



**Minutes of the Council meeting held Wednesday 4th December 2024 at 7.30pm at Peasmarsh Memorial Hall.**

**Present:** Councillors: Ben Randall (Acting Chair), Hilary Pankhurst (HP), 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).

**100. Apologies for absence** – District Councillor Lizzie Hacking (LH) and Councillors David Pankhurst (Chair) (DP), Ray Hollman (Vice Chair) (RH), Mick Coleman (MC) and Robert Barham (RB). No apologies received from Gina Sanderson (GS). In the absence of both the Chair and Vice Chair, GD proposed and PL seconded BR to Chair the meeting.

**101. Disclosure of interests under the Council's Code of Conduct** – HP for 109.4.

**102. Minutes of the last Council meetings** – Monthly meeting 6th November 2024 - agreed by all and signed by BR.

**103. District & County Councillor Reports – County Councillor Report** – PR supplied a written report which is on the PC's website and attached to these minutes. GD raised the impact of the spring closure of Newenden bridge on school travel to Homewood School in Tenterden and Robertsbridge Community College and the long diversions. PR said that the hope is that the length of time the bridge is shut can be compressed by longer working hours. GD raised the recent online petition on the Peasmarsh Facebook page for a pedestrian crossing to join the Maltings to Main Street and the Bisky Bar entrance. PR said that previous surveys by ESCC suggested that there is not enough footfall in this area to justify a change of crossing and installing a Zebra Crossing or similar costs around £60,000, which is beyond the precept of most Parish Councils. However, he did say that Northiam recently got funding from estate agents Douglas Maloney for a road crossing attendant. Discussions were had about whether Jempsons might fund this for the village. PR said that if the PC were interested in pursuing this idea, then he would put them in touch with a contact from ESCC. PR would also raise it with Peasmarsh Primary School as he is on the governing board. The Clerk gave thanks to PR for organising the recent compost donation from Viola for the Coronation Garden which came promptly after requesting it. **District Councillor Report** – PO said that the main issue at RDC continues to be the budget and how to balance the books. RDC await the settlement of the budget from Central Government at the end of December. RDC is also taking steps to cut costs by limiting travel and expenses expenditure by reducing the frequency of meetings and the amount of people attending.

**104. Chairman's and Vice Chair's role** – To be discussed when more PC members are present. HP and the Clerk reiterated that there is Chairman's training and support available and DP will mentor the new Chair before leaving.

**105. Authorisation of scanned invoices as per item 110.2** – All agreed the invoices. HP and MC to provide two authorisations on Lloyds' online banking.

Signed:

date:

**106. Budget and precept for FY25-26** – The PC went through the Clerk’s budget spreadsheet line by line. **RESOLVED:** Precept to remain at £37,000 per annum. No increase in allotment/Coronation Garden raised bed fees. Clerk to update the budget spreadsheet with the new figures and circulate to the PC for final approval once RDC supply the Band D taxbase.

**107. Housing –**

**107.1 Major developments** – The PC noted the recent public meeting held at Jempsons on 03/12/24 to discuss the Pond House development and retirement flats. HP and PL attended and said that there was no new information following the presentation at the September PC meeting. The PC now awaits the formal application submission to RDC.

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

**108. Community Matters and Issue**

**108.1 Village traffic and roads**

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

**108.1.2 Speed Watch** - PL supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC’s website. PL said that the threshold for recording speeding has recently reduced by 1mph to 35mph.

**108.1.3 Black Cat speeding device** – PL supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC website. PL discussed the potential for a new monitoring site at the bottom of Flackley Ash as there is a new 40mph repeater sign there that it could attach to. PL may submit a license request to ESCC for this in due course.

**108.2 Recreation Ground/Playspace/Pavilion/Skate Park** – RH had no report.

**108.3 Peasmarsh Periodical** – Item deferred until the maintenance of the site can be determined. BR said that if the Periodical became more of blog/Tik Tok-style instant news vehicle then it would require less maintenance.

**108.4 Coronation Garden** – The Clerk reported that all beds were being kept nicely. The Clerk is awaiting an appointment with M&S Water Services Ltd to begin investigative work to resolve the leak at the site of the tap. **RESOLVED:** The PC resolved (GD proposed and PL seconded) to accept the quote from Paine and Son for replacing the fencing by the goal (facing the Recreation Ground) at the Coronation Garden at a cost of £1,881.63 ex VAT. The Clerk requested three quotations but only Paine and Son responded.

**108.5 Oast Cottage** – No formal news but the neighbour has requested Dentons demolish the house for safety reasons. The developer responded to the neighbour via email to say that they would look into it.

**109. Reports and other items**

**109.1 Clerk’s Report for November** – Noted.

**109.2 RDC Parish Conference – 11/11/24** PL supplied a written report which was noted by the PC. PL said that of particular interest was the discussion of the criteria for objecting to planning applications.

**109.3 RDC Budget consultation** – The PC had no comment on this and did not want to respond to the consultation.

**109.4 Memorial Hall** – HP reported that all was running well.

**109.5 Memorial Hall files/archive** – Clerk to organise a weekend day for PC volunteers in Jan/Feb to come to the Hall and help to sort through archive material and either retain it in hard copy or scan it/send it to “the Keep” or dispose of if no longer needed.

- 109.6 Online Storage – Memory sticks** – Clerk to exchange memory sticks when DP returns.
- 109.7 Allotments** – The Clerk reported that all okay at the moment. There is still a half plot available – 4a and this will be advertised again in the New Year.
- 109.8 Caretaker Report/Repairs and Maintenance reports** – The Clerk reported that the new Caretaker had started his role on 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec and had completed a walkaround. The only issue reported was a broken fence post at the fencing around the Malthouse Business Park. This is RDC's responsibility and the Clerk is going to report this.
- 109.9 ESCC Highways report** – GD said that the dead lime tree by the allotments had been cut down.
- 109.10 Rights of Way and Footpaths report** – No updates.
- 109.11 Police and PCSO Reports** – No updates.
- 109.12 Village and environment** – GD and HP noted that trees had been cut down by Oakden Treecare on the bank near Malthouse Lane, therefore, ownership must have been determined as requested at the November meeting.

## **110. Financial Matters**

### **110.1 Reports – PL approved.**

**110.1.1** Monthly statement of receipts and payments – for November 2024.

**110.1.2** Budget comparison and bank reconciliations – for November 2024.

### **110.2 To approve and ratify payments – all approved. HP and MC to provide authorisation.**

**110.2.1** Clerk's November pay – monthly standing order: £944.10 – comes out on 26th of the same month.

**110.2.2** Clerk's back pay from pay rise, April – Oct: £192.15

**110.2.3** NI Employer contributions Month 8 (6th November – 5th December 2024): £25.70 paid by business debit card by the Clerk on 11/11/2024.

**110.2.4** Clerk's November expenses: £26.00 – working from home allowance.

**110.2.5** Cleaning of Recreation Ground/Pavilion – November: £150.00

**110.2.6** Castle Water Coronation Water invoice: £7.51 -paid online on 18/11/24 – authorised by MC/RH.

**110.2.7** Cllr R. Hollman reimbursement for PC poppy wreath for Remembrance service: £20.00 – paid online on 18/11/24. Authorised by MC/RB.

**110.2.8** Tesco Mobile – Clerk's phone: £15.99 – paid via direct debit.

**110.2.9** Caretaker monthly fee: £100.00 – paid via standing order on 2nd of each month.

**110.2.10** War Memorial annual maintenance grant: £500.00

**110.2.11** M&S Water Services Ltd - £TBC

**110.2.12** PL expenses for RDC annual parish meeting: £6.30

**110.2.13** ICO Fee for CCTV: £40.00

**110.2.14** South East Water – direct debit for Pavilion on 01/11/24: £1.00 – paid by direct debit.

**110.2.15** EDF – direct debit for Pavilion electricity paid in November: £35.70

**110.2.16** Biffa Waste collection – monthly direct debit – November £74.54

**110.2.17** Amazon stationery order for Clerk and Biffa key – business debit card 05/11/24: £22.77

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**110.3 Receipts – noted.**

**110.3.1** Plot 6 new tenant rent (half year £10.00) + £50: £60.00

**111. Correspondence – Noted.**

**111.1** Letter received 20/11/25 from Biffa highlighting new price increases from 2025.

**111.2** Letter received from Castle Water regarding the allotments - £26.61 water charges but still £117.21 in credit.

**112. Planning Matters – Noted.**

**Applications** – [RR/2024/1795/P](#) - Flackley Ash Barns, Mackerel Hill, Peasmarsh - Conversion and change of use of existing historic barn (B8) to residential dwelling (C3), with subservient extension. Construction of bat roosting barn/store. Demolition of large modern barns. Comments by 24/12/24. **The PC agreed that the comment on the planning website should be 'noted'.**

**Decisions** – [RR/2024/1629/P](#) - Redford Cottage, Main Street, Peasmarsh TN31 6SX - Proposed single storey wrap-around extension and internal alterations – **APPROVED 13/11/2024.**

**Appeals** – None to date.

**113. Dates of Forthcoming Meetings:** No January meeting. Monthly meeting, Wednesday 5th February 2025, Memorial Hall, Peasmarsh, 7.30pm.

The meeting finished at 9.10pm.

Signed:

date: