

PEASMARSH PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Council meeting held Wednesday 3rd April 2024 at 7.30pm at Peasmarsh Memorial Hall.

Present: Councillors: David Pankhurst (DP) (Chair), Ray Hollman (RH) (Vice Chair), Hilary Pankhurst (HP), Peter Lamont (PL), Georgina Dunham (GD) – arrived 8.20pm, Mick Coleman (MC) and Ben Randall (BR).

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

147. Apologies for absence – Councillor Robert Barham (RB). No apologies received from Councillor Gina Sanderson (GS).

148. Disclosure of interests under the Council's Code of Conduct – RH for 152.2, GD for 152.6 and DP, HP and MC for 153.5.

149. Minutes of the last Council meetings – Monthly meeting March 6th 2024 – agreed by all and signed by DP.

There were no members of the public present.

150. District & County Councillor Reports – County Councillor Report – PR supplied a written report which was circulated to the PC and attached to these minutes and on the PC's website. The Clerk asked PR whether he had heard of the 'Five Rivers Fostering' organisation and whether it was something that ESCC would also promote to encourage fostering. **ACTION:** PR took a screenshot of the poster and said he would investigate.

PR and the PC discussed the proposed changes to the Junction Road on the A21 near Sainsburys and how it will have a positive impact for residents travelling in and out of Hastings. PR said that he hoped that this work would be completed in a year's time but the exact finish date is unknown at present. RH raised the continued issue of potholes on Mackerel Hill and how ESCC Highways state something is fixed when it isn't. PR asked RH to send him any outstanding potholes so that he can follow it up.

BR asked PR about the legalities of Gigaclear digging up private roads, i.e. Orchard Way to install broadband. PR said that he continues to work with MP Huw Merriman's office to get a response from Gigaclear about issues with them digging up the private road near Mill Lane late last year. BR said that he felt that Gigaclear just turned up at his door with no warning and told him what they were doing. BR felt that this was worrying as there was no real information as to what they were doing and what licenses they were working under. PR asked BR to send him information on this so that he can investigate as Gigaclear need to follow the correct procedures prior to starting work.

District Councillor Report – PO said that he disagreed with ESCC's approach to the Hastings Junction Road and thinks it won't solve the problem of congestion. PO said that the Local Plan was going out for consultation for six weeks from 12th April. The Clerk said that she had received an email from Jeff Pryah requesting attendance at a PC meeting/APA to present information on the new Local Plan. The Clerk has emailed him to state that the APA is on 10th April or the next meeting would be 1st May but that public attendance was always low.

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PO discussed new regulations for disposing of plastics and food waste coming into effect from April 2026. RDC has bought a new disposal site but the actual waste will be processed by ESCC. The Clerk stated that a recent email to Clerks from RDC justifying the increase in Brown bin disposal costs cited the new food wastage laws coming in during 2026 as a reason for the price increase and she felt that this was not a good reason for the increase. PO reiterated that RDC cannot increase Council Tax on a Band D property by more than 4.99% and they had to find revenue in other areas and this is the case with the Brown bin rise in collection fee.

151. Housing –

151.1 Major developments – No updates.

151.2 RDC Local Plan – Update on this was discussed under item 150, District Councillor report.

151.3 Neighbourhood Planning for Peasmarsch – The PNDP is listed as an agenda item for RDC Full Council on 8th April 2024. PO asked what he should say in support of the Plan. The PC agreed that he should say that the PNDP is a good thing to have in place for Peasmarsch to be able to control the future of development in the village.

152. Community Matters and Issue

152.1 Village traffic and roads

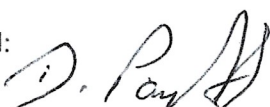
152.1.1 VAS – PL supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC website. PL reported that traffic levels were down. The PC speculated as to why this might be. It could be the many diversions in place and previous roadworks by Gigaclear.

152.1.2 Speed Watch – PL supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC website. There were no Speed Watch sessions in March due to lack of volunteers but one is planned for April. PL to request volunteers at the APA next week.

152.1.3 Black Cat speeding device – PL supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC website. PL has just finished calibration of the Black Cat by Brickfields. PL requested the Clerk renew the Black Cat Licenses. The Clerk agreed and said that ESCC Highways never invoiced her for the previous licenses despite repeated phone calls due to their payment system not working. **ACTION:** Clerk to apply for new Black Cat licenses for the same locations as last year.

152.2 Recreation Ground/Playspace/Pavilion/Skate Park – RH reported that Colin Shambrook had emailed him the latest quotation for installing a new CCTV recorder at the Pavilion. They also discussed doing services on the CCTV on a quarterly basis. This would be roughly £99 per service. Although the cost would be less if the Pavilion could be connected to the internet. The PC discussed the possibility of getting internet for the Pavilion and would see what deals Gigaclear may discuss at the APA next week. **RESOLVED:** All agreed to proceed with the purchase of the new recorder and quarterly services. The Clerk reported that she had moved the fly tipped rubbish preventing collection of the Biffa bin to by the sign for the Old Hop Garden. Thompson Tippers rang today and will collect the rubbish next week. The PC had discussions about how best to prevent fly tipping in the area. RH suggested that a closed bin area could be made near the back of the Pavilion and another local removal waste removal company could be employed to remove the waste – possibly Thompson Tippers. As Biffa Waste is quite expensive and the PC has often had to pay for missed collections due to fly

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tipped waste, this option might be a solution. **ACTION:** Clerk to contact Thompson Tippers to see if this is a service that they would provide.

152.3 Sinkhole on playing field – RH reported that the work to fix the sinkhole has been more complicated than previously thought. It was not a broken pipe, rather a new land drain was required which involved work all the way down to the new Coronation Garden. A new land drain has been fitted and backfilled. The sinkhole is still fenced off as the land needs to settle and be returfed in a few weeks. **ACTION:** Clerk to wait for the last remaining invoice from Platinum Groundworks before claiming on the insurance. The insurance won't cover the full costs but it is still worth claiming. DP thanked RH for his time and hard work in dealing with this issue.

152.4 Peasmarsh Periodical – BR said that the PC needed to purchase a domain name. The PC unanimously agreed that 'Peasmarsh Periodical' is still a good name and recognisable to the village. **RESOLVED:** BR to investigate the best hosting site and DP to purchase the domain name.

152.5 Annual Parish Assembly – DP said that planned attendees were Gigaclear, County and District Councillors and the Clerk confirmed that the local PCSO was due to attend to discuss scams and internet safety. **ACTION:** Clerk to purchase milk and biscuits.

152.6 Coronation Garden - The Clerk reported that she had submitted a complaint to Southern Water about their siting of a skip on PC land. Southern Water apologised and said that they were investigating with the site manager and would get back to the Clerk with a removal date.

DP reported that only one person attended the Coronation Garden open meeting on March 17th. The Clerk has subsequently found three other interested parties. The PC agreed tenancy contract. **ACTION:** Clerk to purchase numbers 1-9 for the raised beds to identify them (MC agreed to install these when they arrive) and issue interested parties with a contract to sign, a request for payment of £25 and a key once payment complete. DP asked whether there should be a Plan B to advertise the garden for others if there is not much uptake. The PC agreed that once a few people are seen to be using the raised beds, word will spread and interest should grow.

152.7 Coronation Garden Easter Egg hunt – The Clerk reported that she had advertised this event with the school prior to the Easter holidays and advertised on the village Facebook pages and on the noticeboards around the village. Gigaclear's representative, Michelle has asked for a table and two chairs on the day. RH said that he would help to arrange these. **ACTION:** RH to request Francis Warren cut the grass prior to the Easter Egg hunt.

152.8 Scams – GD reported that recently a resident was subjected to a scam by someone purporting to be from the resident's bank and they even arranged for the resident to travel in a taxi and shut their bank account down. The scam has caused suspicion about the new taxi company in the village as they have a red taxi and the person who drove the taxi in the scam had a red taxi. GD said that he would talk to the taxi company to let them know. The Clerk said that PCSO Swinney had contacted her and was happy to come along and discuss the latest scams and internet safety. The Clerk also reiterated that all scams should be reported to Sussex Police via 101, either by phone or on their website. Sussex Police also have a specific operation running – 'Operation Signature' which relates to vulnerable people who may be scammed.

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- 152.9 Oast Cottage** – The Clerk reported that there had been no update on this. She said that at a recent Rother Clerk’s Networking meeting, many Clerks agreed to put their name to an open letter to Rother District Council complaining about the Enforcement Department and how it does not appear fit for purpose. PO said that as Chair of the RDC Overview and Scrutiny Committee, he was currently putting together a task force to look into the Enforcement department.
- 153. Reports and other items**
- 153.1 Clerk’s Report** – Noted.
- 153.2 Clerk’s phone** – The Clerk reported that her current phone was inherited from the previous Clerk and was a non-touch screen, old phone which is on a top-up pay as you go contract which at £10 a month does not allow for many calls or texts. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to research and purchase a new phone and contract in the Parish Council’s name. Clerk to set up a direct debit for a contract on the new Business debit card as discussed in item 154.1.3.
- 153.3 Royal portrait of the King** – The Clerk reported that ESALC had emailed Clerks to say that all Local Councils were entitled to one framed picture of the King to mark his Coronation via Cubiquity Media. The portrait has been ordered and will be delivered some time in May. The only suitable place for this item is in the Memorial Hall. **ACTION:** The Memorial Hall Committee to add this to their next meeting agenda and decide if they wish to accept this donation and if so, where it is to be located.
- 153.4 Flower Festival donation** – **RESOLVED:** The PC agreed to a donation of £50 as per the FY24-25 budget. **ACTION:** HP to request that Deirdre Bull emails the Clerk to formally request the donation.
- 153.5 Memorial Hall** – MC reported that bookings were healthy and that the Memorial Hall had recently had an East Sussex Fire Assessment, which has led to improved health and safety signage around the hall.
- 153.6 Online Storage – Memory sticks** – The Clerk and DP exchanged one memory stick. The Clerk had left the other memory stick at home. **RESOLVED:** Misplaced memory stick to be exchanged at the next meeting.
- 153.7 Allotments** – MC reported that he had levelled the ground and installed the compost bins next to plots 4 and 5. The PC gave thanks to MC for his work on this. The Clerk gave MC a hard copy of the allotment risk assessment form and MC will complete this in the next few weeks. It was noted at a recent visit to the allotments that there is still broken glass near the compost heaps of plots 6 downwards. Plots 10 and 11 have not been worked on and there is a dumped mattress on plot 11. The Clerk said that the tenant of Plot 9 was keen to take on plot 10 and possibly 11. The Clerk and MC felt that the plot sizes were wrong with 10 and 11 and that 10 should be incorporated into 9 and 11 should become 10. The Clerk reported that the current tenant for plots 10 and 11 has not paid the annual rent. **ACTION:** Clerk to serve notice on the allotment holder of plots 10 and 11 and offer the plots to the current tenant of plot 9.
- 153.8 Repairs and Maintenance reports** – None to date.
- 153.9 ESCC Highways report** – The Clerk reported that she had just received an email from Highways informing her of upcoming work/road closure on Mackerel Hill and Mill Lane. **ACTION:** Clerk to circulate email to PC.

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- 153.10 Rights of Way** – No updates.
- 153.11 Police and PCSO Reports** – No updates.
- 153.12 Footpaths reports** – No updates.
- 153.13 Village and environment** – MC and GD noted that there continued to be a high increase in dog fouling in the village. It was discussed but it was agreed that there was little to be done to mitigate this behaviour. MC also agreed that the first urban grass cut had taken place recently and was a thorough job.

154. Financial Matters

154.1 Reports – PL approved.

154.1.1 Monthly statement of receipts and payments – for March 2024.

154.1.2 Budget comparison and bank reconciliations – for March 2024.

154.1.3 To approve and sign RFO's application for a Lloyds business debit card for payments/expenses under £500 when an invoice cannot be raised to pay via BACS.

RESOLVED – The PC unanimously agreed to the Clerk's application and HP, MC and RH counter-signed the application form as bank signatories. **ACTION:** Clerk to complete the application and send to Lloyds Business Banking. Clerk to update the Financial Regulations to reflect this change and circulate to the PC for approval at the AGM. PL asked the Clerk if invoices should still be checked and signed by a banking signatory as they used to be when the PC used cheques. The Clerk said that we should, as recommended by the internal auditor but the length of meetings has often meant this task has been overlooked. **RESOLVED:** It was agreed that invoices should be scanned and sent out by the Clerk with papers for each monthly meeting for checking by the bank signatories. This will then serve as an electronic signature of checking. Clerk to update the Financial Regulations with this process.

154.2 To approve and ratify payments – all approved. HP and RH to provide authorisation.

154.2.1 Clerk's March pay – monthly standing order: £916.65– comes out on 26th of the same month.

154.2.2 Clerk's March expenses: £78.64

154.2.3 Well Music CIC donation - £255.00 – paid on 07/03/24.

154.2.4 Cleaning of Recreation Ground/Pavilion – Feb: £50.00

154.2.5 Platinum Groundworks – work to fix Recreation Ground playing field sinkholes: £16,020.00 – paid on 02/04/2024. Authorised by HP/RH.

154.2.6 Memorial Hall Grant, first instalment: £2,000.00

154.2.7 ESCC Grass cutting – 4 extra cuts for FY24-25 - £1,251.60

154.2.8 South East Water – direct debit for Pavilion: £1.00 – paid by direct debit in April.

154.2.9 EDF – direct debit for Pavilion: £38.00 – paid by direct debit in April.

154.2.10 Biffa Waste collection – monthly direct debit – April £74.54.

154.3 Receipts – Noted.

154.3.1 RDC first instalment of annual precept: £18,500.00

154.3.2 Allotment holder plots 1 and 2 for FY24-25: £50.00

154.3.3 Allotment holder plot 5 rent for FY24-25: £25.00

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- 154.3.4 Allotment holder plot 6 rent for FY24-25: £25.00
 154.3.5 Allotment holder plot 7 rent for FY24-25: £25.00
 154.3.6 Allotment holder plot 8 rent for FY24-25: £25.00
 154.3.7 Allotment holder plot 9 rent for FY24-25: £25.00
 154.3.8 EDF Pavilion – credit payment: £137.62

155. Correspondence – noted.

155.1 Castle Water, letter dated 11/03/24 - £8.47 monthly Feb charges but £217.37 in credit for allotment water bill.

155.2 KSS Air Ambulance, letter dated 04/03/24 – request for a grant of £350.00 – letter deferred until the July meeting when annual grants are decided.

155.3 RDC- Dog bin waste collection quote – letter dated 11/03/2024 - £538.40 – invoice due at the end of May. **The Clerk reported that the Invoice for this was received on the day of the meeting – so payment was raised under this minute reference.**

156. Planning Matters –

Applications - [RR/2024/559/T](#) – Garden House, Tillingham Lane, Peasmarsh, TN31 6XH -

Proposed root cut for 2 Oak trees (T1 & T2). **Peasmarsh PC agreed to state the following: - “Peasmarsh Parish Council note this planning application and has no comment”.**

Decisions –

[RR/2023/2615/P](#) and [RR/2023/2616/L](#) - **Sunnyside, Main Street, Peasmarsh TN31 6SP -** proposed altered rear elevation ground floor to remove French doors to bay approved under RR/2022/738/L. Proposed reinstatement of first floor window. Replacement of lead roofing above bay. Removal of external white paint from brickwork and installation of Oak flooring to ground floor. **APPROVED 15/03/24.**

[RR/2024/152/P](#) - **Groves, Starvecrow Lane, Peasmarsh TN31 6XN -** Variation of condition 2 imposed on RR/2022/674/P (description as amended under RR/2023/2633/MA) to allow the addition of two no. additional dormers to the front and rear facing (West and East) roof slopes which would require the removal of one existing chimney; removal of roof lights on the extension to the West elevation; reduction in the 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) and adjustment to windows in west elevation - floor to ceiling glazing removed and two smaller alu-clad windows proposed, instead. **APPROVED – 18/03/24.**

Withdrawals – [RR/2024/171/P](#) – Teviot, Malthouse Lane – Variation of condition 2 imposed on RR/2023/1205/P to allow amendments to roofscape to enable erection of staircase, providing access to a habitable attic and improve buildability of the roof. **APPLICATION WITHDRAWN – 22/03/24.**

Appeals – None to date

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157. Dates of Forthcoming Meetings: AGM/Annual Parish Meeting 10th April 2024, Memorial Hall, Peasmarsch, 7.00pm/7.30pm and monthly meeting, Wednesday 1st May 2024, Memorial Hall, Peasmarsch.

The meeting finished at 9.30pm.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. P. S.', written over the printed word 'Signed:'.

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