

Minutes PCAP 20th April 2023

Woodborough Parish Rooms 7pm

Present:

Dawn Wilson (Chair, PCAP Health and Youth, Wilcot, Huish & Oare PC)
Colin Gale (Vice-Chair, PCAP Transport, Rushall PC)
Peter Deck (PCAP Planning, Pewsey Resident)
Tony Gallagher (Upavon PC)
Hew Helps (Easton Royal Resident)
Beverley Helps (Easton Royal PC)
Curly Haskell (PVTP Volunteer, PCAP Standards Working Group, Pewsey Resident)
Richard Rogers (CEM, Wiltshire Council)
Caroline McCain (Wiltshire Council)
Cllr Paul Oatway (PCAP Crime & Community Safety, Wiltshire Council)
Susie Brew (PCAP Coordinator)

- 1) Introductions were completed.
- 2) Minutes accepted, proposed Colin Gale, seconded Dawn Wilson.
Matters arising – Cllr Oatway confirmed that the issue relating to Ladies' Bridge and the Canal & Rivers Trust remains unresolved. An email received from Jane Brown confirms that in the January meeting minutes, she is not the person running the Pewsey Green group, it is Kate Silvester.
- 3) Apologies: Carolyn Whistler (PCAP Environment), Caroline Dalrymple (Pewsey) and Charles Lee Bennett (Upavon PC).
- 4) No Declarations of Interest.
- 5) Dawn confirmed that Carolyn Whistler has resigned from her role as Environment for PCAP and thanked her for her contribution over the years.
- 6) **Results of EV Charging & Bike Repair Stands Survey**
 - a) EV Charging Points
There were 5 parishes that had an interest, but not all had a suitable location. There is also an issue for some parishes where they are on a spur, so the power supply would not be adequate.
It was decided that PCAP would provide information on setting an EV strategy, implementation, grant funds, etc. Dawn has signed up to a Webinar on EV strategy, May 31st. This is free to any who wish to sign up.
 - b) Bike Repair Stands
There were 5 parishes that had an interest, most with a potential location. It was decided that PCAP, PVRUG & the PVTP would include Bike Repair Stands in the planned application for grant funding from GWR. The installation of the first bike repair stand may be progressed through the Pewsey Area Board as this will allow us to provide additional information for the implementation at other locations.

7) Community Plan

- a) **Economy** – Pewsey Heritage Centre, Crofton and Wilton Windmill have all reopened for the 2023 season.

There is a major issue with regard to Wiltshire’s tourism future. Following a report on the tourism structure in England by VisitEngland and VisitBritain, there will be Local Visitor Economy Partnerships (LVEPs) at (at least) a county level. The LVEPs will have a seat at the table for funding and resources. VisitWiltshire is probably the leading Destination Management Organisation and was considered the leading DMO to become an LVEP. However, Wiltshire Council recently announced that they will not be contributing (a relatively small amount of) funding to VisitWiltshire with effect from April 2024. This means that because VisitWiltshire does not have an element of public funding they are no longer eligible to be an LVEP.

This excludes the county of Wiltshire from promotional activities by VisitEngland and VisitBritain, trade fairs, resources, training and funding.

The Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership (PVTP) has sent a letter explaining the impact of this decision on the Vale of Pewsey to Cllr Richard Clewer, to our Pewsey Area Board and to Danny Kruger MP. As yet there has been no response. Partner businesses in the PVTP have also been informed.

You can see a copy of this letter here - <https://www.visitpewseyvale.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/2023-03-Letter-to-Richard-Clewer-at-Wiltshire-Council-re-VW-public-funding.pdf> and a copy will be sent out with the minutes.

Any additional support of our letter to Wiltshire Council from our Parish Councils would be greatly appreciated.

Another reminder that Andover Trails will be using the Pewsey Vale Circular Way route for their Ultra Marathon on Saturday 15th July. They are starting and ending at Linkenholt.

- b) **Transport – Buses** - Colin confirmed that the launch of the new bus routes will be at The Vale leisure centre. No date yet. The DFT Bus Service is ready to go but needs drivers. The timetabled option needs to be retendered to operators due to increasing costs making it challenging with larger buses.

Trains – the Pewsey Vale Rail User Group, together with others, have put in a bid to become a Community Rail Partner (CRP) with GWR, the Avon & Kennet CRP which will stretch from Reading to Westbury.

A presentation on Devizes Gateway station between Danny Kruger MP and Network Rail took place but unfortunately the benefits for visitors and Devizes residents wasn’t sufficient when compared to the costs (between £40m and £50m) including changes to Westbury. An impact document on existing services of Devizes Gateway station shows that if it were to go ahead, Pewsey may lose its Intercity status, as well as the impact on capacity and freight.

Roads – Danny Kruger MP is supporting the issue of HGVs on the A338. However, the problem must not be moved from the A338 to the A342 and A345, where residents and road users have the same problems.

A Freight Management Plan from Wiltshire Council and a national Freight Management Plan are needed.

- c) **Planning**- Peter Deck reported that a large housing development outside the development area of Pewsey has been refused permission by Wiltshire Council at appeal.

- d) **Crime & Community Safety** – Cllr Paul Oatway is concerned with the level of crime in the area. The focus has been on Devizes currently due to violence and knife crime, but theft and vehicle crime in the Pewsey Community area is of concern.



- e) **Environment** – Carolyn Whistler, after many years of service, has stepped down from her position looking after the Environment area of the PCAP plan. Carolyn provided the following updates from the CPRE:
Between 1st and 31st May, join in with Hedgelife Help Out by filling out a short questionnaire on a hedgerow in your local area. We will use the information you send us to build up a picture of hedgerows across the country and how they can be improved. It'll also be a fun activity whether you choose to do it solo or with friends, family or your local community. Sign up below and show your support for hedgerows!
Dark, starry skies are a special feature of our countryside. But as light pollution has increased, many of us are no longer enjoying truly dark skies – and it's having a negative impact on the wildlife that rely on darkness, too. We need to show our MPs that acting to reduce light pollution and increasing dark skies will be better for people, nature and the climate. If you haven't already, can you take a moment to email your MP?
Dawn added that they have had to reinstate some of their street lighting. Marlborough holds an annual Dark Skies event.
Caroline said that Wiltshire Council is keen to replicate the green surveys undertaken by Bedwyn and Pewsey across the Pewsey Community Area.
Dawn asked for a volunteer for the Environment in PCAP.
- f) **Culture, Heritage & Leisure** – Susie updated that there had recently been a book launch at the Pewsey Heritage Centre for a first-time author, Victoria Walsh. It is a story about the river keeper on the River Avon in Enford Combe. It was very well-attended.
North Wessex Downs have their annual Walking Festival from 2nd to 11th June, with seven walks in the Pewsey Community Area.
- g) **Health & Wellbeing** – Next meeting is on 27th April on Zoom. Members of the H&WB Forum will be asked to provide information on gaps or needs for their group.
Walking and Footpath Groups contribute to the health and wellbeing of people in the area. Tools and materials (including kissing gate installation tools) have been purchased for Footpath Groups/Parish Councils to use in the maintenance of their network. Contact Susie at pcap@hotmail.co.uk for more information and if you would like to borrow them.
- h) **Children & Young People** – This initiative was handed over to Cat Ellis (who has since stood down) and Lisa Brindley. A lack of venue for the Youth Café stalled this programme.
It was hoped that a jointly run Funday with Pewsey PC and Pewsey Carnival would take place this summer. However, Pewsey PC has decided to put those funds towards the use of the foyer at The Vale leisure centre as a space for the weekly Youth Café from September.
Community First is running an activity event at the Bouverie Hall on 24th as well as a summer activity.
Upavon has secured a football coach through the LYN funding. Upavon and Burbage have funded the Blue Bus for a further 3 months. Richard is waiting to hear from Burbage regarding a football coach.
Pewsey is to be a trial for Safe Space for Youth with the weekly Youth Café at the leisure centre. They will offer virtual reality from September.

i) **Treasurer Report** – Dawn provided a summary of the accounts.

PCAP Accounts 2022 to 2023

As at April 1 2022

Balance Carried Forward	9,649.13
Of which restricted	6,214.95
Unrestricted	3,434.18

	By Project	Income	Expenses	Crd frwrd From last yr	In this yr Leaves		Carry Forward 2023
		£	£	£	£		£
	Health	1,440.00	1,953.30	3,906.57	3,393.27	Health	3,393.27
	Unrestricted Core Costs	2,205.00	1,970.43	2,457.48	2,692.05	Unrestricted	2,692.05
	Shalbourne	1,361.25	3,870.41	3,285.08	775.92	Shalbourne	775.92
	PVTP	500.00	536.00	0	36.00	PVTP	36.00
	Footpath Projects	2,528.80	2,528.80	0	-	Footpath Project	-
	Cost of Living Project	3,500.00	1,560.00	0	1,940.00	Cost of Living Project	1,940.00
		11,535.05	12,418.94	9,649.13	8,765.24		8,765.24
	Balance at bank March 31 2023		£ 8,765.24				
	<i>Of which restricted</i>		£ 6,109.19				
	<i>Unrestricted</i>		£ 2,656.05				
			£ 8,765.24				
	Balance at bank March 31 2021		£ 16,797.42				

The overall picture is positive, but PCAP will still need contributions from Parish Councils for running costs. The support of Parish Councils is greatly appreciated.

The Cost of Living Project has been well-subscribed to assist families and others with emergency situations, for example the replacement of a broken washing machine. Primary Schools have details of the scheme, which has a very simple application process, so that they can put families in need in contact with Dawn. All applicants must have a referee such as a school, doctor, etc. The scheme has helped 25 families and 28 children so far.

A reminder that the July PCAP meeting is the annual meeting where a Chair is nominated.

- 8) **Pewsey Area Board Update**- Cllr Oatway updated that the Wiltshire Council Code of Conduct is released this week. He encourages Parish to adopt the Code which will standardise expectations and make investigations much easier to perform.

The main cause for deterioration seems to be poor water management with blocked gullies and drains.

- 9) **Parish Issues Review** – No new issues or fly-tipping instances were raised by Parish Councils.

- 10) **Any Other Business** – Pewsey Community Land Trust has its AGM on 24th April at 7pm at the Wesley Methodist Hall. The final set of drawings for the Police House will be available. There is a feasibility study being done for solar power generation at schools.

PCAP is looking for a venue for the meeting on Thursday 19th October (6.30pm set up – 9.30pm dismantle). The Chair thanked everyone for attending and Woodborough Parish Council for the use of the hall and closed the meeting at 9pm.