

# PEASMARSH PARISH COUNCIL



## Minutes of the Council meeting held Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7.30pm at Peasmarsh Memorial Hall.

**Present:** Councillors: David Pankhurst (DP) (Chair), Ray Hollman (RH) (Vice-Chair), Gina Sanderson (GS), Peter Lamont (PL), Hilary Pankhurst (HP), Robert Barham (RB), Georgina Dunham (GD), Ben Randall (BR) and Mick Coleman (MC).

**Also present:** Clerk and RFO Amy Head (AH) and County Councillor Paul Redstone (PR).

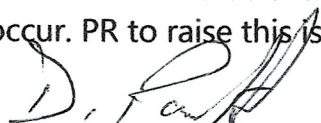
- 67. **Apologies for absence** – District Councillor Paul Osborne (PO) and Lizzie Hacking (LH).
- 68. **Disclosure of interests under the Council's Code of Conduct** – GS for 72.2, GD for 73.6 and HP, DP and MC for 74.3.
- 69. **Minutes of the last Council meetings** – Monthly meeting September 5th 2023 - agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**There were 2 members of the public present.** They wanted to discuss the potential vandalism of the PC owned ash tree in Farleys Way. Item 73.5 was brought forward for discussion. A large proportion of the tree's bark had been removed around a significant circumference of the tree's stem by what appeared to be an axe or hatchet and sections of the tree now appear dead. Discussions were had about action needed to be taken by the PC regarding the potential vandalism. **ACTION:** Clerk to report this vandalism to the police. Clerk to give the resident the details of the Peasmarsh Periodical email address for them to contact the editor about this issue and raise awareness within the community and see if anyone knows anything. RH had contacted local tree surgeons Oakden Tree Care for an opinion and it was their opinion that the tree was completely dead and needed to be felled. The resident recommended waiting to fell the tree until April/May to confirm this as he thought that there was no danger that the tree would fall down in one piece and it would give it a chance to see if it might flush back. It was agreed that if the tree were to be felled a replacement tree would be planted. **ACTION:** Clerk to contact Oakden Tree Care to cut the lower dead branches of the tree and revisit the tree's condition in the Spring. This action was updated a few days later with the confirmation by Oakden Tree Care that the tree was completing dead and should be felled. The PC agreed this action by majority, via email on 06/10/23. The interested residents were informed by the Clerk. A replacement tree to be put on next month's agenda for discussion.

**Prior to Item 70, DP introduced new Councillor Ben Randall (BR) to the rest of the PC as not everyone was present last month and full introductions were not made. Everyone present introduced themselves and welcomed BR to the PC.**

- 70. **District & County Councillor Reports – County Councillor Report** – PR supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC's website. DP raised issues with Broadband company, Gigaclear digging up a private road in Flackley Ash near Mill Lane without resident approval. PR confirmed that ESCC Highways only issued permits for Gigaclear to work on public roads. BR mentioned that Orchard Way was also a privately owned road and the same issues may occur. PR to raise this issue with ESCC Highways so that they can raise it with Gigaclear.

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**ACTION:** Clerk to write to the resident near Mill Lane to let them know that no permits were issued for work on their lane and to recommend that they write to Gigaclear and ask them to make good the damage they made to their private road. PR discussed his meetings with South East Water to improve resilience during water shortages. He now has ideas for bottle distribution drop off points. Volunteers would be sought to help with distribution with training needed to help. GD asked PR how the Flexibus was going and whether there were any issues. PR said it was going fine but needed to be well used to continue to be financially viable after its two-year funding ended. DP also asked whether PR knew what the uptake had been like on the additional weekend/evening services on the 312/3 services. PR was not aware of the changes and didn't know what the uptake had been. **ACTION:** PR to re-share the Flexibus promotional video to the Peasmarsh village Facebook pages. **District**

**Councillor Report** – There were no District Councillors present.

71. **Voluntary Patrol Crossing** – PR reported that the risk assessment for the potential crossing point from the Maltings had taken place on 08/09/23 and it was agreed it could be a volunteer patrol crossing point as there was not enough footfall for a funded crossing. GD said that she had tried to get volunteers but most wanted to be paid for doing this. **ACTION:** As a governor at Peasmarsh School, PR said that he would ask the school office/headteacher if they could advertise for volunteers.

72. **Housing** –

72.1 **Tanyard field development** – There has been no update on this development.

72.2 **Pippins' development** – No planning application has been submitted as yet.

72.3 **RDC Local Plan** – At the recent Independent Examiner Public Hearing for the PNDP on 21<sup>st</sup> September, RDC said that the first consultation regarding the Local Plan will be taking place early next year. Therefore, GS thinks that the new Local Plan is around 18 months away from being published.

72.4 **Neighbourhood Planning for Peasmarsh** – GS supplied a written report regarding the Public Hearing on the PNDP by the Independent Examiner on 21/09/23 which is attached and on the PC's website. GS reiterated that the Independent Examiner was recommending that the PNDP ended at the same time as the RDC Local Plan. The Independent Examiner also felt that it would be worthwhile for the PC to invest in an independent report on sewerage capacity within the village – what it is now and what its future capacity should be with further developments. **ACTION:** Clerk to factor in c.£10,000 for such a report in drafting the FY24-25 budget. GS also said that RDC was asked to provide previously rejected planning applications from Tanyard field to the Independent Examiner. GS said that the Independent Examiner also said that the Oaklands/Old Football pitch site were the most obvious sites for development. GS was not sure when the Independent Examiner's final report would be due but it will go to RDC first and then be sent to the PC.

73. **Community Matters and Issue**

73.1 **Village traffic and roads**

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

73.1.2 **Speed Watch** – PL supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC website. MC said that several of the yellow 'slow down' speeding signs in the village were

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falling apart. He asked whether he should replace them or not. **RESOLVED:** It was agreed that MC could put up the other spare slow down sign he has and PL would find out from the Police where he could obtain replacement signs. PL said the signs were helpful in preventing confrontation with passers by when undertaking Speed Watch sessions.


**73.1.3 Black Cat speeding device** – PL supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC website – noted. PL reported that the Black Cat battery failed after 4 days during a recent monitoring session. This means he can't do a full analysis as it requires 7 days' worth of data. PL has two batteries to swap to get around this issue. PL requested approval to buy another set of battery fly leads to help with this. The PC agreed. **ACTION:** PL to organise purchase with TagMaster, the Black Cat supplier. PL hopes to do obtain more data on Main Street to be able to use to inform comments on the upcoming Pippins planning development application. GS also confirmed that any new data could be used to update the appendices of the PNDP. PL also supplied an additional report on his traffic monitoring of the rural lanes in Peasmarsch – PL to send this to the Clerk for uploading on the Peasmarsch PC website. On behalf of the whole PC, DP thanked PL for his continued hard work with traffic and speed monitoring in the village.

**73.2 Recreation Ground/Playspace/Pavilion** – RH reported that due to an absent booking clerk/cleaner, a replacement was being sought. The Clerk reported that a resident had offered to empty the bins at the Skate Park and put them in the main Biffa bin. The Clerk has supplied her with a key and heavy-duty bin liners. **ACTION:** GD said that she would ask a cleaning contact she knew whether they would be interested. The PC agreed a monthly budget of £100. RH reported that following continued fly tipping by the Biffa bin at the Play Space, he had arranged for the installer of the CCTV equipment to turn the camera towards the bin area. This has taken place as well as a service of the CCTV, which requires installation of a new camera. RH also reported that various maintenance jobs needed to be done at both the Pavilion and the old bowls green – Francis Warren has been instructed to cut the hedges at the old bowls green. The Clerk updated the PC about finding companies to provide comparative quotes for maintenance work to the skate park following an approach by Evolution Skate Parks Ltd to complete remedial maintenance work on the skate park that they originally installed 17 years ago. The Clerk approached the Rye Town Council Clerk to ask them about who they use for maintenance of their skate park. The Town Clerk reported that they had difficulty obtaining quotes for maintenance from skate park companies as the materials used at their existing skate park were outdated. Therefore, the Council just used general builders for small maintenance jobs. They were using Evolution Skate Parks Ltd to design a new skate park for Rye but have previously used Safeplay Ltd. The Clerk sought a quote from Safeplay Ltd but they did not respond. **RESOLVED:** DP proposed and HP/PL seconded that the Clerk instruct Evolution Skate Parks Ltd to complete the maintenance work at a quoted cost of £1,373 ex VAT.

**73.3 Defibrillator for the Pavilion** – The Clerk supplied four quotes for defibrillators – London Hearts, Medisave, Primary Care Supplies and Defibshop. **RESOLVED:** The PC agreed to use London Hearts as a charity provider of defibrillators and agreed to buy a defibrillator for inside use only when the Pavilion was being hired. The defibrillator to be shelved in a safe place in the Pavilion. **ACTION:** Clerk to order the defibrillator.

**73.4 Shelter for Play Space** – RH detailed a few quotes for a permanent shelter to protect against hot weather as requested by a couple of members of the public in the summer. RH

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said that it would need to be sited just outside of the Play Space as it has to be set in concrete. The average price of the quotes was £14,000. **RESOLVED:** The PC voted 8/1 against this purchase due to concerns about the price. It was recommended that those interested residents could fundraise and buy a gazebo to be kept in the Pavilion if necessary.

**73.5 Vandalism of Tree in Farley's Way** – This was discussed and resolved under Item 69.

**73.6 Coronation Garden project** – Clerk reported that the project manager, Lee Beckham had said that he was booking in this work for mid-October. The Clerk awaits the outcome of the Rural Rother Grant application. **ACTION:** Clerk to contact RHS and Great Dixter for planting tips/seed donation.

**73.7 Oast Cottage** – The Clerk had forwarded to the PC emails sent by the neighbour of Oast Cottage to the CEO of RDC, Lorna Ford and Enforcement Officer Dan Bevan requesting the immediate demolition of the property on safety grounds. RDC have requested a demolition/start date from Denton Homes Ltd but have reiterated that Denton Homes Ltd have 3 years from planning approval to start the works (approved 01-11-22). **ACTION:** DP to also write to Denton Homes Ltd requesting an update.

#### **74. Reports and other items**

**74.1 Clerk's Report** – Noted.

**74.2 Clerk's pay review** – The Clerk had requested by email an increase in hours to complete the increase in workload now that the Recreation Ground Committee had disbanded alongside NDP work. The National Pay Agreement has not been announced yet but a 6% increase has been recommended by NALC for budgeting purposes. The PC agreed to increase the Clerk's pay as part of their internal pay review but needed the current NALC spine point for the Clerk's pay to make this decision. **RESOLVED:** The PC agreed to increase the Clerk's hours to a monthly allowance of 45 hours. Clerk to forward the PC the NALC pay scales for a decision on the new pay rate.

**74.3 Memorial Hall** – HP had no report, all fine.

**74.4 Allotments** – MC reported that all was looking okay at the allotments. Hedges had been cut at the sides but not at the tops, probably due to having to cut at height. PL reported that the tree at the back of the allotments has regrown and is pressing against the new fencing making it bow. **ACTION:** MC to have a look and make a recommendation for work to be done to the Clerk.

**74.5 Repairs and Maintenance reports** – HP requested the Clerk purchase a cork noticeboard for the inside of the PC's bus shelter located outside the Memorial Hall. **ACTION:** Clerk to order cork noticeboard. RH reported that ivy needed to be cut back on the Barnets Hill bus shelter. **ACTION:** RH to organise cutting the ivy back with Francis Warren.

**74.6 ESCC Highways report** – No updates.

**74.7 Rights of Way** – No updates.

**74.8 Police and PCSO Reports** – No updates.

**74.9 Footpaths reports** – No updates.

**74.10 Village and environment** – HP said that resident, Robin Dent gave thanks to the PC for requesting the cutting of Griffin Hall's hedge as it has made walking along this path much easier.

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## 75. Financial Matters

### 75.1 Reports – PL approved.

75.1.1 Monthly statement of receipts and payments – for September 2023.

75.1.2 Budget comparison and bank reconciliations – for September 2023.

### 75.2 To approve and ratify payments – all approved. HP and RB to provide the two online authorisations.

75.2.1 Clerk's September pay – monthly standing order: £625.73– comes out on 26th of the same month.

75.2.2 Clerk's September expenses: £216.50

75.2.3 W.S. Parsons – electrical testing at Pavilion: £649.73 – as invoice not received and work was carried out in May it was paid online on 18/09/23.

75.2.4 Memorial Hall annual grant: £2,000.00

75.2.5 New Councillor training – ESALC – 10/08/23 BR: £48.00

75.2.6 Planning training -ESALC – 18/09/23 BR/GD: £96.00

75.2.7 Trade Gear Ltd – White Liner machine for Recreation Ground: £430.79 – paid on 27/09/23 as item couldn't be dispatched until payment made in full.

75.2.8 South East Water – direct debit for Pavilion: £1.00 – paid by direct debit in October.

75.2.9 EDF – direct debit for Pavilion: £65.00 – paid by direct debit in October.

75.2.10 Biffa Waste collection – monthly direct debit – October: £65.57

75.3 Receipts – None to date.

## 76. Correspondence – Noted.

76.1 Lloyds Bank – 22/09/23 - letter to inform the PC that it is going paperless from November 2023 so will no longer send bank statements by post. The statements will be available for printing online.

## 77. Planning Matters – Noted.

**Applications – [RR/2023/1807/P](#) -Barline Farmhouse, Starvecrow Lane, Peasmarsh TN31 6XL - Erection of garage and storage building and associated development. **It was agreed to comment: - "Peasmarsh Parish Council note this planning application".****

[RR/2023/1945/P](#) - Groves, Starvecrow Lane, Peasmarsh TN31 6XN - Variation of condition 2 imposed on RR/2021/914/P to allow the addition of two dormers to the front and rear facing (west and east) roof slopes, removal of roof lights and zinc roof on the extension to the west elevation. New single ply roof to the flat roof proposed instead. Reduction in amount of floor to ceiling glazing in the West elevation of the new extension; sliding doors omitted and wall infilled and clad in timber (larch); adjustment to windows in west elevation - triple floor to ceiling glazing removed and two smaller alu-clad windows proposed. **It was agreed to comment: - "Peasmarsh Parish Council note this planning application".**

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[RR/2023/2027/P](#) - New House Cottage, Wittersham Road, Peasmarsh TN31 6TD - Proposed extension to dwelling and erection of garden outbuilding to be used as a carport/gym/storage/office space. **It was agreed to comment: - "Peasmarsh Parish Council express concern at this planning application, as it seems to be disproportionate development in relation to the original house. Especially in the setting of the High Weald landscape".**

**Decisions** – None to date.

**Appeals** – None to date.

**78. Dates of Forthcoming Meetings:** Monthly meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023, Memorial Hall, Peasmarsh at 7.30pm.

The meeting finished at 9.45pm.

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