


PEASMARSH PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Council meeting held Wednesday 6th December 2023 at 7.30pm at Peasmarsh Memorial Hall.

Present: Councillors: David Pankhurst (DP) (Chair), Hilary Pankhurst (HP), Gina Sanderson (GS), Peter Lamont (PL) and Georgina Dunham (GD).

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

- 96. Apologies for absence** – Councillors Ray Hollman (RH) (Vice-Chair), Mick Coleman (MC), Ben Randall (BR) and Robert Barham (RB).
- 97. Disclosure of interests under the Council's Code of Conduct** – GS for 103.2, GD for 104.5 and DP and HP for 105.3.
- 98. Minutes of the last Council meetings** – Monthly meeting November 1st 2023 - agreed by all after one amendment under Item 90.1.2 and signed by the Chairman.
There were no members of the public present.
- 99. District & County Councillor Reports – County Councillor Report** – PR supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC's website. PR urged the PC to respond to the ESCC budget consultation which ends on 10/12/23. PR confirmed that the Gigaclear road damage issue near Mill Lane is in the process of being resolved with the resident who complained. PR said that Peasmarsh Primary School's Headteacher was not keen on the idea of advertising for volunteers for the patrol crossing but the PC asked him to ask her again so that the parents are given the opportunity to volunteer and the idea can then be minuted as being unsupported if no volunteers come forward. PL asked if the roundabout by Four Oaks/Beckley would be restored. PR said that it had been restored last night. However, PR does need to check that the 'Give Way' sign markings have been moved as planned. DP said that many roads in Rother continue to need urgent repair/resurfacing, e.g. Horns Cross/Westfield and Rye Harbour. PR said that work would be planned for these areas and to keep reporting issues. **District Councillor Report** – PO reported that in the last month, his time had been taken up with the sudden closure of Pontins Holiday Park in Camber. PO confirmed that the closure was a business decision and no housing of immigrants was planned at the site. PO had also attended several meetings regarding the budget deficit (c £3.8M) and discussed the RDC budget consultation for FY24-25. In part this deficit is due to the increase in homelessness in the area and the need to purchase additional accommodation to begin to tackle the problem. The PC discussed the issue and the reasons behind it including the high private rental costs. PO said that at present, it doesn't seem that the toilet closures implemented in the last few months to cut costs is saving any money. DP asked what is happening with the Black Friars site in Battle. PO said that it was overspent and will likely be sold but it is unknown at this point.
- 100. Budget FY24-25** – Item deferred until the January 2024 meeting.

Signed:



date:

10/11/2023

101. RDC Budget Consultation FY24-25 – PL said that it was important to highlight what you wouldn't want to be cut in any future budget cuts. However, the PC resolved that no response would be made as they were unsure what to suggest to save money.

102. Voluntary Patrol Crossing – Discussed with PR under Item 99 (County Councillor report).

103. Housing –

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

103.2 Pippins' development – There has been no update on this planning application. The RDC Planning Committee agenda for December has been issued and it does not feature Pippins. This suggests that no decision is imminent.

103.3 RDC Local Plan – This was discussed by RDC's Planning Policy Manager, Jeff Pryah and Planning Policy Team Leader, Craig Steenhoff at the RDC Annual Parish Conference as detailed in PL's report under Item 105.2. Regulation 18 consultation phase will take place by June 2024. The Planning team will liaise with PCs in the new year. A green core and living well locally is central to the plan with infrastructure, economy, health and wellbeing and a healthy environment around it. The district has been split into five areas: Bexhill, Hastings fringe, Battle, Rye and Northen Rother.

103.4 Neighbourhood Planning for Peasmarsch – GS said that the Independent Examiner's final report had been issued and the PNDP and the PC is now in the position where it has to either agree the recommendations for the report or request amendments which would result in another six-week public consultation. Mike Inkson (Chair of PNDP), DP and the Clerk met Julia Edwards (JE) from RDC via a Teams meeting on 30/11/23 to find out the next steps. JE said that the Decision Statement which RDC must issue (within 5 weeks of the Independent Examiner's report being issued) has to coincide with the completion of the referendum draft of the Plan. Democratic Services has stated that either this takes place by around January 11th/12th 2024 or it must be delayed until after the Police and Crime Commissioner election (02/05/23).

The Key areas to accept or reject are Section 5, Policy E1 to be changed for Use Classes B2 and B8 so as not to stop competition and the deletion of Policy S1 (which sets development capacity at no more than ten houses). The other Policy that has been removed is S2 which limited developments of more than three houses to only take place on allocated sites. As the Plan has been shortened to only run to 2028 to coincide with the current Local Plan no sites need to be put forward for development. However, it has been recommended by RDC that Orchard Way is retained as a potential site as this puts the PC in a stronger position. **RESOLVED:** DP proposed that all recommended changes be accepted so that the Plan can move onto the Referendum stage as soon as possible. GS/PL/GD/HP all voted yes to accepting the Independent Examiner's recommendations/changes.

104. Community Matters and Issue

104.1 Village traffic and roads

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

104.1.2 Speed Watch – PL supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC website. PL said that Speed Watch may have to be mothballed if he cannot get any more

Signed:



date:

10/11/2024

volunteers as his other volunteer is leaving and a session cannot take place with just one person.

104.1.3 Black Cat speeding device – PL supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC website. PL gave an update on the last monitoring session at the junction by Flackley Ash Hotel which was taking place during the time he sent his written November report. PL said that there was a similar level of traffic at this junction as there was in Kitchenour Lane. 93% of the vehicles were heading to Peasmarsch and 73% came from Peasmarsch. Only 6% headed to Beckley from the junction and 26% used the junction from Beckley. PL did note that some vehicles did use the triangular junction to turn around so this may skew the data. There is no way of knowing which of these vehicles was heading to Jempsons.

PL's next project is to monitor the entrance of the Maltings. By comparing the data from this with the data from Farleys way and by counting houses in these areas as well as Main Street he should be able to see if there is a linear relationship between the number of houses in the village and the number of vehicle movements. It will help to determine how much traffic Peasmarsch residents create on their own. The only difficult area to monitor is School Lane as this has two entrances.

104.2 Recreation Ground/Playspace/Pavilion/Skate Park – In RH's absence, the Clerk reported that a new cleaner had started for the Recreation Ground/Pavilion/Skate Park. GD said that she had been approached by another interested resident regarding cleaning. The Clerk said that she would bear them in mind if a vacancy were to arise in the future. RH and the Clerk met with Scott Evans on 18/11/23 regarding maintenance jobs needed at the Skate Park. He is due to complete the work. However, the Clerk reported that Evolution Skate Parks had got back in touch as there had been an email glitch and they had not received the PC's email confirming agreement for completing the maintenance work. The Clerk suggested that Evolution Skate Park would probably still be a preferable choice as Scott Evans was very busy and was doing the PC a favour so would not mind being stood down for completing this work.

ACTION: Clerk to confirm with Evolution Skate Parks and let Scott Evans know the situation.

104.4 Peasmarsch Periodical – Item deferred until January meeting.

104.5 Coronation Garden project – The Clerk reported that she had been in contact with Lee Beckham, the RDC Estate Maintenance Manager responsible for the work and he said that the remaining waste bags should be removed shortly and he would arrange for delivery of the keys to the padlock for site access would be arranged in the next week. The Clerk reported that she had received a phone call from an interested resident but stated that she will be back in touch when the site is launched in the Spring. Discussions were had about whether the site would be for individuals or run as a communal garden. GD said that she needed a donation letter template for help in obtaining seed etc donations for the Coronation Garden. **ACTION:** The Clerk said that she will send off the paperwork needed to claim the RDC Community Grant (£10,000). GD to send the Clerk photos she has taken of the site. Clerk to send GD a PC donation template letter.

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

105. Reports and other items

105.1 Clerk's Report – Noted.

Signed:



date:

10/11/2024

105.2 RDC Annual Parish Conference – 05/12/23 – PL supplied a written report which is attached. Slides from the Conference were also received from RDC and circulated to the PC.

105.3 Memorial Hall – HP reported that all lighting/heating work had been completed. The Warm hub on a Thursday afternoon was still going well and will carry on with few breaks over the festive season. The Memorial Hall has seen an increase in use in the last two or three months which the PC agreed is very positive. HP has circulated 'How to Book' posters for the Memorial Hall which the Clerk, GD and HP have put up in the village noticeboards.

105.4 Allotments – The Clerk reported that Thompson Tippers completed work to clear the allotment rubbish/old compost heaps by plots 4 and 5 on 29/11/23. The Clerk suggested that the purchase of a couple of new compost cages/bins for this area would set the new tenants up well to continue with a more manageable composting system.

RESOLVED: Clerk to add to the agenda for January's meeting for a decision.

105.5 Repairs and Maintenance reports – None to date.

105.6 ESCC Highways report – No updates.

105.7 Rights of Way – No updates.

105.8 Police and PCSO Reports – No updates. The Clerk said that she had not been able to obtain the online Rother reports recently and often these reports seem to be about the same issues each month, so they are not very useful. The PC discussed the recent press release regarding the new 'Immediate Justice' grant funding for ASB offenders to complete useful work in the community. It was agreed that this may be problematic for communities and better visibility of PCSO's within villages and towns would be more useful in preventing ASB.

105.9 Footpaths reports – No updates.

105.10 Village and environment – No reports.

106. Financial Matters

106.1 Reports – PL approved.

106.1.1 Monthly statement of receipts and payments – for November 2023.

106.1.2 Budget comparison and bank reconciliations – for November 2023.

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

106.2.1 Clerk's November pay – monthly standing order (includes pay rise plus national pay settlement back pay from April 2023: £1,035.77– comes out on 26th of the same month.

106.2.2 Clerk's November expenses: £146.72

106.2.3 ICO renewal fee – CCTV Pavilion: £40.00 – part of Clerk's expenses under 105.2.2.

106.2.4 Thompson Tippers allotment rubbish clearance: £525.00 – paid on 29/11/23 – authorised by HP/MC.

106.2.5 Church war memorial annual maintenance grant: £500.00

106.2.6 RH Remembrance Day wreath and lock change for Pavilion expenses: £TBC – **invoice not received yet.**

106.2.7 PL expenses for ESALC AGM and Conference - 14/11/23 – £30.42 + RDC Annual Conference – 05/12/23 - £6.57: £36.99

106.2.8 RDC Coronation Garden work: £24,151.20

Signed:



date:

10/1/2024

106.2.9 Recreation Ground/Pavilion Cleaner: £100.00

106.2.10 South East Water – direct debit, for Pavilion: £1.00 – paid by direct debit in December.

106.2.11 EDF – direct debit for Pavilion: **£38.00** – paid by direct debit in December.

106.2.12 Biffa Waste collection – monthly direct debit – December £81.96

106.3 Receipts – None to date.

107. Correspondence – Noted.

107.1 Letter from Biffa Waste regarding emptying of Recreation Ground bin – dated 21/11/23. Increase in price of collection from 30th December 2023 to £5.03 per M3.

108. Planning Matters – Noted.

Applications – None to date.

Decisions – RR/2023/1619/P - Pelsham Farm - Site at, Tillingham Lane, Peasmarsh TN31 6XH - Stationing a single shepherd's hut for holiday letting and associated development – **APPROVED 08/11/23.**

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 - **APPROVED 21/11/23.**

RR/2023/1987/O - Amastra, Main Street, Peasmarsh TN31 6UL - Lawful Development Certificate for the proposed conversion of garage to bedroom/care suite with shower room - **ISSUED 24/11/23.**

RR/2023/1945/P - Groves, Starvecrow Lane, Peasmarsh TN31 6XN - Variation of condition 2 imposed on RR/2022/674/P to allow the addition of two dormers to the front and rear facing (west and east) roof slopes. Existing brick chimney to be raised in height. Removal of proposed second chimney stack. Change from horizontal to vertical cladding on all elevations. Sliding doors omitted from west elevation and wall infilled and clad in timber (larch). Alterations to windows. Removal of roof lights and zinc roof on the western extension to be replaced with single ply roof - **REFUSED 24/11/23.**

Appeals – None to date.

109. Dates of Forthcoming Meetings: Monthly meeting, 10th January 2024, Memorial Hall, Peasmarsh at 7.30pm.

The meeting finished at 9.20pm.

Signed:



date:

10/1/2024