

PEASMARSH PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Council meeting held Tuesday 7th February 2023 at 7.30pm at Peasmarsh Memorial Hall.

Present: Councillors: David Pankhurst (Chair) (DP), Mick Coleman (MC), Peter Lamont (PL), Hilary Pankhurst (HP), Gina Sanderson (GS), Robert Barham (RB), Ray Hollman (RH) and Ben Clinton (BC).
Also present: Clerk and RFO Amy Head (AH) (via Zoom link due to Covid), County Councillor Paul Redstone (PR)

104. Apologies for absence – District Councillor Lizzie Hacking (LH).

105. Disclosure of interests under the Council's Code of Conduct – GS for 108.2, RH for 109.2 and HP, DP and MC for 110.3. RH also declared an interest in planning application RR/2023/25/P.

106. Minutes of the last Council meeting – January 10th 2023 – Unanimously agreed. Due to the Clerk having Covid, it was agreed that the Chairman's electronic signature could be used. There were no members of the public present.

107. District & County Councillor Reports – District Councillor Report – There were no reports as there were no District Councillors present. **County Councillor Report** – PR arrived at 19.50. PR said that ESCC's budget was passed at full council today. Pot holes continue to be repaired, with some roads requiring complete resurfacing in the Spring. PL asked PR whether he had chased Highways about his traffic monitoring Black Cat license request for Mill Lane. PR said that he wasn't convinced that PL had a good enough case to need a license. If a new development was proposed then there may be a reason, but currently knowing these numbers would not effect change. PL argued against this reasoning and said that it was frustrating as the information would be useful for the NDP and for the rest of the West end of the village e.g., Mackerel Hill. RH said that besides the speeding traffic, the main issue on Mackerel Hill is the narrow and inaccessible pavements (especially for mobility scooters). PR said that he would look into this. The idea of a narrow road sign, or a reduced speed limit in Mill Lane was also discussed but PR cautioned that the cost of consultation for this was probably not justified. PL asked how much a consultation would cost. **ACTION:** PR said that he would find out the cost of consultation. MC asked PR if he had any follow up from Highways about work on the drain outside Kimberly Cottage, Main Street. PR said he hadn't heard back formally but thought they would take action. **ACTION:** PR to chase Highways about this Kimberly Cottage drain. DP asked PR if he had heard any further information on the Central government funding proposed for defibrillators. He said he hadn't heard any more and that he thought it would ultimately be a District Council issue.

108. Housing –

108.1 Tanyard field development – No updates.

108.2 Pippins' development – No updates.

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date: 7/3/23

108.3 RDC Local Plan – DP, GS, Mike Inkson of the NDP group and the Clerk are due to meet Jeff Pryah from the RDC Planning department on Friday 17th February to discuss RDC's proposals for Peasmarsh prior to RDC's formal consultation. This meeting should alert the PC to what RDC are thinking. PL expressed an interest in attending. PL to email Mike Inkson for details.

108.4 Neighbourhood Planning for Peasmarsh – GS reported that the NDP group is preparing to get formal approval of the final draft of the NDP from the PC at their extraordinary meeting on Thursday 9th Feb. Once the PC have approved the final draft, it will go to RDC on Monday 13th February as part of Regulation 15. All of the plan has been sent to Councillors now prior to Thursday's meeting. GS said that the 2021 Census information is coming out now and this has changed some of the information in the plan in relation to wages and education. It has also shown that there is a lot more working from home post-Covid, which has had an impact on the demands on Wi-Fi and an increased appetite for home extensions/home office building.

109. Community Matters and Issue

109.1 Village traffic and roads

109.1.1 VAS – PL supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC website.

109.1.2 Speed Watch – PL supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC website.

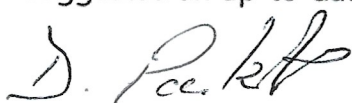
109.1.3 Black Cat speeding device – PL supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC website. PL said that it was frustrating he can't get a license for the Black Cat monitoring on Mill Lane as it would have been really useful to compare the volume of traffic in the Winter versus the Summer (especially with increased traffic to the Cherry Barn for weddings and to the Tillingham estate for the vineyard). Flackley Ash would also like traffic information and this would open up the door to monitoring this area too. DP asked if the NDP group needed more up to date Black Cat data. GS said that they were probably okay now and had adequate comparative data.

109.2 Recreation Ground/Playspace/Pavilion – RH confirmed that Lindy Alton has taken over as bookings clerk from 1st February 2023. The Clerk has set up a standing order to pay her monthly wage. Lindy has had a few enquiries for bookings with bouncy castles which she has had to turn down as they are not suitable for the Memorial Hall/Memorial Hall car park or Pavilion but are allowed in the Recreation Grounds. Lindy is in the process of formulating a new booking form with RH. RH showed the Clerk a South East Water letter from December 2022 requesting a water pipe check for the Bowls Club. The date has now passed so the PC decided to take no action at present. The PC discussed the Bowls Club site and DP suggested that a new ESCC grant (up to £5k) (N+P in East Sussex Fund) was available and this money could be applied for to aid the building of an accessible community garden/allotment.

ACTION: DP to go through the grant information and put together an application.

109.3 Emergency/Resilience Plan – DP said that he had read up a lot about this and he feels that it involves a lot of work and volunteers and although it is a nice idea, it is not practical. It is liable to be outdated approximately every 6 months. The issue is also how to stay in contact during an emergency. Especially since when power was lost last year in February 22's storm, all Wi-Fi was lost and mobile and landline phone signal. PR suggested an up-to-date PC website was very useful for providing updates in an

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emergency. HP said that she felt that it was up to the utility companies and the power network to have an emergency plan not us. More generators are needed. GS said that in meetings with the Power Network, they admitted that Peasmarsh is not well served and there are currently no plans to improve this. This is detailed in the infrastructure section of the NDP. PR requested more information on this and the PC suggested emailing Mike Inkson for more specific detail.

- 109.4 2023 Local Elections** – The PC discussed ways to encourage people to stand as a Parish Councillor. The Clerk said that ESALC were in the process of sending out promotional material encouraging people to stand, especially the younger generation and those not typically associated with the Parish Council. This promotional information would be decimated to Parish Councils shortly. It was decided that the best way to encourage it locally would be via the Facebook page and the Periodical. DP would have liked to have spoken to the District Councillors tonight to discuss the real risk of disenfranchisement with the new photo id requirement. The PC raised the issue of how photo ID would work if a resident forgets their id but the voting booths are about to close. The process seems problematic and does not seem to fully solve the issue of voter fraud.
- 109.5 Coronation celebrations** - DP highlighted the recent letter from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities minister Michael Gove encouraging community celebrations for the King's Coronation on Saturday 6th May 2023. Street parties are encouraged, road closures simplified and National Lottery funding/District Council funding will be forthcoming. **RESOLVED:** The PC will make a decision on planning any celebrations when more information on grants etc is made public but there is not much time left to plan any events.
- 109.6 Horse and Cart defibrillator** – The Clerk reported that Carly Wells from the Horse and Cart had phoned her to say that she had found the defibrillator and wanted to know if we wanted it back. The Clerk said to keep it there for now as the pub is due to re-open in the next few months. **RESOLVED:** After discussing the issue, the PC decided it would be better to take the defibrillator back and put it in the Brickfields' phone box with clear labelling now that the police had settled the PC's civil claim with them for the missing Brickfields' phone box defibrillator. A replacement for the Horse and Cart can then be discussed at a later point if and when the recently announced central government defibrillator grants scheme starts. Property tags were discussed, but the battery life on a them is poor, so it was agreed that this wasn't a viable option. **ACTION:** Clerk to contact Carly Wells and collect the defibrillator from the Horse and Cart pub and install in the Brickfields' phone box for public use.
- 109.7 Defibrillator in Brickfields' phone box** – The Clerk reported that the Police, via the Civil Claim process have agreed to pay the PC a without prejudice £400 towards the defibrillator that they disposed of following an incident last year. The PC agreed that the amount offered was disappointing as the defibrillator cost nearly £800 and was only a few years old. However, it was not worth pursuing further as they would not receive any more money and it would just waste more time. **ACTION:** Clerk to write back to the Police Claim's department and accept their offer.

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109.8 Oast Cottage – No updates on when work will start on demolishing the house and building a semi-detached house in its place. **ACTION:** Clerk to write to Dentons, the developer and ask for an update on progress/timeline for when work will start.

110. Reports and other items

110.1 Clerk's Report – Noted.

110.2 Setting date for Parish Assembly between 1st March – 5th June 2023 – The PC agreed to hold the annual parish assembly on 31st May 2023 and move the AGM and usual monthly meeting to Tuesday 23rd 2023 at 7pm and 7.30pm respectively.

110.3 Memorial Hall – HP reported that the current Treasurer is leaving soon and asked the Councillors to contact her if they knew anyone that might be interested in this role.

110.4 Allotments – MC reported that he had inspected the allotments last week when he gave the Clerk a water meter reading and all was fine. The Clerk reported that Plot number 4 had handed in his notice and the plot would be offered to the next on the waiting list in March, in preparation for rent renewal on 1st April. The tenant had offered the PC tools from his allotment for sale. The PC declined this offer, the tenant would need to arrange sale of these items privately.

110.5 Repairs and Maintenance reports – The Clerk stated that several potholes on Church Lane and School Lane have been circled with spray paint so ESCC Highways have noted them for repair.

110.6 ESCC Highways report – Noted.

110.7 Rights of Way – The Clerk chased the ESCC Rights of Way team regarding the blocked right of way next to Bisky Bar. The Rights of Way team said that as an alternative access can be used via the entrance to the Bisky Bar garages, there is no cost benefit in pursuing this and it isn't a priority. The PC agreed about the cost but it is a point of principle. PR said that he would make it a matter of interest if the emails were forwarded to him. **ACTION:** Clerk to forward the emails/case numbers to PR for following up.

110.8 Police and PCSO Reports – Monthly police report – December 2022 - noted.

110.9 Footpaths reports – MC reported that the gate/stile (PSM/296) on the Pelsham footpath is still broken even though the Clerk reported it last November. **ACTION:** Clerk to forward to PR for chasing with the footpaths' team.

110.10 Village and environment – The Clerk said that she had received a grit bin invoice from Southern Housing and was unsure which grit bin it referred to. It was decided that it had to be the Bisky Bar grit bin. **ACTION:** MC said that he would go and check to see if it had been refilled. The Clerk to check back at the history of invoices for this grit bin. DP said that the Clerk had forwarded an email from ESCC Highways regarding 'Rural Verges as Wildlife Corridors – Trial of Early Season Reduction in Rural Grass Cutting 2023'. Peasmarsh is precluded from taking part in this trial as all their rural verges are on single track roads and reducing rural cutting would be a safety risk.

111. Financial Matters

111.1 Reports

111.1.1 Monthly statement of receipts and payments – from January 2023 – **approved by PL.**

111.1.2 Budget comparison and bank reconciliations – for January 2023 – **approved by PL.**

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111.2 To approve and ratify payments – all approved. RH and RB to provide the two online authorisers.

111.2.1 Clerk's January pay – monthly standing order: £625.73– comes out on 26th of the previous month.

111.2.2 Clerk's January expenses: £26.00

111.2.3 Francis Warren – Recreation Ground mowing, Oct and November 2022: £501.50

111.2.4 Calendar Cleaning – Recreation Ground expense: £216.00

111.2.5 Bourne Sports training course – Half term – 13th and 14th February: £350.00 – paid on 20/02/23. **Bourne Sports charged the PC less as they gave an £85 donation for the play space maintenance – received with thanks.**

111.2.6 Biffa Waste collection – monthly direct debit – February: £81.96

111.3 Receipts – none to date.

112. Correspondence – None to date.

113. Planning Matters – Noted.

Applications –

[RR/2023/25/P](#) - Westmead, Barnets Hill, Peasmarsh TN31 6YJ - Erection of a two storey side and single storey rear extension, alterations and loft conversion. The PC agreed to comment that **'The Parish Council note the planning application'**.

[RR/2023/26/P](#) - The Pavilion, Tillingham Lane, Peasmarsh TN31 6XH - Erection of rear extensions to south elevation. The PC agreed to comment that **'The Parish Council note the planning application and has no objections'**.

Decisions – None to date.

Appeals – Noted.

[2827](#) - Teviot, Malthouse Lane, Peasmarsh TN31 6TA - Proposed 4 x bedroom dwelling with associated landscaping and driveway for two vehicles – **Appeal dismissed – 13/01/2023.**

[2795](#) - Lyndhurst Cottage, Main Street, Peasmarsh TN31 6YA - Change of use from granny annexe/holiday let to separate residential dwelling – **Appeal allowed – 01/02/2023.**

114. Dates of Forthcoming Meetings: Extraordinary meeting 9th February 2023, Memorial Hall, Peasmarsh a 7.30pm and Monthly meeting, 7th March 2023, Memorial Hall, Peasmarsh at 7.30pm.

The meeting finished at 9pm.

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7/3/23