

**Penkhull Residents Association**  
**Minutes of Meeting Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May**  
**Held at The Studio, Penkhull Village Hall**

Attendees:

**Committee:** - M Mabey, J Chinn, M Allen, D Chadwick, S Brindley, K Jones, G Rylands, S Rylands, D Hindle. G Fletcher, B Jarvest, M Oxby

**In attendance:** - S Hill

**Observers:** - J Wakefield, M Wakefield, A Lees, J Stephens, P Stephens, L Gentile, A Gentile, M Willis, L Chesworth, G Snell,

**Apologies:** - Cllr D Santoro, PCSO V Lacy

MM opened the meeting at 19.30.

Mark welcomed Sharon and Dave to the committee as the new secretaries.

Minutes of the last meeting on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April were accepted by e mail.

Police Update:

No police in attendance

Parish Council

BJ Read through the previous circulated document and explained the benefits and negatives of Parish Councils.

A parish council would be run with volunteers but would come with a cost to the villagers by a slight increase in the council tax, 7.1/2 percent of the village need to vote in favour for this to happen.

Question to ask, do the villagers want a Parish Council?

SH had contacted a local professor who was an expert in this area, and also someone at the council who can advise on the advantages and disadvantages. BJ will be making contact to gain more knowledge, with a possibility of inviting to a future meeting.

Highways, car parking and transport:

MO keeps reporting potholes and checking <https://uk.one.network/> website for ongoing road works in the village.

The draft paper for the 20-mph zone round Penkhull is complete, discussion on how best to make the village safer, the following were discussed – increase in traffic calming, improving the junction with Queens Rd and Newcastle Lane, discussed if these are to be included with the 20mph zone or separate issues.

Discussion about double yellow lines on Newcastle Lane at the Queens Rd Junction.

SH to take up with council about completion of pothole filling, Stone Street still requires potholes completing, Princes Rd needs to be done overnight.

Key takeaway about the "20's Plenty" Campaign is that Matt Oxby will draft a letter to Latif Patel at Stoke Council to help us begin to realise a 20 mph zone for Penkhull, with help from Graham Fletcher, John Chinn and Mike Barr.

SH to arrange a meeting with cabinet member for highways and BJ, GF, and JC

MO to put together an action plan on road safety in the village.

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SH has been in contact with the council regarding a letter that went out about road works and tree cutting along Thistley Hough, it should have mentioned road works, not tree cutting.

**Buildings and Planning:**

JC stated that project star is now complete, the new hospital car park is now open and in use.

**The Royal Infirmary** - A discussion took place on the old hospital site which will be up for sale shortly, it was agreed that the RA needed to investigate planning applications as soon as any were submitted, it was suggested there needs to be a mix of housing types. Concerns were raised over local schools coping with extra children from the development, SH that the birth rate was dropping, and numbers of year 7 pupils were also reducing.

**Penkhull Farm** – All work on the farm is currently at a standstill, this is due to a wait for the results of an ecological survey, possible sighting of bats. SH stated there was no mention of knotweed in the report.

A Leese said J Stokes has requested a Right of Light report, because of how close new builds are going to be to Meliden Way properties, 2 property owners have consented to the study, but a 3<sup>rd</sup> owner is absent.

SH, planning officer and enforcement officer visited the site the previous week, the owner is making the buildings safe, and has been asked to keep in touch with the planning department.

**Dove Cottage** – Concerns were raised that there was still no work being carried out on the rebuilding of the garden wall, also the driveway was getting used as an extension to the owner's car sales business.

**Penkhull Education Centre** – RA members are concerned the building is falling into a state of non-repair even though it is a listed building, John Rouse, Chief Executive of Stoke Council, told Sarah that the Penkhull Infants site is not a top priority listed building. People have viewed the building, but the high renovation cost is an issue. It was asked if the building could be spruced up a bit on the outside, making it a more attractive building to look at. SH agreed to look into this.

**The Mount Estate** – DH went through the document sent out by e mail about the estate, including a brief history, area covered, and current issues. The main issue is the current number of HMO's, (Houses of multiple occupancy), approx. number is 9 within the boundaries of the Mount Estate, SH and GS said there were ways of limiting the numbers of these properties in the future, and the council are currently developing an HMO policy. DH is to investigate this and feedback at a future meeting. Possible hanging basket competition to give an incentive for householders in the area to improve the area.

**Donald Bates Property** – There is currently no update on this property, planning permission has expired and no further development plans have been submitted.

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Sarah Hill had a walk-about with John Rouse, recently and pointed out the state of Penkhull Farm and Donald Bates House.

Sarah said that JR may be able to bring some pressure to bear on the owners of Donald Bates to help to do something about it.

Open Spaces:

It was reported there was poor management of trees in the village, trees removed without explanation, no new trees planted. BJ to do a open space survey starting with where trees have been removed and where trees are needed to be planted/re planted.

**Bench** on the croft is now installed, although there is lots of litter getting left all round it, including smashed bottles, a discussion took place about the possible sighting of a bin alongside the bench and who would be responsible to empty it.

Community:

**Fun Day:** KJ updated on the current plans for this, a meeting took place on 09/05/24 regarding next years planned fund day, this is also to include celebrations of the Cities 100 years celebration; by not having it any earlier hopefully it can be included in the councils list of celebration events.

Possible venues are the croft/Thistley Hough, awaiting reply from Thistley Hough, if the school is not possible alternative possibility could be Bakewell St Park.

The next planned meeting for the fun day committee is the 06/06/24, possibly at The Greyhound.

**Defibrillators** – there are currently 3 sited in the village with money available for a 4th, it was suggested this needs to be in a different part of the village than the current 3, Penkhull Wine Stores on the corner of Westland Street and Frederick Av was put forward as a possibility.

Communication:

**Penkhull Recorder** – BJ gave distribution date for the next edition as mid-July, and members could start submitting articles.

Finance:

Accounts stand at £5433, no outstanding bills, other than the website hosting is up for renewal. DC is meeting with Sue Birch on Tuesday to discuss this and the website in general.

There was no correspondence, items for future meetings or any other business discussed.

Meeting closed at 21:37 hrs.

**Date and time of next Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> June 19:30 Hours**