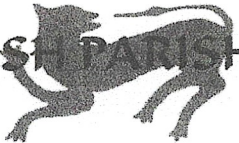


# PEASMARSH PARISH COUNCIL



## Minutes of the Council meeting held Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 7.30pm at Peasmarsh Memorial Hall.

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

**Also present:** Clerk and RFO Amy Head (AH) and District Councillor Paul Osborne (PO).

**110. Apologies for absence** – Councillor Mick Coleman (MC), County Councillor Paul Redstone (PR) and District Councillor Lizzie Hacking (LH).

**111. Disclosure of interests under the Council's Code of Conduct** – GS for 117.2, RH for 118.2, GD for 118.4 and DP and HP for 119.2.

**112. Minutes of the last Council meetings** – Monthly meeting December 6th 2023 – agreed by all and signed by DP.

**There were no members of the public present.**

**113. District & County Councillor Reports – County Councillor Report** – PR supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC's website. In PR's absence, the PC had no questions. **District Councillor Report** – PO reported that the Monitoring Officer has introduced a new disclosure of interests' format to meetings, which may, in the future filter down to Parish Councils as best practice. PO discussed his concerns with the 'call in' process for planning applications (when a request is made by a Cllr for a large or contentious planning application to be examined by the Planning Committee). PO felt that there was not enough time to decide what to do and only those in the planning department have the qualifications to determine what needs further examination. The PC expressed concerns that the Pippins planning application had not been 'called in' to the Planning Committee and that the January Planning Committee meeting had been cancelled due to lack of business and yet the decision about this application has yet to be made. **ACTION:** Clerk to contact the planning officer responsible for this application to check the status of it and when (if at all) it will be expected to be seen by the Planning Committee. PO said that he continues to complain to Cllr Paul Redstone regarding the state of the roads and slow or poor pothole repair in Iden and the surrounding areas. DP raised the failure of RDC to pay the grant that they had agreed to pay for £1,700 towards an upgrade to the Memorial Hall's lighting. **ACTION:** PO said that he thought that the legal side of this process had broken down and he would email Catherine Field at RDC to urge swift payment of this agreed grant.

**114. Budget FY24-25** – The budget spreadsheet was discussed line by line. The main discussion was about whether to budget for an independent water/drainage inspection as suggested by the Independent Inspector for the PNDP. PL said it all depended on what we wanted to get from the report. GS said that she thought it would be useful to then provide evidence regarding the sewerage/drainage capacity of the village. However, concerns were raised by DP, RH and RB about whether the report would be worthwhile and whether RDC/Southern Water would accept the findings. The idea of spending a minimum of £10,000 on a report

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seemed risky to some Councillors with no guarantee of what it could achieve. A compromise was reached, whereby DP proposed and RH seconded (with all agreeing) to set aside £2,000 for initial investigative work. **ACTION:** Clerk to contact the Clerks for Fairlight and Icklesham Parish Councils to see what the process is, as PO suggested that they might have completed similar work.

RH said that the stream near the skate park may need to be cleared of debris. Discussion was had about other ditches in the lanes of Peasmarsh which need clearing to help with preventing surface flooding. PO discussed a new grant that RDC has launched - Community Infrastructure Grant Scheme - which may be able to help with general ditch clearing.

**ACTION:** PO to send Clerk details.

Insurance was discussed and RH said that the Coronation Gardens should now be named specifically in the insurance policy. **ACTION:** Clerk to name this in the renewal documents in May.

Tracking devices for the defibrillator in the Brickfields' phone box were discussed. **ACTION:** GD to research and send the Clerk some options.

At the end of budget discussions, it was unanimously agreed that the precept should remain at £37,000 for FY24-25. **ACTION:** Clerk to complete the necessary precept paperwork and send back to RDC by the deadline of 31/01/24.

- 115. Voluntary Patrol Crossing** – The Clerk reported that the primary school sent out a request for volunteers in mid-December. No volunteers have come forward. Item to be removed from agenda unless it is raised again by a member of the public.
- 116. East Sussex Draft Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) 2024-2050 – consultation until 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024** – **ACTION:** PC to send a response but to give the PC a chance to read this consultation, item to be deferred until the February meeting.
- 117. Housing –**
- 117.1 Tanyard field development** – There has been no update on this development.
- 117.2 Pippins' development** – There has been no update on this planning application. Discussed under Item 113.
- 117.3 RDC Local Plan** – No current update, RDC consultation due in the Spring. GS to attend an RDC Housing Development event on 11/01/24 in Bexhill so will report back in due course.
- 117.4 Neighbourhood Planning for Peasmarsh** – GS reported that RDC had booked the NDP Referendum for 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024. The NDP group has been working hard to finalise the plan by 15<sup>th</sup> January, so as to fit in with the legal timeline prior to the Referendum. GS said that several of the policies were moved to Section 10 – Community Aspirations and GS has been liaising with the PNDP group as to what is within the remit of what a Parish Council can do; what 9 volunteers (4 of whom work full-time) can manage; what the Clerk can manage within her limited working hours; any additional costs which would need to be added to the precept (and that would now be from 2025-26 onwards) which at £37,000 is already in the top third for RDC villages. The PC agreed the following: Project 3 Road Safety – “The Parish Council will continue to work with ESCC Highways in finding and implementing acceptable solutions to the traffic issues faced across the parish”. The change from the use of the term ‘working group’ is that it has a particular connotation within local government and project does not recognise the

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established and ongoing work that has been done by the PC. Project 6 - Sewage system evaluation – The wording to be changed to “The Parish Council will undertake investigative work to undertake an assessment of the sewage system in the Parish”. The present wording is too precise and could lead to an expensive report which simply regurgitates information provided by Southern Water. A more nuanced approach is needed.

Project 13 Improvements to secondary education - Strike out RDC as ESCC is responsible for education matters in the County. GS said that Projects 4,7, 8 and 9 needed to have amendments to better reflect which authority is responsible for certain services. E.g. Southern Water should be mentioned in relation to sewerage in project 7. Once these amendments have been made the PC agreed to the NDP final draft being sent to RDC for the Referendum. Due to the tight deadline of 15<sup>th</sup> January, DP proposed and RH seconded that GS should be the delegated authority in approving the final version of the plan. All agreed. The final version to be circulated to the PC. Thanks was given to the PNDP working group for working so hard over the Christmas period to get this final version ready for a February Referendum. GS also discussed the next steps; the PNDP group wish to have a public meeting a couple of weeks before the Referendum to encourage the village to vote in the Referendum. A weekday/evening and weekend day date were suggested by all to allow for those who work to attend. **ACTION:** PC to continue to liaise with the PNDP to find an appropriate date for a public meeting and discuss the best ways of encouraging a good turn out to the Referendum e.g. banners/publicity and the rules surrounding this for Parish Councils.

## 118. Community Matters and Issue

### 118.1 Village traffic and roads

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

**118.1.2 Speed Watch** – PL supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC website. PL doesn't have enough volunteers to sustain this group in the long term.

**ACTION:** The PC to ask for volunteers via the Peasmarsh Periodical.

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

**118.2 Recreation Ground/Playspace/Pavilion/Skate Park** – RH requested permission to purchase the following items – a new Hoover, a wall mounted cabinet for the new defibrillator, new paper towel dispensers and agreement to get other small works done around the Pavilion e.g. fixing of a ball valve in the toilets. The PC agreed to all of these purchases. RH reported that fly tipping at the Biffa Bin had been reported to him as well as an abandoned shopping trolley on the playing field. However, the items have since been removed. The Clerk asked if CCTV could be checked to identify the perpetrator of the fly tipping. RH said it was complicated as the installer of the CCTV would need to be paid to access the tape and the image would not be clear enough to determine the offender.

**118.3 Peasmarsh Periodical** – Item deferred until the February meeting as BR and GS have not had time to discuss yet.

**118.4 Coronation Garden project** – The Clerk reported that she has received several expressions of interests regarding the allotment raised beds in the Coronation Garden.

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The Clerk suggested that the management of this project needs to be set up soon to take advantage of the growing season for allotments/gardens. **ACTION:** DP to find a meeting date in the Memorial Hall calendar in the next month or so for an initial meeting to invite those interested parties and the rest of the village to discuss how they wish to manage the Coronation Garden.

**118.5 Oast Cottage** – No updates from RDC or the developer.

**119. Reports and other items**

**119.1 Clerk's Report** – Noted.

**119.2 Memorial Hall** – HP reported that there had been a recent increase in prospective bookings. The grant payment for the newly installed lighting system was discussed under Item 113.

**119.3 Allotments** – The Clerk reported that allotment plots 4,5 and 6 need new compost systems/cages. **ACTION:** Clerk to research and find options to present at the February meeting.

**119.4 Repairs and Maintenance reports** – None to date.

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

**119.6 Rights of Way** – No updates.

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

**119.8 Footpaths reports** – No updates.

**119.9 Village and environment** – DP reported that he had received an email from Gigaclear requesting community engagement in promoting their new broadband service. The PC agreed that this would be a good topic for the annual Parish Assembly. **ACTION:** DP to respond to Gigaclear and see if they would attend a public meeting in mid-April.

**120. Financial Matters**

**120.1 Reports – PL approved.**

**120.1.1** Monthly statement of receipts and payments – for December 2023.

**120.1.2** Budget comparison and bank reconciliations – for December 2023.

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

**120.2.1** Clerk's December pay – monthly standing order (includes pay rise plus national pay settlement back pay from April 2023: £1,019.32– comes out on 26th of the same month.

**120.2.2** Clerk's December expenses: £92.18

**120.2.3** Recreation Ground/Pavilion Cleaner: £100.00

**120.2.4** Oakden Tree Care – Farleys Way tree felling: £804.00 -paid on 12/12/23 – authorised by HP/MC.

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

**120.2.6** EDF – direct debit for Pavilion: £38.00 – paid by direct debit in January.

**120.2.7** Biffa Waste collection – monthly direct debit – January £74.54

**120.3 Receipts – Noted.**

**120.3.1** Groundwork rental of Pavilion: £20.00

**120.3.2** RDC grant for Coronation Gardens allotment plots: £10,000.00

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**121. Correspondence –**

121.1 None to date.

**122. Planning Matters – Noted.**

**Applications – 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. Due to the 09/01/24 deadline for comments, the PC agreed via email for the Clerk to submit the following comment to RDC's planning department: *The proposed planning application pushes back the present building line. The development goes against the draft Peasmarsh Neighbourhood Plan Policy L1 (Protection of Locally Significant Views) under PMLV04 (which looks down Retford Field from the footpath not far from Cornerways before taking in the more distant view). The Parish Council also notes that a similar planning application for a third dwelling in Field View (formerly the site was called Berrynarbour) was submitted and refused in 2014. A subsequent Appeal was lodged (APP/U1430/A/14/2212153) and dismissed on 25 April 2014 by the planning inspector (Thomas Shields MA DipURP MRTPI) for the following reasons: "The main issues are the effect of the proposal on the character and appearance of the area, and upon the living conditions of future occupants of the proposed dwelling with particular regard to disturbance from vehicles. - the width of the appeal site is limited. In order to provide an acceptable width of access road to the rear it inevitably results in the proposed dwelling being tightly positioned close to the western boundary, leaving a narrow gap between it and Parkside. As a result, the proposed dwelling would appear somewhat shoe-horned into the site. This relationship and space between the 2 dwellings would not be compatible with the character and appearance of other detached dwellings in the lane which are generally well spaced apart. 8. In addition, although I acknowledge the proposed dwelling would have an appropriate front building line, set back from the highway and compatible with other nearby dwellings, the need to incorporate the access driveway to the rear 2 dwellings would result in a relatively small amenity area to the front of the proposed dwelling, together with a narrow rear garden area, neither of which reflect the prevailing pattern of development for detached dwellings in the lane."*

**Decisions –** None to date.**Appeals –** None to date.**123. Dates of Forthcoming Meetings:** Monthly meeting, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024, Memorial Hall, Peasmarsh at 7.30pm.

The meeting finished at 9.40pm.

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