

PEASMARSH PARISH COUNCIL



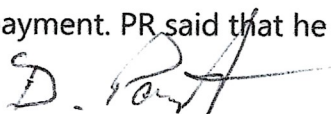
Minutes of the Council meeting held Wednesday 7th February 2024 at 7.30pm at Peasmarsh Memorial Hall.

Present: Councillors: David Pankhurst (DP) (Chair), Ray Hollman (RH) (Vice 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 Councillor Paul Osborne (PO).

- 124. Apologies for absence** – Councillors Mick Coleman (MC), Robert Barham (RB), Ben Randall (BR) and District Councillor Lizzie Hacking (LH).
- 125. Disclosure of interests under the Council's Code of Conduct** – GS for 129.2, RH for 130.2, GD for 130.8 and DP and HP for 131.3.
- 126. Minutes of the last Council meetings** – Monthly meeting January 10th 2024 – agreed by all and signed by DP. PL requested an updated copy of the agreed FY24-25 Budget spreadsheet.
ACTION: Clerk to circulate copy to PC.
There were no members of the public present.
- 127. District & County Councillor Reports – County Councillor Report** – PR supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC's website. PR confirmed that the ESCC budget had recently been passed and the Council is having to use Reserves for the first time in many years. Central government has given the County Council additional funding and this will be given to ESCC Highways. However, PR reiterated that there is never enough money to fix all of the roads. The PC discussed the continued issues around pot hole fixing in the area. PR said that a 'T' should be spray painted on potholes which have only had temporary fixes to alert the general public that the job is not finished. PR said that the new contractor, Balfour Beatty had high quality control. DP asked PR whether ESCC held utility companies to account for making good roads they dig up and/or damage. PR said that it was getting better as ESCC has high quality control. RH complained that the ESCC Highways online system was not user-friendly and whatever you reported, it would default to it being an emergency and directs the reporter to ring them. However, when you ring, they never answer the phone. **ACTION:** PR to provide feedback to ESCC Highways about the online system. The PC also discussed workmen standing in potholes to fix potholes and DP reported road closures for mobile road fixings down Mackerel Hill which weren't signposted prior to travelling down the hill., leading to unnecessary traffic issues. **ACTION:** HP to check the date when this occurred and send it to PR. Discussing emergency planning, PL asked PR whether he knew the proportion of houses which had water tanks in the roof, as these householders would be less inconvenienced than others in the event of water outages. PR was not sure about this and house building regulations changed in recent years so water tanks are rarer. Finally, PR discussed the need for foster carers in East Sussex. He supplied posters for the Clerk and HP to put up on behalf of the PC and the Memorial Hall respectively. DP asked whether there was still an interest in fostering London children due to the larger London weighting payment. PR said that he would find out and let him know.

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District Councillor Report – PO added comments about his experience with reporting potholes by stating that ESCC Highways state that they have fixed potholes when they haven't and also, for example, on the same stretch of a road, two out of three holes will be fixed. PO said that there was a lack of initiative in the teams working on this. PR said that it all depended on whether potholes met the requirement for fixing and what the gangs had been instructed to complete. PO said that Full Council had met this week and had approved the budget, which would see an additional £5 increase on a Band D property. Full Council was also re-examining the Housing Allocations Policy and PO said that a local link to a village or town has been strengthened within the policy. PO said that the issue of planning enforcement would also be strengthened. PO said that he had raised the issue of the Memorial Hall's RDC grant funding being a difficult process and having to jump through legal hoops to obtain the funding. DP and HP confirmed that they had now been asked to send an invoice to RDC but PO agreed that legalities shouldn't hold up this process or the cost of legalities to RDC would negate the benefits. Finally, RH raised the issue of the recent sinkhole emerging on the recreation ground and asked PO whether he could find out from RDC whether they had any responsibility for grounds if they lease the land to the PC. **ACTION:** PO to email Neighbourhood Services at RDC to check.

- 128. East Sussex Draft Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) 2024-2050 – consultation until 25th February 2024** – The PC discussed this and in summary they decided the following: "Peasmarsh Parish Council find it difficult to respond to this consultation as there is no disputing that the vision/aspirations are good, but it is hard to see how these will be achieved as there is little substance to the plan and it is widely known that ESCC has very little budget". **ACTION:** Clerk to submit this response as part of the consultation response.

129. Housing –

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

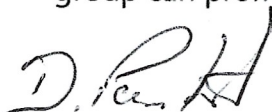
129.2 Pippins' development – After emailing the planning officer in charge of this application, James Laibach, he responded to say that he thought that the application would go to the RDC Planning Committee in March, depending on whether the developer provides all the information that has been requested of them.

129.3 RDC Housing Development meeting – 11-01-24 – GS supplied a written report which is attached. The key points were that in the future Local Plan there would be no designated sites, rather there would be designated areas. This would encourage land owners in these areas to come forward. GS said that there was anger from developers about how utilities companies treated them – they approve everything in the application stage and then hold the developer to ransom by then insisting on expensive infrastructure changes during the building process. The other topic under discussion was that it is not affordable for developers to build affordable housing.

129.4 RDC Local Plan – Discussed under Item 129.3.

129.5 Neighbourhood Planning for Peasmarsh – The PC discussed the balancing act of not influencing the upcoming Referendum vote (Thursday 29th February – voting 7am-10pm) but also not letting it arrive without any kind of advertising. PL said that the Clerk had urged a purdah period. The Clerk confirmed that no promotion should be associated with the PC and individual councillors had to be careful to not be seen to be promoting an either Yes or No vote. However, those not in the PC and the working group can promote voting and claim expenses from RDC for doing this. DP had supplied

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details to resident Sue Cavilla as she had expressed interest in helping with promoting the Referendum. The Memorial Hall could also have a banner outside it stating when the Referendum was taking place. Factual information like this is fine. The Clerk and others confirmed that they had received polling cards now and any reminders about voting should also remind residents that they need to bring an approved form of photographic identification to be able to vote. Head of Democratic Services, Richard Adams had invited members of the PC and the Clerk to watch the vote count at Bexhill Town Hall at 10.30pm on 29th February. PL, DP and HP said that they would attend the vote count.

ACTION: Clerk to let Richard Adams know the attendees for the vote count.

130. Community Matters and Issue

130.1 Village traffic and roads

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

ACTION: It was noted that the ESCC-owned VAS at the West end of the village near the village gateway on the way to Beckley is no longer working. The Clerk to report the fault to ESCC Highways online.

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

130.1.3 Black Cat speeding device – PL supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC website.

130.2 Recreation Ground/Playspace/Pavilion/Skate Park – RH reported that a sinkhole had emerged on the recreation ground's playing field which needed to be investigated and fixed. The Clerk said that she was in the process of liaising with Southern Water who are due to put cameras down the hole to determine if their pipes are responsible. South-East Water already confirmed that they are not responsible. **RESOLVED:** The PC resolved to wait until Friday and an expected resolution from Southern Water before deciding whether to then proceed to get private drainage experts in to check. RH confirmed that the skate park maintenance work had been completed and Evolution Skate Park Ltd are due to visit again and provide an additional quote for the replacement of the ramp surface. **ACTION:** Clerk to forward RH the final report by Evolution Skate Park Ltd.

130.3 Rural Grass Cutting options – The Clerk clarified the difference between urban and rural grass cutting. Urban is the main road verges (Main Street), whereas Rural cutting is the single-track lanes around Peasmarsch, e.g. Tanhouse, School, Dew and Church Lanes. The option was to either retain the existing two annual cuts or to choose a reduced cutting schedule to encourage biodiversity. The Clerk advised the PC to keep with the current level of cutting as it would be a health and safety risk to reduce cutting on these narrow lanes and visibility would be compromised. Single track roads are excluded from reduced cutting anyhow so it seems that Peasmarsch cannot choose the reduced option anyhow. **ACTION:** Clerk to let RDC know that the PC would like to choose the existing option for rural cutting – Option 1.

130.4 D Day 80th anniversary – 06-06-24 – The Clerk had circulated an email from ESALC and NALC, which detailed various options that communities and churches had for commemorating this event. These include beacon lighting, lamp light parades and bell ringing. **RESOLVED:** As the PC does not have a beacon and a lamp light would require organising a complementary event it was felt that the Church would be in a better position to

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commemorate this occasion. Especially as bell ringing was given as an option. **ACTION:** Clerk to forward information to Alex Boatright-Smith at Peasmarsh Parish Church.

130.5 Peasmarsh Periodical – In BR's absence, item deferred until the March meeting. As GS has been focused on the NDP she has not had time to discuss with BR yet. A discussion was had about what sort of format the PP should take in the future and what would be the best way to spread information in the community. Discussions were also had about the regularity of the PP - whether it should be a regular, weekly 'alert' type format or monthly round up, newsletter style as it is now.

130.6 Gigaclear – Broadband provider – The Clerk reported that she had attended a Teams meeting with Michelle Tanfield (MT), our area manager on 25/01/24. They discussed when Broadband packages would be available for residents to purchase. MT said that hopefully this would be ready in March/April. The Clerk asked her if she would attend the Parish Assembly to discuss the services/deals Gigaclear could provide residents and she said that she would do this but as she is coming from Oxford, she would like to do this in conjunction with a promotional event within the community such as an Easter Egg hunt (which they would fund - they do a treasure hunt with model astronauts). I said that this could coincide nicely with the PC opening the Coronation Garden. She would like to do something over the Easter holidays - between 28th March - 14th April - so if the Parish Assembly could be followed the next day by an Easter Egg hunt in the Coronation Garden this would be welcomed by her. She also said that they would donate £100 for seeds etc. Gigaclear is also open to donation requests from sports clubs/community projects with a good social media following. (max donation around £2,000). The PC agreed this was a good idea and moved onto the next item to set the date for the AGM/APA in conjunction with an Easter egg hunt the next day.

130.7 Set a date for the AGM and Annual Parish Assembly (APA) – RESOLVED: The PC agreed to hold the AGM and APA on Wednesday 10th April at 7pm for the AGM and 7.30pm for the APA. The Easter egg hunt could then be held on the afternoon of Thursday 11th April, possibly in conjunction with a Bourne Sports football training course to increase footfall.

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with Michelle Tanfield from Gigaclear to see if this is suitable.

130.8 Coronation Garden project – The Clerk gave RH copies of the keys cut by RDC for access to the garden gate padlock. The Clerk had circulated a poster designed by DP to the PC inviting interested residents to a meeting to decide how best to manage the new garden. The PC all approved the poster. The PC discussed a date for the meeting and refreshments. **RESOLVED:** A drop-in style meeting set for Sunday 17th March 11am-2pm.

ACTION: DH to amend the poster with the date and send to the Clerk for advertising.

130.9 Oast Cottage – The Clerk reported that there had been no official updates. However, she had received an email from the neighbour this morning, stating that a workman had been seen on site clearing rubbish a few weeks ago. However, the neighbour also reported that the fence has fallen down again, leaving the site insecure. DH said that the issue remains that there is a health and safety risk with the site; it has loose tiles, the roof is collapsing, the fence is down in some areas and rubbish/fly-tipping has occurred around the back of the house. **ACTION:** Clerk to investigate whether action can be taken via the Health and Safety Executive as RDC Enforcement has not been proactive with this case as there is an existing planning application open for the site.

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131. Reports and other items**131.1 Clerk's Report** – Noted.**131.2 Civility and Respect Pledge – NALC** – The PC discussed this pledge and said that they felt that they did not need to do this as it is considered on an annual basis under the PC's AGM examination of the PC's Code of Conduct.**131.3 Memorial Hall** – HP reported that bookings were healthy and supplied the Clerk and GD with posters for advertising an upcoming Marie Curie coffee morning in March.**131.4 Online Storage – Memory sticks** – The Clerk and DP exchanged memory sticks in this standing agenda item to save files as appropriate, as an insurance against any laptop failure.**131.5 Brickfields' defibrillator** – The Clerk confirmed that she had replaced the existing battery in the defibrillator as batteries need replacing every 4-5 years and it was bought in 2019. The PC discussed the use of an Apple Airtag to make sure that it can track the defibrillator if it were to be taken. **RESOLVED:** As the Clerk does not have an Apple device, GD and DP agreed that they would link their mobile phones to the Apple Airtag. **ACTION:** Clerk to purchase and add an id number to the tag so that in the event of loss, it can be identified and returned.**131.6 Allotments** – The Clerk reported that allotment plots 4, 5 and 6 needed new compost systems/cages to prevent further rubbish collecting following clearance of the area by the fence pre-Christmas. The Clerk showed the PC three options from Amazon – the PC chose a metal cage option. **ACTION:** Clerk to order x3 of these compost cages to fill the area and claim the expense afterwards.**131.7 Repairs and Maintenance reports** – None to date.**131.8 ESCC Highways report** – No updates.**131.9 Rights of Way** – No updates.**131.10 Police and PCSO Reports** – No updates.**131.11 Footpaths reports** – No updates.**131.12 Village and environment** – The Clerk reported that following a resident's repeated complaint about a car parking on the pavement outside the Old Post Office, she has written to the resident to politely request that they park on the lay by on the opposite side of the road to allow all pedestrians/wheel chair users/ push chairs to use the pavement without risking their safety by moving into the road. The Clerk also reported that she had seen photographs and reports on Facebook regarding dead animal parts being dumped on the roadside and down a bank on Church Lane. The PC agreed that this was a police/RDC issued – **ACTION:** Clerk to report to the Police and RDC.**132. Financial Matters****132.1 Reports – PL approved.****132.1.1** Monthly statement of receipts and payments – for January 2024.**132.1.2** Budget comparison and bank reconciliations – for January 2024.**132.2 To approve and ratify payments – all approved. HP and RH to provide the two online authorisations. HP and MC to provide authorisation for RH's reimbursements.**

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132.2.1 Clerk's January pay – monthly standing order: £1,019.32– comes out on 26th of the same month.

132.2.2 Clerk's January expenses: £72.06

132.2.3 Cleaning of Recreation Ground/Pavilion – Jan: £100.00

132.2.4 RH – reimbursement for various agreed purchases made for the Pavilion, e.g. new Hoover: £TBC

132.2.5 Defib Warehouse – First Rescue Training and Supplies Ltd: £267.60 – paid online on 24/01/24.

132.2.6 RDC May 2023 Parish Council election charges: £163.97

132.2.7 Evolution Skate Parks Ltd – maintenance fee: £1,647.60

132.2.8 South East Water – direct debit for Pavilion: £1.00 – paid by direct debit in January.

132.2.9 EDF – direct debit for Pavilion: £38.00 – paid by direct debit in February.

132.2.10 Biffa Waste collection – monthly direct debit – February £74.54

132.3 Receipts – None to date.

133. Correspondence – Noted.

133.1 Letter from Castle Water – allotment water provider – dated 09/01/2024 – in credit £232.16.

134. Planning Matters – Noted.

Applications - None to date.

Decisions – Noted.

[RR/2023/2566/PIP](#) - Field View, School Lane, Peasmarsh TN31 6UT -Proposed formation of building plot for bungalow to be served by shared vehicular access – **REFUSED 19/01/2024.**

Appeals – None to date.

135. Dates of Forthcoming Meetings: Monthly meeting, 6th March 2024, Memorial Hall, Peasmarsh at 7.30pm.

The meeting finished at 9.40pm.

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