

The Parish Council Of Lower Peover

Comprising

Nether Peover
(Cheshire West and Chester)

Peover Inferior
(Cheshire East)

Clerk to the Council: Mr. Geoffrey Parker
5 Daisy Close
Pickmere
WA16 0WE
Tel: 07842510313

Email: lowerpeoverparishcouncil@outlook.com

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT -

The Annual Assembly of the Parish for LOWER PEOVER will be held at Lower Peover primary school on Wednesday 10th May 2023 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
28th April 2023

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2022
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 11th May 2022 AT 7.00PM**

Present: Councillor A Painter (Chair), Councillor L Corlett, Councillor A Brown,
Councillor H Agan de Visser, S Wilson,

Clerk Mr G Parker

1. Apologies

George Dutton

2. Minutes of the meeting held 7th May 2021

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

Ms Charlotte Peters Rock spoke about the history and current situation regarding the Knutsford and District War Memorial stating that the proposals regarding the sale and redevelopment contradicted previous undertakings and should not be permitted. The position was noted.

Signed:

Date:

**Chairperson's Annual Report
Lower Peover Parish Council
May 2023**

1. Introduction

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

We have had another year of change, and many challenges, however the Parish Council have been working hard to improve the quality of life of residents in our village.

2. Parish Councillors

There have been some changes in councillors during the year.

In March 2023, Councillor Heather Agan de Visser resigned due to work commitments, after being on the Council for a year. Heather took over the IT element of the Parish Plan, and I would like to thank her for all she has done whilst in office.

In May 2023, Councillor Alan Brown decided to step down as a councillor. Alan has been a Parish Councillor for over 6 years and during that time, he has achieved such a lot for the residents of Lower Peover. He will be very much missed by so many people. I would like to thank him very much for the contribution that he has made to the village.

We currently have a vacancy for two new councillors, and are in the process of co-opting two new people onto the Parish Council.

3. Parish Plan

In March 2022 the Parish Plan was reviewed and revised to take into account the achievements undertaken and future developments that we would like to see happen. Action plans were written for each workstream.

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 was updated in May 2022, and Parish Councillors deliver the Welcome Packs, in person, to all new residents.

- **Playground Improvement**

An upgrade of our play area at Swan Grove has taken place this year. Two new attractions (a basket swing and a monkey climbing frame) were added to the playground, as well as two new picnic tables incorporating seats. The seat at the back of the play area has also been renovated. Soft texture areas and walkways have been introduced into the play area.

To mark the upgrade, local residents were invited to an 'opening event', and complimentary drinks and snacks were provided for the children attending.

This project was partially funded by the Parish Council.

- **Biodiversity**

Last year we renovated the pond on the school field in Lower Peover, and it was decided that this year we would focus on renovating the pond at the junction of Barrows Brow and Free Green Lane. In May 2022, the Cheshire Wildlife Trust were consulted by the Parish Council about how we could bring the pond 'back to life', as very little could live in it due to years of mud, silt and dead leaves building up.

They told us that we needed to get more light into the pond, and recommended that we cut back some of the vegetation around the pond. In February 2023, three trees, that were already dying of ash dieback, were cut back, and in March and April 2023, volunteers worked extremely hard to cut back a lot of the low-lying vegetation.

We are currently planning the next stage in the work on the pond. However, I would like to thank everyone that has worked on it so far. It is a tribute to the community spirit in the village that so much has been achieved.

- **Fibre Broadband**

A Lower Peover Fibre to the Premises [FTTP] working group has been set up in the village, supported by the Parish Council, and has been working very hard to roll out FTTP under the government's gigabit voucher scheme.

On the 12th April 2023, the identified supplier, VISPA, installed the main fibre cabinet on Foxcovert Lane and Openreach has installed the main input fibre to this location. Once the electricity supply is connected, VISPA have said they will start deploying fibre to the houses. Exactly where the fibre will be deployed first however depends on the approved government funding.

The government relaunched its funding scheme in January 2023, however it has been beset with problems.

Members of the working group are lobbying government in relation to the funding issues and are liaising with Ester McVey MP, BDUK [the organisation that administers the grants], VISPA and the Minister of State for Data and Digital Infrastructure, to try and resolve these funding issues.

- **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. Frequent examples of speeding in the village have been recorded by our local speed watch volunteers. Thus, the Parish Council asked Cheshire West and Chester Council [CWAC] to undertake a traffic survey at four points on Middlewich Road and Crown Lane. The survey recorded average traffic speeds at every one of these points in excess of the permitted speed limits.

As a result of the survey, the Parish Council asked CWAC to review the appropriateness of the speed limits in the village and to consider what traffic calming measures could be introduced.

It was agreed that new 30mph road markings should be placed on Middlewich Road and Crown Lane, to remind people of the speed limit. A further project under consideration is extending the 30mph speed limit on Hulme Lane towards Back Lane. A traffic survey will be undertaken on this stretch of road to see if this is necessary.

In addition, as mentioned above, volunteers in the Parish Council Community Speedwatch Team continue to carry out speedwatch sessions, and have caught many offenders. We hope this will act as a deterrent to speeding vehicles in the future.

- **Planning Protocols**

A planning protocol was drawn up in March 2023 to guide the planning aspects that the Parish Council should consider are acceptable in the village and those that are not.

- **Website and Database**

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.

One feature on the website is that you can now sign up to the Parish Council newsletter online.

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 over twenty planning applications in the village.

- **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 [CWAC] about the traffic problems along 'The Cobbles' at school drop off and collection times. We have been liaising with Lower Peover school and CWAC to alleviate these problems.

In addition, for some time now we have been concerned about the state of the three cast iron fingerposts in the village, as they need refurbishment and repairing. In early 2023, the fingerpost on Hulme Lane at the junction with Back Lane was the first to undergo a refurbishment and is now looking very smart.

- **Environment**

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

- The Council arranged for a litter pick across the village in November 2022. Many bags of rubbish were collected including some very unusual items!
- Verge markers have been installed at the junction of Swan Grove and Hulme Lane. 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.
- We have given a donation to Lower Peover Church for the cutting of the grass in the graveyard.
- In March 2022, two trees were planted at Lower Peover School and Lower Peover churchyard to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Plaques to commemorate the Queens Platinum Jubilee were also planted near the trees. This year we have also planted trees at Swan Grove play area and Cherry Walk.
- The Parish Council has worked hard to ensure that dog fouling in the village is kept to a minimum and that the dog bins are in the correct places.
- The disused phone box on the corner of Hulme Lane and Crown Lane was bought by the Parish Council some time ago, and we are now looking to use it for the benefit of the village. However, before anything else could be done it needed to be moved a few feet to the right, as the tree roots from the tree next to it were making it unstable. A section 50 license was obtained from Cheshire West and Chester Council to carry out this work, and the phone box was moved on the 30th November 2022. We are now carrying out local consultation on what the phone box should be used for. Current ideas include a book lending store or an information point for the village.

- **Communication**

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

- **Christmas Tree**

For the third year, the Parish Council put up a Christmas Tree in the village. This time the tree was placed on Hulme Lane. We needed to get a license to plant the tree which took some time, however we were successful in the end. An event to switch on the Christmas tree lights was held on the 30 November 2022, and over 100 people in the village attended. The Bostock Singers sung a repertoire of Christmas songs and carols, and Christmas drinks and mince pies were given out to all residents. The Parish Council funded this event with support from Cheshire West and Chester 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 and local matters of interest**

The Parish Council are regularly invited to become involved in key consultations and local matters of interest about various matters. This year this has included consultations and discussion 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.
- Boundary Commission for England 2023.
- Changes to the future airspace at Manchester Airport.
- Knutsford and District War Memorial.
- Developing a Neighbourhood Plan.

- **Health and Safety**

A defibrillator is available at 'The Country Store' on Hulme Lane, for the public to access. In September 2022, the Parish Council carried out action to ensure the electricity to the defibrillator box was maintained.

- **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 several community initiatives throughout the year. This has included:

- **Covid-19 Support Group**

The Covid-19 Support Group has continued 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.

- **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 have been taken via the Macclesfield Ukrainian Centre onto the Ukrainian Cultural centre in Manchester for transport to the Ukraine. I would like to thank Mrs Sally Aspin for all she has done in organising the supply of much needed aid to Ukraine. A tremendous achievement!

- **Queens Platinum Jubilee**

The Parish Council have been actively involved in planning the celebrations in the village for the Queens Platinum Jubilee in June 2022. We have also made a donation for the funding of this event. Activities held in the village included:

- Queens Platinum Jubilee Concert in St Oswalds Church, Lower Peover.
- Lighting of the Queens Platinum Jubilee Beacon and Royal Fireworks.
- Royal walks from Allostock, Over Peover and Lower Peover to Plumley Village Hall.
- Royal bike ride.
- Big Jubilee lunch.
- Bear parachute jump.

- **King Charles III Coronation**

The Parish Council have been actively involved in planning the celebrations for the coronation of King Charles III and has assisted with the funding of this. At the time of writing this report final plans are being made which include the following:

- On the 6th May 2023, a Coronation Celebration will be held in the village with 400 people attending. There will be a marquee, hog roast, and Abba tribute band.
- On the 7th May 2023, a Coronation Celebration Big Lunch will be held in the marquee.

- **Sky TV filming**

A filming request was received from SKY TV to film a programme at various points throughout the village. The Parish Council received a £1000 donation from SKY TV in relation to this.

- **Village Coffee Mornings**

During a time of financial concerns in the country, it was decided to set up a series of weekly coffee mornings in the village at The Bells of Peover and Plumleys, with the aim of enabling residents to meet new people and have a chat. The village coffee mornings were subsidised by the Lower Peover Fundraising Account and the Parish Council.

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

Lower Peover Women's Institute report 2022/23

Lower Peover WI continues to thrive, having opened up to new numbers earlier this year, the number of members has now risen to 56, a maximum for the school hall we feel, so we have had to once more reinstate a waiting list, which already has a couple of names on it. The meetings take place on the first Wednesday of the month at Lower Peover CofE Primary school. Most meetings consist of a speaker as well as ample opportunity for socialising.