



Minutes of the Council meeting held Wednesday 5th March 2025 at 7.30pm at Peasmarsh Memorial Hall.

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

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

135. Apologies for absence – Councillors Ray Hollman (RH) (Chairman), Hilary Pankhurst (HP) and District Councillor Lizzie Hacking (LH).

136. Disclosure of interests under the Council's Code of Conduct – MC for 154.3

137. Minutes of the last Council meetings – Monthly meeting 5th February 2024 - agreed by all and signed by BR.

There were six members of the public present.

The first three members of the public were there to present a letter with resident signatures requesting support in challenging the introduction of parking enforcement/permit requirements in Woodlands Close on 03/03/25. The tenants said that their tenancy agreement includes provision of parking spaces so they do not understand why they would now need to purchase permits and supply personal information in the process. It would also require visitors to have permits and enforcement will be via an ANPR camera (yet to be erected). The signage has also been placed on Parish Council property (the fencing of the allotments) so this should be removed. PR looked at the map and it does seem to be an adopted road (by ESCC Highways), but he needs to clarify this. **RESOLVED:** PR to double check the ownership of the road. Clerk to forward the map to RB for checking. Clerk to contact Sanctuary Housing about the signage and ask them to move it onto land which they own. BR said that the PC would write a letter to Sanctuary Housing to express our concern about this action which seems unfair and over zealous as parking has not been a problem previously in Woodlands Close. BR said that the PC would do what they could to support the residents but depending on the ownership of the road, the Parish Council may not have control over this action.

The next two members of the public were in attendance to discuss their hedge, located next to the VAS (Willow Lodge, Main Street – (Item 154.7). Following cutting after the 2017 installation of the VAS, the hedge has never recovered and the residents would like the PC to pay for the replacement of the hedge. Discussions were had about boundary lines/increased flooding perhaps being responsible for the condition of the hedge. **RESOLVED:** Residents to obtain a quote for a suitable replacement for the damaged, road-facing planting which was cut when the VAS was installed and send to the Clerk for the PC's consideration at their next meeting.

The last member of the public was Suzy Reeve (SR) who has expressed an interest in being co-opted onto the PC to fill the current vacancy. SR expressed concern about repeated fly tipping at the lay by on the way towards Beckley. The Clerk said that RDC is responsible for

Signed:

date:

this and reports had been made so this should be cleared shortly. SR wondered if there was a long-term solution. For example, the lay by being fenced off so that vehicles can't stop there. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to find out the ownership of the land to see if this is a possibility. SR also raised concerns about speeding at the west end of the village and whether further signage could be sprayed on the road at intervals to really raise awareness to drivers. The cost of speed reduction measures was discussed. PL discussed his continued work on speeding and data collection. PR said that signage had a limited impact and once the novelty wears off, drivers tend to not see it anymore. PL also raised the issue of perception, that speeding isn't actually a major problem and since the VAS has been installed, speeding has reduced year on year.

District & County Councillor Reports – County Councillor Report – PR supplied a written report which is on the PC's website. He said that during the meeting he had sent the map of Woodlands Close to ESCC Highways for confirmation about the status of the road as per discussion under item 137. PR said that a new bookings system was going to be introduced with the waste recycling sites in East Sussex to save money. RB asked if there was any update on the closure of Newenden Bridge for repairs. PR said that he had no update at the moment. **District Councillor Report** – PO reported that Cabinet met on 03/05/25 and approved a new paper - outlining the framework to devolution services and assets to Town and Parish Councils – Protecting Local Services (Draft Service/Asset Framework). PO also urged the PC to take part in the consultation for the Draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2025-2030 and approve it. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to forward the Protecting Local Services paper to the PC. PC to go through their asset leases to check if it wishes to express an interest in obtaining the freeholds. The deadline for doing this is the end of September 2025.

- 138. Authorisation of scanned invoices as per item 155.2** – All agreed the invoices. MC and RB to authorise.
- 139. Authorisation of direct debit payments to Castle Water for allotment/coronation garden water bills.** **RESOLVED:** All agreed and RB and MC signed the paperwork as this required two bank signatories.
- 140. Confirm a date for Parish Assembly** – confirmed as Thursday 15th May at 7/7.30pm. MC booked the hall with HP.
- 141. Councillor vacancy** – The Clerk welcomed Suzy Reeve as an interested candidate for co-option and said that if she was still keen to join, she could be co-opted at the beginning of the April meeting. The Clerk said that Mark Henham had also expressed an interest in joining but unfortunately, he was disqualified in doing so due to being paid by the PC as a Caretaker.
- 142. Councillor emails** – The Clerk said that she had attended a government webinar on how to change to a .gov.uk domain. There is a government approved shortlist of 29 approved providers. The Clerk has obtained 4 quotes from this list. The recommendation from the Rother Clerk's network has been Netwise. It is more expensive than the others but the reviews have been very good. **RESOLVED:** It was unanimously agreed to proceed with starting the process of obtaining a .gov.uk domain with Netwise. Clerk to double check what storage is included in this package.
- 143. Housing, major developments and neighbourhood planning for Peasmarsh** – Nothing to report.

Signed:

date:

144. RDC consultation on new Housing Development Strategy – PL and GS went through PL's draft response and amended various sections. **RESOLVED:** PL and GS to finalise the response together then send it to the Clerk for submission before the deadline of 31/03/25.

146. Village traffic and roads

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

146.2 Speed Watch - PL supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC's website.

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

147. Recreation Ground/Playspace/Pavilion/Skate Park – In RH's absence, the Clerk said that the only issue that they had discussed was a new football team potentially wanting to use the pitch next season in addition to Beckley Rangers. RH and the Clerk had discussed putting the existing fees up from next season. It is currently £15 per game. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to ask the Icklesham Clerk what they charge Rye Bay FC for their hire of the pitch at Winchelsea Beach to be able to make a reasonable comparison. Any increase to be approved at April's meeting.

148. Coronation Garden – The Clerk reported that the annual rent request letters were ready to go to tenants in mid-March.

149. Allotments – The Clerk said that she has prepared the rent request letter to be sent to tenants in Mid-March. The Clerk will also inform tenants about the contract amendment to their tenancy agreement which now includes an annual inspection of their plots in March to check that they are being used properly prior to tenancy renewal in April each year. **RESOLVED:** The Clerk and MC to organise completing the annual inspection of the allotments in the next couple of weeks.

150. Caretaker report/repairs and maintenance – Noted. RESOLVED: Clerk to ask the Caretaker to quote for the issues raised in February's report – Recreation Ground – "pedestrian gate onto concrete requires adjustment and repair" and at the Pavillion – "guttering along front requires new gutter union joint and replacement end fascia bracket."

151. Oast Cottage – The Clerk confirmed that the only information she had was that the developer had re-confirmed to the neighbouring house that the house (including agreed planning permission for two semi-detached houses) was being circulated for sale to other developers.

152. New policies for approval – GS proposed and PL seconded approval of the policies after the following amendments: -

- Social Media policy – **RESOLVED:** Reference to RDC should be caveated with '*or its successor*'. Reference to Twitter should read '*X, (formally Twitter)*'. The Chairman should be a back-up administrator for the Facebook account if the Clerk was to be on holiday as he/she has a copy of all passwords for an emergency.
- Grievance policy – approved.

153. Policies for review – GS proposed and PL seconded the approval of the following policies based on the amendments listed below: -

- Complaints procedure – **RESOLVED:** Clerk to add commas in the sections PL suggested. Reference to ESCC/RDC should be caveated with '*or its successor*'.
- Equality and Diversity policy – this replaces the Equal Opportunities and Employment Practice statement from 2016 – approved.

154. Reports and other items

Signed:

date:

- 154.1 Clerk's Report for February** – Noted.
- 154.2 Peasmarsh Periodical** – the format of this to be deferred until the PC can consult on what the village would like. Agenda item for the Parish Assembly.
- 154.3 Memorial Hall Committee** – MC said that the three trustees had a meeting last week and have agreed a way forward in roles, with HP taking on the secretary and treasurer role for now. In the long-term a separate treasurer will be required but a volunteer with the correct qualifications needs to be found. The Memorial Hall continues to be well used.
- 154.4 Memorial Hall files/archive** – The Clerk said that she and MC/GS had cleared the plant room in the Memorial Hall of files and stored all historical/archive/maps in the right-hand cabinet in the lobby to be organised by willing volunteers. There was less paperwork than they had first thought. The Clerk had organised a waste company to destroy the remaining files which include paperwork/personal information that is no longer needed according to the PC's retention policy/GDPR regulations. **RESOLVED:** GD and PL to go through remaining archive material and check with RH if any other folders exist.
- 154.5 Online Storage – Memory sticks** – to be deferred until HP is present.
- 154.6 ESCC Highways report** – No reports.
- 154.7 Hedge by the 30mph VAS outside Willow Lodge, Main Street** – Discussed under item 137.
- 154.8 Rights of Way and Footpaths report** – No reports.
- 154.9 Police and PCSO Reports** – No updates.
- 154.10 Village and environment** – MC said that the grit bin that had been reported missing by residents of School Lane was back in place – it appeared to have been hidden by brambles.
- 155. Financial Matters**
- 155.1 Reports – PL approved.**
- 155.1.1** Monthly statement of receipts and payments – for February 2025.
- 155.1.2** Budget comparison and bank reconciliations – for February 2025.
- 155.2 To approve and ratify payments – all approved. MC and RB to provide authorisation.**
- 155.2.1** Clerk's February pay – monthly standing order: £944.10 – comes out on 26th of the same month.
- 155.2.2** NI Employer contributions Month 11 (6th February – 5th March 2025): £25.70 paid by business debit card by the Clerk on 11/02/2025.
- 155.2.3** Clerk's February expenses: £26.00 – working from home allowance.
- 155.2.4** Cleaning of Recreation Ground/Pavilion – February: £100.00
- 155.2.5** Castle Water Coronation Garden water invoice for January: £10.37 – paid by the Clerk via business debit card on 14/02/2025.
- 155.2.6** Tesco Mobile – Clerk's phone: March £15.99 – paid via direct debit on 10/03/2025.
- 155.2.7** Waste Paper Solutions Ltd – shredding service for old files to comply with GDPR: £78.00 – paid on business debit card on 19/02/2025.

Signed:

date:

- 155.2.8** Caretaker monthly fee - March: £100.00 – paid via standing order on 2nd of each month.
- 155.2.9** Breakthrough Communications – training Clerk – Social Media training part one and dealing with difficult people and conversations (x2 training sessions @ £48.00 each) - £96.00
- 155.2.10** Feb half-term Bourne Sports football training, 50% contribution by PC for Peasmarsh residents: £150.00. Bourne Sports kindly donated £60 towards the upkeep of the play space. Authorised by RH and MC on 24/02/2025.
- 155.2.11** Additional license for Black Cat traffic monitoring device – ESCC: £TBC – Not received yet.
- 155.2.12** South East Water – direct debit for Pavilion on 03/02/2025: £1.00
- 155.2.13** EDF – direct debit for Pavilion electricity paid in February: £37.22
- 155.2.14** Biffa Waste collection – monthly direct debit – March: £103.98

155.3 Receipts – none to date.

156. Correspondence – Letter/petition for support received from the residents of Woodlands Close dated 03/03/25 but received at the meeting as part of Item 137.

157. Planning Matters – Noted.

Applications – None to date.

Decisions – [RR/2024/2004/P](#) - **Pencil Patch Projects Ltd, Wittersham Road, Peasmarsh TN31 6TD** - Demolition of existing workshop and replacement with new building providing four light industrial units, together with associated car parking and cycle and refuse storage. Use classes E (g), B2 and B8 – **APPROVED 21/02/2025.**

Appeals – None to date.

158. Dates of Forthcoming Meetings: Monthly meeting, Wednesday 2nd April 2025, Memorial Hall, Peasmarsh, 7.30pm.

The meeting finished at 9.26pm.

Signed:

date: