

PEASMARSH PARISH COUNCIL



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

Present: Councillors: David Pankhurst (DP) (Chair), Hilary Pankhurst (HP), Gina Sanderson (GS), Peter Lamont (PL), Mick Coleman (MC), Robert Barham (RB) and Ben Randall (BR).

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

- 42. Apologies for absence** – Councillors Ray Hollman (RH) (Vice Chair) and Georgina Dunham (GD).
- 43. Disclosure of interests under the Council's Code of Conduct** –DP, HP and MC for 51.2.
- 44. Minutes of the last Council meetings** – Monthly meeting 5th June 2024 - agreed by all and signed by DP.
- 45. Authorisation of scanned invoice as per item 52.2** – All agreed the invoices. Clerk to save email invoices as PDF so that they are accessible to read. HP/RB to authorise the payments.
- 46. Annual grants/donations** – The PC agreed to donate to the following charities with £200 of the £700 remaining budget being retained for any donation requests later in the year:
- Rye Food Bank - £100
 - Hands of Hope - £100
 - Little Gate Farm - £100
 - KSS Air Ambulance - £100
 - RNLI – Rye Harbour - £100

Clerk to raise payments tomorrow and HP/MC to authorise.

- 47. Gigaclear request for any suggestions of local groups and sports clubs looking for funding – ACTION:** Clerk to suggest the following groups to Gigaclear's representative, Michelle Tanfield – Hands of Hope, Bourne Sports, Beckley Rangers. Depending on the criterion of the donation, it was also suggested that Gigaclear could sponsor the new Peasmarsh Periodical website. Clerk to liaise with Michelle to clarify their rules on funding/sponsorship.

Break for questions from the public on matters on the agenda – No members of the public present.

- 48. District & County Councillor Reports – County Councillor Report** – PR supplied a written report which is on the PC's website and attached to these minutes. He said that there are still serious financial issues with the budget and ESCC will continue to lobby the government for a decent financial settlement. The PC also discussed PR's mention that Measles is on the rise and how any unvaccinated people can get vaccinated at any point. There were no further questions. PR left at 7.40pm. **District Councillor Report** – PO reported that the RDC budget continues to be overspent and the Chief Finance Officer has been asked to identify savings. PO discussed changes to staff in the Directorate of Place and Climate Change. The Clerk raised issues with getting the Enforcement department to respond to her about recent

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concerns related to the health and safety/overgrown nature/rats of the Oast Cottage site. PO emailed the Enforcement Dept to follow up with them. There were no further questions.

49. Housing –

49.1 Major developments – No updates. The Clerk said that the documentation on the planning portal for the Pippins application suggested that RDC were challenging the developers about their proposed sewerage infrastructure and this was likely delaying the final decision.

49.2 Neighbourhood Planning for Peasmarsh – No current updates. The Clerk gave GS the memory stick purchased to hold data from the NDP website and Mike Inkson. GS requested approval to respond to a Campaign to Protect Rural England Sussex questionnaire on their new campaign on the impact of development pressures on our overloaded sewerage system using NDP data. **RESOLVED/ACTION:** All agreed, GS to submit response.

49.3 Local Plan Consultation – The Clerk agreed via email with the PC to raise a comment online on the specific "Peasmarsh HELAA Part 2 - Chapter 4 - Rye" section of the Local Plan.

"Peasmarsh Parish Council has worked with RDC Planning to complete the Peasmarsh Neighbourhood Development Plan, so is already aware of the allocated sites. However, the PC would like to reiterate their request for RDC to work with the utility companies, in particular, Southern Water - to make sure that the infrastructure is in place to sustain the increase in house building in an already overburdened drainage system. In addition, there is a desperate need for affordable housing (including rural exception sites) and RDC need to work with developers to make sure that this element is financially viable and can be delivered."

50. Community Matters and Issue

50.1 Village traffic and roads

50.1.1 VAS – PL supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC website. The VAS is showing a much-reduced volume of speeding traffic compared with last year. It is unknown the reason for this reduction, but the PC can conclude that the VAS is working in reducing speeding in the village.

50.1.2 Speed Watch – PL supplied a written report which is attached. PL has no current plans for any Speed Watch sessions in July, this will be dependent on volunteer availability.

50.1.3 Black Cat speeding device – PL supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC website. **ACTION:** Clerk to send PL copies of the two newly renewed Black Cat licenses.

50.2 Recreation Ground/Playspace/Pavilion/Skate Park – The Clerk reported that Beckley Rangers were due to play on the Recreation Ground and needed the grass cut urgently. Clerk to liaise with Francis Warren to get the grass cut as soon as possible.

50.3 Recreation Ground sink hole work insurance claim – The Clerk reported that the insurance claim had been settled at £1,580 minus £250 excess. A small amount in relation to the total cost but the insurance policy did not cover wear and tear and the pipes could be over

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60 years old. The PC discussed the potential need for a contingency fund/specific insurance for this issue going forward as there is no guarantee that this won't happen again in the future. **ACTION:** Clerk to research with ESALC/fellow clerks if such a policy exists.

50.4 Peasmarsh Periodical – DP had circulated a mock-up version of the proposed new Peasmarsh Periodical website via email for comment. The PC discussed the format of the website and PL said that it was important not to duplicate what is already on the PC's website. Discussions were also had about who would maintain and update the website. It was agreed that it should be quite straightforward once the website is set up. BR suggested that once the website was up and running the PC could also request articles of local interest from residents. It was agreed that it would also be good to incorporate some of the archive on this website.

ACTION: DP to forward details of the domain name purchase so that the Clerk can purchase with the PC's business debit card. DP to then start setting up the website.

50.5 Coronation Garden – The Clerk reported that all of the raised beds were now rented out and a waiting list has now been set up. HP said that she had spread the word about this to the Church magazine. Discussion was had about the potential to add more beds. It was decided that the PC would see how the first year of tenancy goes and then decide about future beds. The Clerk confirmed that the water is due to be switched on by W. Tollett on 22nd July.

50.6 Oast Cottage – Discussed under item 48.

51. Reports and other items

51.1 Clerk's Report – Noted.

51.2 Memorial Hall – HP reported that the hall was being well hired with the upcoming general election and lots of different yoga groups and a dog training class using it. The Committee would be having landscaping work done during the quieter month of August.

51.3 Online Storage – Memory sticks – The Clerk and DP exchanged one memory stick.

51.4 Fireproof secure filing cabinet – The Clerk confirmed that she had filed some historical folders in the new cabinets and there is still plenty of space left. The remaining older files in the meeting room/storage room will need to be organised in due course.

51.5 Allotments – The Clerk reported that the bay tree that was blocking light and becoming overgrown was cut down by Oakden Treecare. Plot 6's tenant was unhappy about this but the Chairman wrote to the tenant confirming that the action had been taken for the benefit of all tenants. The Clerk said that the newly re-structured plots 9 and 10 were being worked on after a period of neglect of plot 10 by a previous tenant.

51.6 Repairs and Maintenance reports – None to date.

51.7 ESCC Highways report – The Clerk circulated a report from Highways notifying the PC of drainage work taking place on Mackerel Hill for one day on 06/08/24. The Clerk also said that she noted that the Pippins hedge on Main Street is overgrown and although ESCC Highways had been told in the past, the hedge was not deemed overgrown enough to take action. **RESOLVED:** The PC suggested the Clerk contact the land agent for the Pippins planning application to request a hedge cut for pedestrian safety.

51.8 Rights of Way – No updates. **RESOLVED:** It was agreed that the Rights of Way item could be amalgamated with the Footpaths report item for future agendas.

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51.9 Police and PCSO Reports – The PC agreed with the Clerk’s view that the monthly police reports are not that useful as the data is two months out of date. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to check the reports and only circulate them if there are reports of interest.

51.10 Footpaths reports – No updates.

51.11 Village and environment – The Clerk reported that she had reported two separate incidents of fly tipping in School Lane. One of garden waste and another of a smashed sink. Both have now been cleared by RDC. The Clerk said that the increase in the cost of garden waste collection by RDC would no doubt add to further fly tipping of garden waste.

52. Financial Matters

52.1 Reports – PL approved.

52.1.1 Monthly statement of receipts and payments – for June 2024.

52.1.2 Budget comparison and bank reconciliations – for June 2024.

52.2 To approve and ratify payments – all approved. HP and RB to provide authorisation.

52.2.1 Clerk’s June pay – monthly standing order: £916.65– comes out on 26th of the same month.

52.2.2 NI Employer contributions: £21.89

52.2.3 Clerk’s June expenses: £26.00 – working from home allowance.

52.2.4 Cleaning of Recreation Ground/Pavilion – June: £100.00

52.2.5 Oakden Tree Care – bay tree cut on allotments: £300.00

52.2.6 Printer paper – Amazon: £23.99 – paid via business debit card.

52.2.7 Memory stick for NDP information: £19.99 – paid via business debit card.

52.2.8 Amazon filing cabinets x 2: £319.98 – paid via business debit card.

52.2.9 ESCC Highways Black Cat licenses x 2: £126.00 paid via business debit card.

52.2.10 South East Water – direct debit for Pavilion: £1.00 – paid by direct debit in June.

52.2.11 EDF – direct debit for Pavilion: £54.00 – paid by direct debit in June.

52.2.12 Biffa Waste collection – monthly direct debit – July £93.18.

52.3 Receipts – noted.

52.3.1 Tenant rent - £50.00 for x2 raised beds (3 and 6) in the Coronation Garden.

52.3.2 Tenant rent - £25.00 for x1 raised bed (4) in the Coronation Garden.

52.3.3 Zurich Insurance policy claim for sink hole damage to recreation ground: £1,580 net of £250 policy excess and VAT.

53. Correspondence – noted.

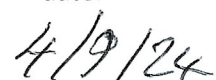
53.1 Letter received 6th June 2024 from Castle Water, allotment water supplier – account is £183.95 in credit.

53.2 Letter received from Lloyds Business banking on 20th June 2024 – requesting I ring them about my letter querying the location of the Recreation Ground’s deeds following the closure of the Rye Branch. On speaking to an advisor, I was told that no such records have

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been found and an electronic copy can be obtained from the Land Registry. **ACTION:** RB to locate copies that he held from NDP work.

53.3 Clerk phone – no payment taken for July as £50.00 credit added to account so monthly payment of £15.99 taken from this credit – balance £34.01.

54. Planning Matters –

Applications – [RR/2024/1010/T](#) - - Sylvanwood, Main Street, Peasmarsh TN31 6SU - Silver birch - reduce trees to an average height of 10 metres. Reduce crown spread to an average of 3.5 metres radius (20% crown reduction). **The PC agreed the following comment: - “The Parish Council note the planning application and has no comment”.**

Decisions – [RR/2024/691/T](#) - Sylvanwood, Main Street, Peasmarsh TN31 6SU - T1 - Silver Birch - Fell to ground level. **No Objection – 11/06/2024. Noted.**

Appeals – None to date.

55. Dates of Forthcoming Meetings: Wednesday 4th September 2024, Memorial Hall, Peasmarsh, 7.30pm.

The meeting finished at 9.05pm.

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