



**Minutes of the Council meeting held Wednesday 6th November 2024 at 7.30pm at Peasmarsh Memorial Hall.**

**Present:** Councillors: Ray Hollman (Acting Chair), Gina Sanderson (GS), Peter Lamont (PL), Georgina Dunham (GD), Mick Coleman (MC), Ben Randall (BR) and Robert Barham (RB).

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

- 85. Apologies for absence** – District Councillor Lizzie Hacking (LH) and Councillors David Pankhurst (Chair) (DP) and Hilary Pankhurst (HP).
- 86. Disclosure of interests under the Council's Code of Conduct** – MC for 95.3
- 87. Minutes of the last Council meetings** – Monthly meeting 2nd October 2024 - agreed by all and signed by RH.
- 88. District & County Councillor Reports – District Councillor Report** – PO stated that the recent budget announcements by central government would have an impact on RDC's finances. In particular, the employer NI contributions will force RDC to make difficult decisions. PO said that the final budget settlement by central government (due to be announced on 19<sup>th</sup> Dec) will help RDC to know where they stand. PO also reported that the same housing developer as Pippins has been given permission to build in Iden. PO voted against this but has complained to the planning department as he felt that there was undue pressure to vote in favour of this development, despite PO feeling that it was not in the best interests of the residents whom he represents. Finally, PO reported that an enforcement working group was being set up due to feedback from Councils/Clerks. **County Councillor Report** – PR supplied a written report which is on the PC's website and attached to these minutes. PR also reported that ESCC continued to struggle with their budget and are currently £56 million pounds in deficit. As discussed above, the central government budget settlement in December will only provide settlement for one year but after this there will be a 2/3-year settlement. The Clerk requested 2 x 1 tonne bags from Veolia Green (the ESCC Waste contractor). PR said that he would contact them and arrange this. PR also urged the PC to look at grants provided by Gatwick Airport and Dungeness Power Station. Despite these not being in East Sussex, their grant opportunities cover this area.
- 89. Authorisation of scanned invoices as per item 96.2** – All agreed the invoices. RB and RH to provide two authorisations on Lloyds' online banking.
- 90. HR Committee** – GS gave a summary of the recent HR Committee meeting. Members are GS, HP and MC. All papers, including terms of reference, minutes, caretaker duties and contract were approved by the PC.
- 91. Clerk's pay review/setting objectives/performance review** – GS said that objectives had been set but that the performance review could only be completed in an informal way as the objectives had only just been set. A formal performance review would take place in a year's time. GS said that an upcoming internal audit may raise other matters which may need to be

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added to the objectives. The PC agreed the Clerk's pay rise in accordance with the NALC national pay rise announced on 23/10/24.

- 92. Chairman's role** – The Clerk said that this item needed to remain on the agenda as DP intended to step down as Chairman next May. Depending on whether DP is stepping down from just the role or from the PC itself will determine the next steps. RH said that he would continue to step in as Chairman until DP is well enough to reprise the role. However, RH stated that due to poor health himself, he would be resigning from the PC in April next year after over 40 years.

**93. Housing –**

**93.1 Major developments** – Nothing to report.

**93.2 Neighbourhood Planning for Peasmarsh** – Nothing to report.

**94. Community Matters and Issue**

**94.1 Village traffic and roads**

**94.1.1 VAS** – PL supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC website. PL reported that the volume of traffic has dropped in the last 3 years but the reason for this is unknown. The PC discussed whether it could be due to roadworks diversions.

**94.1.2 Speed Watch** – PL supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC's website. There were no speed watch sessions in October due to volunteer availability but there are sessions planned for November.

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

**94.2 Recreation Ground/Playspace/Pavilion/Skate Park** – RH had no report. The Clerk reported that she had given Suzanne Challis another key to access the new Biffa bin to dispose of rubbish bags on the road leading to the skate park and MC said that he had fixed the bin's locking mechanism. Thanks were given to MC.

**94.3 Caretaker recruitment** – The Clerk reported that Mark Henham (MH) of Harbour Locks had agreed to take on the role under a £100 a month retainer. The HR Committee had agreed a list of duties and a contract for agreement prior to starting. The PC agreed these papers.

**ACTION:** Clerk to contact MH and provide him with the necessary paperwork and a photo map of the allotments to be able to get started. Clerk to set up a standing order to arrange monthly payment.

**94.4 Peasmarsh Periodical** – Item deferred until DP's return.

**94.5 Coronation Garden** – The Clerk reported that the water leak at the stand pipe had been investigated by M&S Water Services Ltd on 05/11 and discussed the potential fixes proposed. The Clerk now awaits a report with a quote for the next steps. **RESOLVED:** The PC agreed that ongoing investigative work should be carried out by M&S Water Services Ltd.

**94.6 Oast Cottage** – No further updates.

**95. Reports and other items**

**95.1 Clerk's Report for October** – Noted.

**95.2 ESALC Conference – 04/11/24** – PL supplied a written report which was noted by the PC.

**95.3 Memorial Hall** – MC reported that all was well and bookings were high due to new yoga classes. MC had a letter from the National Lottery regarding the ownership of the Hall.

**ACTION:** RB said that he would look into the registration of the Hall with the Land

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Registry and the trusteeship, as the National Lottery has stated that they are relinquishing their control of the hall earlier than the previously stated timeframe.

**95.4 Online Storage – Memory sticks** – The Clerk agreed that in DP's absence the exchange of memory sticks would happen at the next meeting.

**95.5 Allotments** – The Clerk reported that there was just one vacant plot available, plot 6 and no one on the waiting list were now interested. The Clerk asked if interested parties outside of the village could be considered following an enquiry. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to put a message on village social media pages to advertise this vacancy and let people know that villagers get priority but that there is interest from outside of the village.

The Clerk said that ESCC Highways had said that they would send their tree surgeon to check the dead lime tree at the corner of the junction of the Maltings.

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

**95.7 ESCC Highways report** – The Clerk reported upcoming drainage works on Main Street w/c 11/11/24, but those residents impacted have already been informed.

**95.8 ESCC Urban Grass cutting** – The Clerk discussed the options for urban grass cutting in FY25/26. There are three options: 1) two basic cuts, 2) paying for 4 additional cuts at a cost of £1,379.22 per year (a 30% increase on last year) or 3) self-cut the grass using an external contractor. **RESOLVED:** The PC agreed to option 2. Clerk to inform ESCC Highways.

**95.9 Rights of Way and Footpaths report** – No updates.

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

**95.11 Village and environment** – RH reported that residents of Sunnybank on Main Street wanted to cut down a tree that is next to their house on the bank near Malthouse Lane but cannot find out who the owner is to be able to do this. The Clerk said that she had already informed the resident that they need to check the Land Registry. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to check with ESCC Highways if they own this tree. The hedge fronting Pippins is still uncut. The Clerk said that she had reported this twice and had been told that this would be cut. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to email the contact owner again and request they cut the hedge as it is impinging on the pavement. RH also reported that a resident in Brickfields wanted to put up Christmas lights on the Christmas tree sited on the Brickfields green. **RESOLVED:** RH to let the resident know that they need to seek permission from the Southern Housing Group as owners of the tree. Finally, the Clerk reported that after reports of dog mess bags being spread over an area of Bisky Bar/School Lane she had reported the issue to RDC and Southern Housing Groups as they have dual responsibility for the area.

## 96. Financial Matters

**96.1 Reports – PL approved.**

**96.1.1** Monthly statement of receipts and payments – for October 2024.

**96.1.2** Budget comparison and bank reconciliations – for October 2024.

**96.1.3** CIL money – annual report FY23-24 – The Clerk reported that the money received for the building of Orchid Cottage on Main Street in 2018 needed to be spent or returned to RDC. Therefore, the Clerk has attributed this money to the creation of the Coronation Garden in 2023. The report has been sent to RDC and is on the PC's website.

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

- 96.2.1** Clerk's October pay – monthly standing order: £916.65 – comes out on 26th of the same month.
- 96.2.2** NI Employer contributions Month 7 (6th October – 5th November 2024): £21.90 paid by business debit card by the Clerk on 09/10/2024.
- 96.2.3** Clerk's October expenses: £26.00 – working from home allowance.
- 96.2.4** Cleaning of Recreation Ground/Pavilion and bin bag purchase – October: £161.21
- 96.2.5** Castle Water Coronation Water invoice: £715.78. Approved by MC/HP on 09/10/24
- 96.2.6** B&Q – weed membrane and pegs for allotments: £48.00 – ordered on 04/10/24 and paid for on business debit card.
- 96.2.7** Amazon – extra strong bin bags for Recreation Ground: £16.99 – ordered on 08/10/2024 and paid for on business debit card.
- 96.2.8** B&Q – additional weed membrane and pegs for allotments -£48.00 – ordered on 08/10/2024 and paid for on business debit card.
- 96.2.9** Francis Warren -various maintenance/gardening jobs from June to August 2024: £543.00 Approved by HP/MC on 09/10/24.
- 96.2.10** Call out fee for Coronation Garden water leak – M&S Water Services Ltd - £201.60. Approved on 10/10/24 by HP/MC.
- 96.2.11** Amazon – extra strong bin bags for Rec Ground (incorrect size ordered in prior order) £11.21 – paid for on business debit card on 18/10/24.
- 96.2.12** ESALC Ltd – Clerk planning training - £48.00
- 96.2.13** South East Water – direct debit for Pavilion on 01/10/24: £1.00 – paid by direct debit.
- 96.2.14** EDF – direct debit for Pavilion electricity 1st Sept – 30 Sept 2024: £36.31 paid by direct debit in October.
- 96.2.15** Biffa Waste collection – monthly direct debit – October £75.33
- 96.2.16** Tesco Mobile – Clerk's phone – October monthly charge: £15.99
- 96.2.17** Bournes Sports Training – half-term course 28/29th Oct: £115.00 with thanks to Bournes for the £50 contribution towards the play space maintenance.
- 96.2.18** PL ESALC Conference travel expenses: £40.05

**96.3 Receipts – noted.**

- 96.3.1** None to date.

**97. Correspondence – noted.**

- 97.1** Letter received from Castle water on 24/10/24 – provider of allotment water – PC £143.82 in credit.
- 97.2** Letter received 01/11/24 - from Helena Dollimore, MP for Hastings and Rye introducing herself to the PC.

**98. Planning Matters –**

**Applications – None to date.**

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**Decisions – Noted.**

[RR/2024/1397/P](#) - Partridge Farm, Starvecrow Lane, Peasmarsh TN31 6XN -Change of use of building and land from holiday let accommodation to permanent dwelling – **REFUSED 01/11/24.**

**Appeals –**

[3003](#) - Field View, School Lane, Peasmarsh TN31 6UT Proposed formation of building plot for bungalow to be served by shared vehicular access. **APPEAL DISMISSED – 22/10/24.**

**99. Dates of Forthcoming Meetings:** Wednesday 4th December 2024, Memorial Hall, Peasmarsh, 7.30pm.

The meeting finished at 9pm.

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