

PEASMARSH PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Council meeting held Wednesday 1st November 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), Georgina Dunham (GD), Ben Randall (BR) and Mick Coleman (MC).

Also present: Clerk and RFO Amy Head (AH), County Councillor Paul Redstone (PR) and District Councillor Paul Osborne (PO).

- 83. Apologies for absence** – Councillors Hilary Pankhurst (HP) and Robert Barham (RB).
- 84. Disclosure of interests under the Council's Code of Conduct** – GS for 89.2, RH for 90.2, GD for 90.5 and DP and MC for 91.4.
- 85. Minutes of the last Council meetings** – Monthly meeting October 4th 2023 and extraordinary meeting on 17th October, 2023 - agreed by all and signed by the Chairman. **There were no members of the public present.**
- 86. District & County Councillor Reports – County Councillor Report** – PR supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC's website. DP asked about the 313 service and how the take up has been since weekend services have been added. PR did not know. The Flexibus is working well currently but its long-term sustainability is not yet known. DP said that some of the temporarily fixed pot holes in Peasmarsh are showing signs of wear and need to be fixed again. PR advised that the PC should report any such potholes to Highways, be it in Peasmarsh or anywhere else they travel locally. The Clerk raised the issue of the ESCC Highways online reporting tool being hard to navigate and how it often declares a non-emergency to be an emergency and directs you to phone them and won't let you complete the report. PR asked the Clerk to send a screenshot of this to him to be able to investigate. **District Councillor Report** – PO reported that the PC's recent rural community grant application had recently been discussed online and the response had been positive. PO is not sure when the formal decision will be made. A recent Cabinet meeting addressed the circa £2.8-3.8 million budget deficit. The wage bill has increased by £2 million and the treasurers have been instructed to provide more detail as to how this can be. The homelessness bill has also increased to £900,000 plus a year (10-11% of the total budget) after 33 properties were purchased by RDC in the last 3 years to help with the temporary accommodation demand.
- 87. RDC closure of public toilets in Winter** – In HP's absence, the Clerk expressed dismay at RDC's decision to close many public toilets in the Rother area over the Winter months in an effort to save money. She said that this was a discriminatory move which would impact many groups of people that suffer with health issues such as Crohn's disease, IBS, prostate problems and the elderly and young families. It also suggests that RDC values tourists over locals. Which local facilities/café's/pubs in areas like Rye will be pressed to provide these facilities in the absence of public toilets. RDC promotes outdoor activity and yet can't provide the appropriate facilities to make this viable for locals and visitors. The Clerk said that RDC had money to spend towards the now rejected Town Hall project and yet wants to save money by cutting out these essential facilities. PO said that some toilets would still be

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available and most areas would not be left with nothing. DP and the Clerk said that this should be made clearer, as from the notices issued by RDC, it read as if there would be no public toilets available over the Winter period.

88. Voluntary Patrol Crossing – RESOLVED: PR to discuss promoting this idea to parents at Peasmarsh Primary School as he is a governor at the school.

89. Housing –

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

89.2 Pippins' development – The Clerk submitted the PC's objection to RDC on 25/10/23. The PC now awaits RDC's decision. PO confirmed that due to the size of the development the application would likely be called-in to the RDC planning committee for a decision. PL said that he undertook a traffic monitoring session in Farleys Way (which has 55 houses) to see how many car movements there were to be able to judge if the developers' estimate for car movements in the Pippins development (41 houses) was realistic. From the results supplied to the PC, traffic volume will not be a problem and the developer's judgement seems sound. Therefore, PL will not seek a license for monitoring this area any further. On behalf of the PC, DP thanked PL for all his hard work on this.

89.3 RDC Local Plan – No update and GS doesn't think that a new plan will be ready for around 3 more years.

89.4 Neighbourhood Planning for Peasmarsh – GS said that the PC is waiting for the final report from the Inspector. However, the Inspector is pursuing legal documentation from RDC before issuing his report.

90. Community Matters and Issue

90.1 Village traffic and roads

90.1.1 VAS – PL supplied a written report which is attached.

90.1.2 Speed Watch – PL supplied a written report which is attached. One of three sessions held in October was attended by the Police at their request. As it was a PC attending and not a PCSO, ^{five} three drivers were caught speeding and two of these were issued with tickets. The average speed outside the Memorial Hall on Main Street appears to be around 36/37mph.

90.1.3 Black Cat speeding device – PL supplied a written report which is attached. PL said that there has been an 11% drop in speeding in comparison to last year and decreased traffic volume. During a typical Tue/Wed/Thurs in Peasmarsh a pattern of movement can be seen of around 2,400-700 vehicles per day. DP thanked PL for all his hard work and time spent on these traffic and speed reports.

90.2 Recreation Ground/Playspace/Pavilion – RH reported that equipment in the skate park had been repaired and he was now getting an estimate for a new seat as this is also in a state of disrepair. RH has found a temporary cleaner/bin emptier for the Pavilion and Recreation Ground. RH has declared an interest as this cleaner is his daughter. However, as it has been difficult to find anyone interested to fulfil this role, the PC agreed that this interest was not an issue. DP proposed and all agreed that the cleaning should commence with a payment of c.£100 per month (invoice to be sent to the Clerk). A new Hoover will also need to be purchased as the existing one is broken.

Various items within the Pavilion need fixing: - ball valve, paper towel machine, loft insulation fitting and the defibrillator needs installing. The PC agreed to RH organising the completion of

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these jobs. RH said that he had changed the locks on the Pavilion and would supply the Clerk with a spare set of keys as he is often away.

The Clerk said that she had contacted Evolution Skate Parks Ltd to ask them to complete their quoted maintenance work but they have not responded. BR said that he had a contact for Skate Park work in Northiam and he would supply the contact details to the Clerk.

The Clerk said that she had reported the two RDC bins by the Maltings Rural Business Park which have been used by the public for dumping dog waste and other rubbish. She had requested the removal of both bins to discourage the littering. RH confirmed that the bins have now been removed.

90.3 Farleys Way tree replacement – The Clerk and RH confirmed that the tree had been cut down and it was completely dead. Oakden Treecare is due to return to grind down the remaining tree stump. Invoice to follow as detailed in item 92.2.9. **RESOLVED:** The PC agreed to purchase a replacement tree but to allow the land to recover and any disease to die down for a year. Planting would be delayed until next Autumn. **ACTION:** Clerk to put this item on the agenda again next Summer to decide on a tree to purchase.

90.4 Grass cutting options – ESCC Highways – FY24-25 – ESCC wrote to the PC on 10/10/23 giving them three options for urban grass cutting in FY24-25. Option 1 is two cuts over the course of the year – the minimum safety cuts only at no cost to the PC. Option 2 is to have four additional cuts to Option 1 (two standard and four extra cuts) at a cost of £1,043 to the PC for the year. Option 3 is self-delivery, whereby the PC takes on full responsibility for all urban grass cutting. ESCC would pay the PC £521 to do this. **RESOLVED:** The PC agreed to Option 2. Clerk to inform ESCC of this decision.

90.5 Coronation Garden project – RH reported that the work had nearly been completed and he was waiting for Lee Beckham from RDC to return him the keys for the site. Going forward, the access to the site by the public – keys/padlock or similar will need to be discussed. PC to promote the site from January onwards, with the view of having a community event in early Spring/Easter time with the community including children and families. **ACTION:** PC to seek donations for seeds/bulbs etc to grow.

90.6 Oast Cottage – No updates from RDC or the developer.

91. Reports and other items


91.1 Clerk's Report – Noted.

91.2 Clerk's pay review – PC agreed to increase the Clerk's pay to NALC's spine point 31 (£19.37 per hour). To be backdated from August 2023. Future reviews to take place in August as this is the month which the Clerk joined the PC. NALC national settlement not yet agreed. The Clerk said that with the pay rise, as an employer, the PC would have to start making contributions towards National Insurance. **ACTION:** Clerk to calculate these contributions and factor them into the FY24-25 budget.

91.3 RALC – PL reported that he had attended the last few RALC meetings and he was not sure what benefit membership to RALC was providing to the PC. Few stakeholders; e.g., the Police attended the meetings. **RESOLVED:** RH proposed and MH seconded not renewing membership for this organisation, with a view to re-joining in the future if RALC improves.

91.4 Memorial Hall – MC reported that the thermostat had been fixed and the LED lighting had been installed in the main hall and the store room with a grant of £1,200 from the

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De-Carbonisation grant. MC also reported that RDC had requested that the Memorial Hall be a rest/emergency centre for Storm Ciaran if necessary (expected overnight on 2nd Nov 2023). However, RDC have been reminded that if power is lost, the Memorial Hall does not have a generator so will not be very useful.

91.5 Allotments – MC reported that he and the Clerk had visited the allotments on 30/10/23 and agreed that the compost heaps near the Woodlands Close fence line all need clearing as there is not only garden waster there but also wire fencing/concrete/sheets of glass. For health and safety reasons this all needs to go and for the tree next to the fence line to be cut and removed so that it doesn't damage the new fencing. The Clerk has had one site visit with D.M. Waste Removal for a quote but will be seeking another quote from Thomson Tippers for comparison. P&P Waste Removers were contacted but they said that they couldn't help as they would need on site vehicular access. MC requested Francis Warren cut the top of the hedges as the tenants haven't been able to do it.

ACTION: RH to ask him.

Finally, MC reported that he had fixed the allotment gate which had been reported to the police as vandalised. The Clerk has a crime reference number but the case has been closed as there is no footage and no known suspects. The PC thanked MC for fixing the gate.

91.6 Repairs and Maintenance reports – MC reported that he had fitted the new noticeboard to the Memorial Hall bus shelter. The PC thanked him for doing this. RH said that he will organise with Francis Warren to remove excess ivy on top of the Barnets Hill bus shelter.

91.7 ESCC Highways report – No updates.

91.8 Rights of Way – No updates.

91.9 Police and PCSO Reports – No updates.

91.10 Footpaths reports – No updates.

91.11 Village and environment – It was reported that recent UK Power Network work in the village had taken place quickly with minimal disruption. RH said that he had purchased a wreath in preparation for Remembrance Day and all agreed that RH would lay this wreath at the church war memorial on behalf of the PC and the PC would reimburse him for the cost of the wreath. Grit supplies to be checked for the PC owned grit bins – the Maltings and the top of School Lane. GS said that she had heard reports that the Brickfields defibrillator had been tampered with by teenagers. **ACTION:** Clerk to check defibrillator.

GS reported that Mike Inkson no longer wanted to edit and produce the online Peasmarsh Periodical after November's edition. The current Periodical is produced from the same domain as the NDP website but budget should now be set aside for hosting the Periodical on a different platform. Discussions were had as to what style would be best and what should be in in future Periodicals e.g., monthly or blog style/Peasmarsh or wider local news. BR said that he had experience and would help GS with ideas for a future newsletter. **RESOLVED:** BR and GS to discuss and Clerk to put this on the agenda for next month and put money aside in the FY24-25 budget.

92. Financial Matters

92.1 Reports – PL approved.

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92.1.1 Monthly statement of receipts and payments – for October 2023.

92.1.2 Budget comparison and bank reconciliations – for October 2023.

92.2 To approve and ratify payments – all approved. RH and MC to provide the two online authorisations.

92.2.1 Clerk's October pay – monthly standing order: £812.25– comes out on 26th of the same month.

92.2.2 Clerk's October expenses: £87.39

92.2.3 London Hearts – defibrillator for Pavilion: £753.00 – paid on 09/10/23 – authorised by HP/MC.

92.2.4 CCTV service and repair: £240.00

92.2.5 TagMaster fly leads for Black Cat: £30.00

92.2.6 PL travel expenses for RALC meeting: £7.20

92.2.7 Bourne Sports Association – Oct half term football training course: £165.00 (£60 donation received with thanks for the upkeep of the play space).

92.2.8 Francis Warren – Recreation Ground maintenance work: £588.50

92.2.9 Oakden Treecare – Farleys Way tree fell: £804.00

92.2.10 Bowls Green/Coronation Garden work – RDC: £20,320.00

92.2.11 South East Water – direct debit for Pavilion: £1.00 – paid by direct debit in November.

92.2.12 EDF – direct debit for Pavilion: £65.00 – paid by direct debit in November.

92.2.13 Biffa Waste collection – monthly direct debit – November: £65.57

92.3 Receipts – None to date.

93. Correspondence – Noted.

93.1 Castle Water – Letter received on 06/10/23 – allotment water bill in credit - £259.05. Credit due to several water outages in July which Castle Water reimbursed customers for. Castle Water – Email received on 26/10/23 – transfer of contract from Castle Water to CWL from 1st Jan 2024.

94. Planning Matters – Noted.

Applications – None to date.

Decisions – Barline Farmhouse, Starvecrow Lane, Peasmarsh TN31 6X - Erection of garage and storage building and associated development. - [RR/2023/1807/P](#) – APPROVED – 24/10/2023.

Appeals – None to date.

95. Dates of Forthcoming Meetings: Monthly meeting, 6th December 2023, Memorial Hall, Peasmarsh at 7.30pm.

The meeting finished at 9.43pm.

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