



Minutes of the Council meeting held Wednesday 2nd April 2025 at 7.30pm at Peasmarsh Memorial Hall.

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

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

159. Co-option of Suzy Mills – After a vote in favour from GS/GD and BR, SM signed her acceptance of office which was signed as witness by the Clerk and SM was also supplied with the register of pecuniary interests form to complete and return to the Clerk. BR welcomed SM to the Parish Council and the Clerk said that she would let her know about upcoming ESALC new councillor training due to be published shortly.

160. Apologies for absence – District Councillor Lizzie Hacking (LH) and Parish Councillors Ray Hollman (Chairman) (RH), Hilary Pankhurst (HP) and Robert Barham (RB).

161. Disclosure of interests under the Council's Code of Conduct – MC for 175.6

162. Minutes of the last Council meetings – Monthly meeting 5th March 2025 - agreed by all and signed by BR.

There were 6 members of the public present.

The first two members of public were attending to ask for support for their planning application under item 178 of the agenda - [RR/2025/378/P](#). They said that they were a 4th generation of a family living in Peasmarsh and needed to bring this house up to a liveable standard and modernise it. They had the support of their next-door neighbours. BR thanked them for their attendance and said that their comments would be taken into consideration when deciding the PC's response to Rother District Council.

The remaining four members of the public were attending to comment on planning application [RR/2025/141/P](#) and [RR/2025/142/L](#) - under item 178 of the agenda. The members of public had concerns about drainage and flooding which had been highlighted in the NDP and an increase in traffic as well as pedestrian access to Tanhouse Lane. Discussions were had about rumoured plans for a 24-hour opening of the petrol station. The Clerk and BR said that these were not plans that the PC were aware of and as such, they could only comment on the planning application as it stands. The Clerk and BR urged the residents to make their own comments, specifically related to the plans and their concerns. All members of the public left.

163. District & County Councillor Reports – County Councillor Report – PR supplied a written report which is on the PC's website. GD raised issues of parking tension in Woodlands Close and asked whether double yellows could be used in the area to prevent issues. PR said that this might be a possibility but to keep a log of issues and see if ESCC Highways would do this but there would be a cost. PR said that after recent car accidents in Rye Foreign, ESCC Highways were reviewing centre lane markings. Other options such as speed limit reduction are difficult to explore as ESCC Highways will match fund this but Rye Foreign is only a very

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small parish council, so this is unlikely to be financially viable. The Clerk asked about what could be done to the layby between Peasmarch and Beckley which is frequently fly tipped. Beckley PC wanted Peasmarch PC to jointly write to Highways to find a resolution. PR said that we need to find out the ownership of the layby as it may be privately owned. PR thinks that the best deterrent would be to erect no fly tipping signs and introduce cameras to the area. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to establish ownership of the layby.

PR said that there was no current date for the Newenden bridge closure and as Kent County Council were now in purdah prior to local elections, it is unlikely that a date will be imminent.

District Councillor Report – PO reported that he had attended a recent Cabinet meeting to discuss devolution and government reorganisation. He said that any planned projects that would likely overrun the next two years (e.g. Bexhill swimming pool improvements) will no longer happen in preparation for the change to a unitary authority.

164. Authorisation of scanned invoices as per item 176.3 – All agreed the invoices. The Clerk presented an additional invoice to the original agenda (listed below under item 176.3.16). MC and HP to authorise.

165. Housing, major developments and neighbourhood planning for Peasmarch – Nothing to report.

166. Planning for Parish Assembly – **RESOLVED:** MC to contact Mike Preston, a trustee of the Memorial Hall who is also a framer to discuss fixing and displaying a 6ft by 4ft map of the Peasmarch estate. GD discussed having display boards up for the Peasmarch archive. GD to organise. Topics to be discussed – Devolution – PR to speak for 5 mins on this, Speed watch, seeking new Councillors and to discuss David Pankhurst's time as Chairman as well as Cllr Ray Hollman retiring from the PC after over 40 years.

167. Devolution

167.1.1 Discussed above under Item 63 with PR and PO. The Clerk said that Will Wright from RDC had sent a list of assets that could be devolved to the PC – the Recreation Ground and the allotments. The PC already has the leasehold for these pieces of land so would be looking to obtain the freehold. The Clerk asked PO whether the PC would have to pay for the purchase of the freehold – PO thought not but the Clerk to seek confirmation from RDC. The Clerk to attend a RDC's members briefing on devolution and local government reorganisation on 03/04. Clerk to also ask about the status of the rural business park and car park (non charging) next to the Recreation Ground.

167.1.2 RESOLVED: Clerk to use PL's response to RDC's devolution consultation as a response on behalf of Peasmarch PC – PL to email the comments to the Clerk.

168. Village traffic and roads

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

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

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

169. Recreation Ground/Playspace/Pavilion/Skate Park – **RESOLVED:** Beckley Rangers pitch fee to increase from £15 to £20 from next season to support cleaning and grass cutting costs. Any new teams that rent the pitch to be charged £25.00 per game.

170. Coronation Garden – The Clerk reported that most rents had been paid for FY25/26 and a spring risk assessment had taken place with MC. No issues identified. MC moved the soil pallet

that was in the way of the entrance gate. The Clerk raised the issue of water supply at the Coronation Garden as no further investigations into the water leak had taken place since December 2024 due to the Recreation Ground being used by Beckley Rangers during the football season. The PC discussed the possibility of installing another water pipe to the site. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to investigate with the water company the costs of installing another pipe to the site. The PC discussed the purchase of a memorial bench for David Pankhurst. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to research and obtain quotes for vandal proof benches/memorial plaques. The likely site would be on the Recreation Ground rather than the locked Coronation Gardens so that more of the community can benefit from this extra seating.

171. Allotments – The Clerk reported that the spring risk assessments had taken place with MC and no major issues were identified. MC removed remaining wood on the site and took it to the tip for disposal. All allotments now occupied and in good condition. The Clerk reported that the majority of rent had been paid already for FY25-26. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to ask Caretaker for a quote to replace 3 gates (not the posts) by plots 4/5, 6/7 and 8.

172. Caretaker report/repairs and maintenance – Noted. Due to complete work on rec gate and pavilion guttering on 07/04.

173. Oast Cottage – The Clerk had no update but after a report of trespassing by the next-door neighbour, the Clerk urged the resident to copy their email to the developer for action.

174. Policies for review – All agreed. GS suggested that the personnel data should be retained for 6 years after the Clerk has left post. Clerk to amend.

- Freedom of Information Act – Publication Scheme
- General Privacy policy
- Data Retention policy
- Health and Safety policy

175. Reports and other items

175.1 Clerk's Report for March – Noted.

175.2 Celia Pollington – The Clerk reported the recent passing of former Parish Councillor, Celia Pollington who served for over 13 years until April 2021. Celia was an active member of the PC and was responsible for the installation of the village sign installed in 2017 on the Brickfields' green.

175.3 Willow Lodge hedge – **RESOLVED:** As a gesture of good will and because the cause of the damage cannot be determined after nearly 8 years, the PC agreed to pay half of the Oakden Tree Care quote (via a separate invoice) on a voluntary basis. This should not be taken as an admission of legal liability by the Parish Council. The PC also requested that the hedging is planted within the boundary lines of the property and for visibility, does not overgrow Highway's land and the VAS. Clerk to write to the residents to inform them of this decision.

175.4 Beckley layby – discussed under the ESCC Councillor report – Item 163.

175.5 Councillor emails – The Clerk reported that Netwise had submitted the domain name application for Peasmarsh PC to have a .gov.uk email address and the Clerk will seek an update on progress with this.

175.6 Memorial Hall Committee – MC reported that bookings are increasing and the heating had recently been fixed with a new thermostat being installed. The Committee continues to operate with three members.

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175.7 Archive files – PL and GD had sorted out the archive in the Memorial Hall lobby. PL reported that there was some missing paperwork from 2002 to 2012. The Clerk felt that this was when files would have been digitised and saved on the online filing system.

RESOLVED: PL to start categorising the archive using a Word document.

175.8 Online Storage – Memory sticks – to be deferred until HP is present.

175.9 ESCC Highways report – No reports.

175.10 Rights of Way and Footpaths report – No reports.

175.11 Police and PCSO Reports – No updates.

175.12 Village and environment – The Clerk reported that a resident had complained about the overgrown hedge fronting Pippins. The Clerk has tried several times to get the landlord to cut this hedge but will try again and contact ESCC Highways although they have a high threshold for cutting hedging back.

176. Financial Matters

176.1 Reports – PL approved.

176.1.1 Monthly statement of receipts and payments – for March 2025.

176.1.2 Budget comparison and bank reconciliations – for March 2025.

176.2- Lloyds bank changing terms and conditions of bank account and introducing new charges from May 2025 – Clerk said that from 1st May, Lloyds would charge £4.25 a month for having the bank account. Additional charges for payments would apply after the first 100 payments in and out. However, the Clerk said that this number of payments had not been exceeded before so these charges would be avoided. The Clerk said that this would now need to be factored into future budgets.

176.3 To approve and ratify payments – all approved. MC and HP to provide authorisation.

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

176.3.2 NI Employer contributions Month 12 (6th March – 5th April 2025): £25.70 paid by business debit card by the Clerk on 13/03/2025.

176.3.3 Clerk's March expenses: £56.00 – working from home allowance (£26.00) and direct debit Cloud storage payment – Currys (£30.00)

176.3.4 Cleaning of Recreation Ground/Pavilion – March: £150.00

176.3.5 Castle Water Coronation Garden water invoice for February: £1.07 – paid by direct debit on 27/03/2025.

176.3.6 Tesco Mobile – Clerk's phone: February £15.99 – paid via direct debit on 10/03/2025.

176.3.7 Caretaker monthly fee - April: £100.00 – paid via standing order on 2nd of each month.

176.3.8 Caretaker invoice for work on Recreation Ground gate and Pavilion guttering: £126.00

176.3.9 Netwise- application and set up fee for domain name and email addresses: £420.00 – paid by business debit card on 18/03/25.

176.3.10 Memorial Hall half yearly grant: £2,000.00

176.3.11 RDC - emptying dog bins x 3 for FY25-26: £569.40

176.3.12 ESCC grass cutting – 4 extra annual cuts: £1,379.22 – not received yet.

176.3.13 Additional license for Black Cat traffic monitoring device – ESCC: £63.00 – not received yet.

176.3.14 South East Water – direct debit for Pavilion on 03/03/2025: £1.00

176.3.15 EDF – direct debit for Pavilion electricity paid in March: £37.22

176.3.16 Biffa Waste collection – monthly direct debit – April: £83.18

176.3.17 ESALC/NALC annual membership: £365.03

176.4 Receipts

176.4.1 Allotment plot FY25-26 rent – Plot 3 - £25.00

176.4.2 Allotment plot FY25-26 rent – Plot 5 - £25.00

176.4.3 Allotment plot FY25-26 rent – Plot 7 - £25.00

176.4.4 Allotment plots FY25-26 rent – Plots 9 and 10: £50.00

176.4.5 Allotment plot FY25-26 rent – Plot 4: £20.00

176.4.6 Allotment plot FY25-26 rent – Plot 8: £25.00 + new tenant deposit (£50.00): £75.00

176.4.7 Coronation garden FY25-26 rent – bed 8: £25.00

176.4.8 Coronation garden FY25-26 rent – bed 9: £25.00

176.4.9 RDC Precept - £18,500 – paid 01/04/2025.

177. Correspondence – noted.

177.1 Tesco email received 05/03/25 informing the PC that the basic monthly usage price will increase from April 25 from £10.50 to £11.17 per month.

177.2 Letter received from KSS Air Ambulance on 03/03/25 requesting £400 donation. **Letter deferred until the July meeting when annual donations are agreed.**

177.3 Letter received from Rural Rother Trust seeking donations. **Letter deferred until the July meeting when annual donations are agreed.**

177.4 Castle Water letter received 11/03/25 confirming direct debits set up for the allotments and Coronation Garden.

177.5 Castle Water email received 12/03/25 for allotment water usage - £80.54 in credit.

178. Planning Matters – Noted.

Applications – [RR/2025/378/P](#) - 2 Wintons Row, Tanhouse Lane, Peasmarsh TN31 6UX - Erection of two storey side extension, replacement of doors and windows, removal of rear porch and single storey front extension, refurbishment of the Northern outbuilding, demolition of the prefabricated garage, installation of a permeable driveway with associated parking and landscaping. Comment by 08/04/25. The Clerk submitted the following comment on the RDC planning portal: ***“The Parish Council supports this planning application as a positive improvement to the current state of this house”.***

[RR/2025/141/P](#) and **[RR/2025/142/L](#)** - Pond Cottage, Main Street, Peasmarsh TN31 6YD - Construction of 10 affordable apartments for older persons, gardens, landscaping, parking and drainage and restoration and work to Pond Cottage to create community /communal hub with offices. Access to Tanhouse Lane. Comment by 27/04/25. The Clerk submitted the following comment on the RDC planning portal: ***“The Parish Council support this application. The application was discussed with the Neighbourhood Planning group and plans have been***

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presented at a Parish Council meeting and at a community engagement event at Jempsons before Christmas."

Decisions – [RR/2025/24/P](#) - 12 Farm Gardens, Peasmarsh TN31 6NR - Proposed conversion of garage into habitable accommodation and associated alterations – **APPROVED – 04/03/2025.**

Appeals – [3069](#) - Partridge Farm, Starvecrow Lane, TN31 6XN - Change of use of building and land from holiday let accommodation to permanent dwelling – appeal lodged on 20/03/25.

179. Dates of Forthcoming Meetings: AGM (7pm) and Monthly meeting (7.30pm), 7th May 2025, Parish Assembly (7.30pm), 15th May, Memorial Hall, Peasmarsh.

The meeting finished at 10.10pm.

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