Received and noted.

7. Questions from the public for the Parish Council

None.

8. Open Forum

No issues were raised.

Meeting closed 7.23pm

Signed:

Date:

Chairperson's Annual Report
Lower Peover Parish Council
May 2022

1. Introduction

I am delighted to present my annual report for Lower Peover Parish Council.

We have had another year of unprecedented change, with many challenges, including the continuation of the coronavirus pandemic. However, despite that, the Parish Council have been working hard to maintain and improve the quality of life of residents in our village. In May 2021, Parish Council meetings were still taking place on Zoom, however as coronavirus restrictions relaxed, we commenced face to face meetings in June 2021.

2. Parish Councillors

There have been some changes in councillors during the year.

In December 2021, Councillor Sally Geake resigned, after working for over 20 years as a Parish Councillor. During that time, she has achieved such a lot for the residents of Lower Peover and will be very much missed by so many people. I would like to thank her very much for the contribution that she has made to the village.

In May 2021, Councillor Acara Bradbury was co-opted onto the Parish Council, but due to a house move away from the village, she resigned in January 2022. I would also like to thank Councillor Bradbury for all she has done for the Council during her time in office.

To replace Councillors Geake and Bradbury, two new councillors have been co-opted onto the Parish Council, namely Councillor Ben Jackson and Councillor Heather Agan de Visser. I look forward to working with both councillors in the future.

3. Parish Plan

In May 2020, we launched our new Parish Plan, to reflect what residents actually want to see happen in our village.

Since the Plan was written, a lot has been achieved and so in March 2022 it was reviewed and revised to take into account the achievements undertaken and future developments that we would like to see happen.

Details of the revised Parish Plan can be found on the Lower Peover Parish Council website, <http://lower-peover.co.uk/parish-plan/>.

The following actions have now been achieved:

- **Lower Peover Welcome Pack**

A Lower Peover Welcome Pack has been developed for any new residents who move into the village to inform them of the history of the village, and facilities and groups they can enjoy. The Welcome Pack has been updated, and Parish Councillors deliver the Welcome Packs, in person, to all new residents.

- **Playground Improvement**

An upgrade of our play area at Swan Grove is currently taking place. The plan involves the addition of two new attractions (a basket swing and a monkey climbing frame). The broken bench will be removed and replaced with a new picnic table incorporating seats. The soft texture surface area will be extended to replace part of the grassed area. This project is partially funded by the Parish Council.

- **Biodiversity**

Our next pond improvement project has been identified at the junction of Barrows Brow and Free Green Lane. Liaison has taken place with Cheshire East Council about this work. The Parish Council will be looking again to partner with Cheshire Wildlife Trust.

- **Fibre Broadband**

A Lower Peover Fibre to the Premises working group has been set up in the village, supported by the Parish Council.

An internet speed survey was conducted by the working group in the autumn of 2021 and a report summarising the results was compiled that highlighted the issues with internet connectivity in the parish. Since then, members of the working group have met with several fibre suppliers, both Cheshire East and West councils and also Esther McVey to give them all an overview of our work and results. Feedback has been positive and the need for full fibre in the village is now well understood by all key stakeholders

Based on all these discussions and feedback the working group has now formulated a strategy focused around using government Gigabit Vouchers as well as the existing Council subsidies. They are currently in the final stages of selecting a suitable supplier to work with for the first part of the scheme. Even with these subsidies commercial viability remains a challenge in rural parishes like ours where the uneven distribution of housing means that some areas are more commercially appealing to suppliers than others! Even when the supplier has been selected, the working group envisage the roll-out being a phased plan and success will highly dependent on a strong uptake from the community. In addition, they anticipate that further government subsidy will be needed in the more remote locations and they are lobbying political channels for this in parallel.

- **Road Safety in the Village**

The Parish Council continue to work on plans for speed calming measures in the village to make cycling and walking far safer. In particular, we have managed to secure agreement from Cheshire West and Chester Council for their Highways engineers to conduct a traffic survey in the village. The aim of the survey is to consider traffic calming measures to keep vehicles to the prescribed speed limit when being driven through the Village. The survey was carried out in January 2022 and we await the results.

The pavement from The Crown Inn to The Cobbles has also recently been cleared which will make a massive improvement for pedestrians and hopefully parents walking their children to school.

Finally, in response to concerns regarding speeding vehicles through the village, the Parish Council has set up a very active Community Speedwatch Team, now with many volunteers on board. When Cheshire Police permitted these activities to re-commence under Covid regulations, we carried out a number of speedwatch sessions and many offenders were caught. We hope this will act as a deterrent to speeding vehicles in the future.

- **Planning Protocols**

It has been agreed that a planning protocol should be drawn up that guides the nature of planning aspects that the Parish Council consider are acceptable in the village and those that are not.

- **Website and Database**

A new website was launched in 2021, to comply with new government regulations. Throughout the year, our Parish Clerk has been improving and developing the website, and we have set up a workstream as part of the Parish Plan to continue with this work.

4. Other Council Business

- **Planning**

As a 'statutory consultee' the Parish Council reviews all planning applications that come through to us from Cheshire West and Chester Council, and Cheshire East Council. During the year we have looked at and commented on many planning applications in the village, including the new development at Swan Green and the Waste Water Treatment Plant on Hulme Lane.

- **Highways**

As a Parish Council we are frequently in touch with the highways authority to discuss concerns about the roads in our village. One example of this has been discussions with Cheshire West and Chester Council about the traffic problems along 'The Cobbles' at school drop off and collection times. We are currently in the process of liaising with the Council about this.

- **Environment**

The Parish Council have worked hard this year to ensure the village is tidy and well looked after. This has included the following:

- After the restrictions from the coronavirus lockdown eased, the Council arranged for a litter pick across the village in October 2021. Many bags of rubbish were collected including some very unusual items!
- We have applied and paid for verge markers at the junction of Swan Grove and Hulme Lane, from Cheshire West and Chester Council. This was in response to a

request from residents of Swan Grove to prevent parking on the grass verges at this junction, as the ground gets very churned up.

- The Parish Council pay for several of the grass verges around the village to be cut on a regular basis, and we have just renewed our contract in relation to this.
 - We have given a donation to Lower Peover Church for the cutting of the grass in the graveyard.
 - We have been active in planting a number of new trees in the village. This has included the planting of three ornamental trees, enabled by a grant from the Cheshire Police & Crime Commissioner, which the Parish Council match funded. In March 2022, the first tree, an ornamental crab apple, Malus 'Indian Magic' was planted in the churchyard by the footpath at the gate to the Rundle.
 - Early in 2022, we were invited by NACO [National Association of Civic Officers] to get involved in a tree planting day to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee. The proposal was that on the 11th March as many civic leaders as possible, would on the same day, plant a tree to mark this occasion. The names of all Councils taking part will be included in a book that will be sent to the Queen for the Platinum Jubilee Weekend in June. The Parish Council decided to accept the invitation and on March 11th, a tree was planted at Lower Peover School. The tree is an ornamental cherry, Prunus 'Pink Perfection'. It is situated opposite the main entrance to school on the roped off area where it can be easily seen by all.
 - Concern was expressed by a resident, at the state of the grass verge on Free Green Lane following some electrical conduit work in the road. Cheshire East Council were contacted and the matter was addressed.
 - Cheshire Wildlife Trust, as part of their 'Go Wild for Wild Flowers' initiative, invited Parish Councils to identify verges in the village where wild flowers could be planted. The Parish Council made a number of proposals to the Cheshire Wildlife Trust. In addition, there is a proposal from Cheshire West and Chester Council to plant a perennial pollinator verge of wild flowers along Hulme Lane from the motorway bridge towards the village.
 - The Parish Council has worked hard to keep the footpaths in the village in good repair and passable. Work has been carried out, in partnership with several landowners, to highlight and address any issues on the footpaths and replace styles where necessary.
- **Pest Control**

During 2021/22 some residents expressed concern about pest control in the village. The Parish Council liaised with Cheshire West and Chester Council and local residents to address the problem.
 - **Dogs**

There have been a few reports this year of dogs being out of control. This has included dogs attacking other dogs, and also dogs straying into farmers' fields with animals in. The Parish Council has paid an active role in addressing this problem and

highlighting the responsibilities of dog owners. In addition, details of dog control have been included in the 'Countryside Code', which was incorporated into the Welcome Packs.

- **Communication**

The Parish Council have produced and delivered three newsletters over the year which have been emailed or delivered to every household in the village.

- **Christmas Tree**

For the second year, the Parish Council put up a Christmas Tree near Smithy Green to help cheer everyone up over the difficult winter. New Christmas Tree lights were funded by the Parish Council.

- **Crime**

The Parish Council continues to work with the local police force and receives a monthly report of crime incidents in the village, which is very helpful. The police also hold regular PCSO surgeries to discuss any worries or concerns.

- **Consultations**

The Parish Council are regularly invited to become involved in key consultations about various matters. This year this has included consultations about:

- HS2 and the various environmental implications.
- The Hynet North West Hydrogen Pipeline. Hynet were consulting about routing options for a below ground hydrogen pipeline across the North West.
- Cheshire West and Chester Community Governance Review. The result of this Review was that there was no change in the governance arrangements for Lower Peover Parish Council.

- **Health and Safety**

A defibrillator is available at 'The Country Store' on Hulme Lane, for the public to access. This has to be maintained. This year the Parish Council bought new Defibrillator pads, to ensure it was in good working order.

- **Governance**

Our Parish Clerk has worked extremely hard over the past year to ensure the governance arrangements for the Parish Council are in place. This has included reviewing the standing orders and risk register, preparing for our annual audit, and managing the budget.

5. Support for Community Initiatives

The Parish Council have supported a number of community initiatives throughout the year. This has included:

- **Covid-19 Support Group**

The Covid-19 Support Group has continued to be active throughout the year in assisting a small number of people in the village with shopping, collecting prescriptions, dog walking, and/ or a friendly phone call. We still have a large number of volunteers in the village, who are willing to help with these tasks, and who are involved with this group.

- **Help for Ukraine**

Lower Peover WI, supported by Lower Peover Parish Council, have collected many items which we have been told are urgently needed to help refugees fleeing from Ukraine. The goods collected were taken via the Macclesfield Ukrainian Centre onto the Ukrainian Cultural centre in Manchester for transport to the Ukraine.

- **Queens Platinum Jubilee**

The Parish Council have been actively involved in planning the celebrations in the village for the Queens Platinum Jubilee. We have also made a donation for the funding of this event.

6. Conclusion

The past year has been a successful year for the Parish Council.

I would like to thank our Parish Clerk, Geoff Parker, for all his hard work, support and advice throughout the year, which has been so valuable.

I would also like to thank my fellow councillors for all their hard work, dedication and good spirit in giving up their own time, and for all that they do for the Parish of Lower Peover.

Lower Peover is a very special village, with a very strong community spirit, and it has been a privilege to serve as the Chairperson of the Parish Council.

Alison Painter

Chairperson

Lower Peover Parish Council

Annual Report to Lower Peover Parish Council

The Bucklow School Charity of Richard Comberbach and his Wife

This Charity is constituted by Deed of Trust and is a registered charity No. 525858.

The Charity owns School House and part of Lower Peover Primary School building, playing field and part of surrounding land. The Trust's prime objective is to provide support to the school, including financial support.

The last report to the Parish Council was provided in April 2021. Since then the Trustees have met twice as full meetings, with extraordinary meetings as required with Mrs Dean, Head Teacher.

Current Trustees:

Ex Officio trustee Fr. M. Aldridge – Collins

Co-optive trustee & Chairperson from November 2021- Mrs S Crossman

Representative trustee for Lower Peover PC (Peover Inferior) – Mr. A McIntyre (retired as Chairman November 2021)

Representative trustee for Lower Peover PC (Nether Peover) – Mrs S Taylor Wattam

Representative trustee for Plumley with Toft & Bexton PC - Mr. A Shaw

Representative trustee for Allostock PC – Mrs J Wilson.

Co-optive trustee and treasurer - Mr N Withenshaw

November 2021.

Father Murray was welcomed being a new Trustee as the incumbent of St. Oswald's church.

Discussed: The updating the documentation of trustee's land with the Land Registry is progressing.

The new tenancy contract for School House is underway.

Plans to improve and extend the car park area within school grounds are being actioned.

A request from the Head Teacher to provide bibles for the Reception year class was agreed and the scheme to gift each school leaver with a book (choice decided upon mutually between teacher and Trustees) was continued.

April 2022

Discussed: in addition to the above, new signage around the school car park has been provided to clarify parking arrangements for users other than school staff (weddings etc).

The annual joint Trustees/Governors meetings which had been in abeyance in recent years due to illness and Covid restrictions are to be reinstated by the Head teacher.

The archiving of Trust documents continues with historical ones to be sent eventually to the Chester Records Archive Office for safekeeping.

Mr Withenshaw is liaising with the Jubilee Committee concerning the celebrations in and around school where school property may be requested.

Accounts:

The Trust had approximately £40,000 invested in Funds and approximately £10,000 in the bank account at the end of its financial year 31st July 2021. The trustee/treasurer anticipates considerable necessary expenditure in the coming year/s concerning its properties which will make inroads into the funds.

S. Geake, Correspondent to the Trustees. April 2022

Cc Allostock Parish Council

Plumley with Toft & Bexton Parish Council.

Lower Peover Women's Institute report 2021/22

Lower Peover WI has continued to thrive over the last 12mths and has now reached its maximum membership of 46. A waiting list has now been introduced. Priority will be given to new members wishing to join, who live in the village. We have been meeting on the first Wednesday of the month for over a year now at Byley Village Hall, due to the ongoing Covid cases at Lower Peover School. However, we are hoping to return to our home patch at the school for our May meeting.

Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, the President, Mrs Sally Aspin has run an aid post from her house in Free Green Lane. This has been very well supported by the members. In time it was extended to the whole of the village, and to Over Peover and Plumley WI's.

All aid received is sorted, boxed and labelled in both English and Ukrainian Cyrillic to go through customs, and then taken to the newly set up Macclesfield Aid post in Sutton Mill, Gunco Rd. From there it is transported into Ukraine itself. Feed-back from that strife torn country has been very helpful in supplying exactly what is needed and requested. Lower Peover WI members should all take a bow for their unstinting generosity and their support for this venture. Two members gave up their afternoon to run a cake stall, selling cakes made by members. The resulting profit has enabled us to buy £250.00 of much needed dressings and medical care to send to the field hospitals set up behind the front lines.

As Lower Peover WI we look into the future with confidence. We have such a wonderful diverse group of members, who not only enjoy meeting up every month, but are also willing and able to involve themselves in the wider community local community, and beyond.

