



Minutes of the Council meeting held Wednesday 7th May 2025 at 7.30pm at Peasmarsh Memorial Hall.

Present: Councillors: Ben Randall (BR) (Chairman), Peter Lamont (PL) (Vice Chairman), 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).

- 13. Apologies for absence** – District Councillor Lizzie Hacking (LH) and Parish Councillor Suzy Mills (SM).
- 14. Disclosure of interests under the Council's Code of Conduct** – MC for 28.4.
- 15. Minutes of the last Council meetings** – Monthly meeting 2nd April 2025 - agreed by all and signed by BR.

There were 3 members of the public present. One member of public was in attendance as they would like to fill the upcoming councillor vacancy. The other two members of the public were in attendance to ask why there wasn't more speed monitoring in the West end of the village, specifically along Tanhouse Lane. The Clerk said that PL had tried to monitor there and had not been allowed to by ESCC Highways. PL said that speed monitoring cannot happen on roads with no speed restriction. However, a new license has just been obtained for the bottom of Flackley Ash Hill, near the junction to Tanhouse Lane. PL also reiterated that Speed Watch relied on volunteers and without these, no sessions would run. The other question related to poor stiles on public footpaths and blocked drains. The Clerk and PR said that these issues could all be reported online or by phone via the ESCC Report a Problem page (with or without photos). The Clerk said that the process of reporting to the correct authority had to take place prior to the Parish Council following up on any issues.

- 16. District & County Councillor reports – County Councillor Report** – PR supplied a written report which is on the PC's website. PR reported that it now looked like the Newenden Bridge would be closed in Spring 2026 but had no further details as to how this would be managed. PR also confirmed that ESCC had agreed to help improve the safety of the pedestrian crossing at the Maltings' junction. However, no further details have been confirmed at this stage. The Clerk asked on behalf of Cllr Suzy Mills when food waste collection was due to be introduced. PR/PO said that it was due to start in accordance with government legislation in April 2026. PR discussed the potential for Peasmarsh and Rye Foreign PC to share the cost of an ESCC speed survey on the Rye Foreign road to Rye where a few accidents have happened recently. ESCC Highways said that the results of this survey would not necessarily change their mind that it doesn't require speed restrictions. **RESOLVED:** The PC agreed to ask Rye Foreign PC if they would contribute to the cost of the survey. **District Councillor Report** – PO reported that the devolution and government reorganisation team is expanding at RDC to accommodate all the work that needs to take place in the next few years and to answer queries from Parish and Town Councils. The Clerk reported that she had submitted queries to the devolution team but had yet to receive a response. Once a response is received, the Clerk

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would be able to go ahead and complete the forms to claim the freehold for certain assets, e.g. the allotments and the Recreation Ground. PO reported that he was aware of a planning application from developer Kitewood for land adjacent to the Pippins development. The Clerk said that the developer was due to hold a public consultation on this application on 23rd May at the Memorial Hall (4–7.30pm), however no actual plans/promotion of this event have been circulated yet.

17. Authorisation of scanned invoices as per item 29.2 – All agreed the invoices.

18. Housing, major developments and neighbourhood planning for Peasmarsh – No updates on the Pippins development and as above under Item 16, there is to be a public consultation by Kitewood regarding a development of the land adjacent to Pippins.

19. Devolution – As detailed in Item 16 the Clerk is waiting for answers to questions before formally applying for the freeholds of particular sections of land.

20. Planning for Parish Assembly – RESOLVED: Clerk to open the Memorial Hall in the afternoon to help GD set up. Clerk to buy biscuits and milk. GS to organising the setting up of PowerPoint equipment. GS to give update on how the PNDP has been used in planning decisions since it was formally approved last year. PR to give 10 min presentation on government reorganisation/devolution and take questions. GD to set up the Peasmarsh archive exhibition on presentation boards.

21. Village traffic and roads

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

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

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

22. Recreation Ground/Playspace/Pavilion/Skate Park – Clerk asked GD to be an extra key holder for the Pavilion, GD agreed. Electrical PAT testing took place today – 07/05/2025. The Clerk reported that she had obtained three quotes for a memorial bench for David Pankhurst and they were all circa £550 plus £100 for a plaque. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to circulate the bench quotes for a decision.

23. Coronation Garden – MC checked and all raised beds are being tended except bed 5. The Clerk said that this bed is currently vacant and is being advertised on the Peasmarsh Facebook pages. The Clerk reported on a quote from M&S Water Services – it will be c. £3-5,000 to repair the pipe or c. £5-6,000 to install a new pipe. **RESOLVED:** The PC agreed to install a new pipe but to obtain two more quotes. MC to help Clerk find some suitable companies.

24. Allotments – MC and the Clerk reported that the allotments are in great condition and the new gates look good.

25. Caretaker report/repairs and maintenance – Noted. The PC agreed that the pellet marks on the side door of the Pavilion do not need addressing at the moment. Clerk and MC to clear any rubbish behind the Biffa bin.

26. Oast Cottage – The Clerk reported that she continues to receive complaints from the neighbouring resident of this dilapidated property. However, until the planning application's three-year completion deadline ends (Nov 2025), no formal enforcement action can take place. This has been confirmed by Dan Bevan of the RDC Enforcement team.

27. Policies for review – All agreed. Clerk to upload the reviewed versions to the PC's website.

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- CCTV policy
- Code of Conduct policy
- Environmental policy
- Safeguarding policy

28. Reports and other items

28.1 Clerk's Report for April – Noted.

28.2 Beckley layby – PR reported that he is in the process of finding out from ESCC Highways the cost of fencing off this area to prevent fly tipping.

28.3 Councillor emails – The Clerk reported that everyone apart from SM were up and running with the new emails and apart from a few teething problems, this seems to be working well. The website has been correctly redirected to the new domain by RDC and Netwise.

28.4 Memorial Hall Committee – MC reported that the hall was still getting new bookings and like the Pavilion had completed annual electrical testing today, 07/05/2025.

28.5 Request for noticeboard at Barnets Hill bus stop – **RESOLVED:** Clerk to order similar pin board to the one purchased for the Memorial Hall bus stop. MC to fit.

28.6 Peasmarsh archive – PL has nearly finished this – he circulated duplicate and extra documents for the Memorial Hall and Clerk to file/destroy. GD circulated the images she had printed out ready for the Parish Assembly.

28.7 ESCC Highways report – No reports.

28.8 Rights of Way and Footpaths report – No reports.

28.9 Police and PCSO Reports – The Clerk reported that the Sussex Police Rural Crime Team were in the process of setting up town and village surgeries but had received so much interest that it would take a while to respond to everyone and set up dates.

28.10 Village and environment – Following last month's meeting, the Clerk reported the overgrown hedge outside the vacant property, Pippins, on Main Street to the owner-developer but has not had a response. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to report to ESCC Highways, but it may not meet their threshold to cut themselves and bill the house owner. In Woodlands Close, parking permit signage has been removed again from PC property by MC (the allotment fencing) The Clerk has submitted a complaint to Sanctuary Housing about this issue.

29 Financial Matters

29.1 Reports – PL approved.

29.1.1 Monthly statement of receipts and payments – for April 2025.

29.1.2 Budget comparison and bank reconciliations – for April 2025.

29.2 To approve and ratify payments – all approved. MC and RB to provide authorisation.

29.2.1.1 29.2.1 Clerk's April pay – monthly standing order: £944.10 – comes out on 26th of the same month.

29.2.2 NI Employer contributions Month 1 (6th April – 5th May 2025): £79.11 paid by business debit card by the Clerk on 10/04/2025.

29.2.3 Clerk's April expenses: £26.00 – working from home allowance.

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29.2.4 Cleaning of Recreation Ground/Pavilion – April: £250.00

29.2.5 Castle Water Coronation Garden water invoice for March, paid by direct debit: £10.37 on 22/04/2025.

29.2.6 Clerk's phone – Tesco Mobile – April £16.66 – paid via direct debit on 08/05/2025.

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

29.2.8 Caretaker payment for replacement gate catch: £39.90 – paid on 15/04/2025.

29.2.9 Caretaker payment for x2 allotment gates: £160.00 – paid on 22/04/2025. Authorised by HP/MC.

29.2.10 ESCC additional grass cutting x 4 extra cuts: £1,379.22

29.2.11 Bourne Sports football course 7- 8th April: £170.00 – Thanks to Bourne Sports for their kind donation of £62.50 towards the play space. Paid on 11/04/2025. Authorised by HP/MC.

29.2.12 Donation to Peasmarsh Flower Festival: £50.00

29.2.13 Additional license for Black Cat traffic monitoring device – ESCC: £63.00

29.2.14 PAT electrical testing at the Pavilion: £TBC – due on May 7th 2025.

29.2.15 Framing of Peasmarsh historic map: £200-240 quote TBC.

29.2.16 South East Water – direct debit for Pavilion on 01/04/25: £1.00

29.2.17 EDF – direct debit for Pavilion electricity paid in April: £40.05

29.2.18 Biffa Waste collection – monthly direct debit –: £83.18

29.3 Receipts

29.3.1 Coronation Garden raised bed 7 rent FY25-26 – cheque: £25.00

29.3.2 Allotment plot 4a rent FY25-26: £20.00

29.3.3 Allotment plots 1 and 2 FY25-26: £25.00

29.3.4 Allotment bed 6 and Coronation Garden raised bed rent FY25-26: £50.00

29.3.5 Beckley Rangers FY24-25 pitch fees: £210.00

30. Correspondence – Castle Water allotment water invoice – received 07/04/25 - £71.07 in credit.

31. Planning Matters – Noted.

Applications – [RR/2025/520/P](#) - Cornerways, School Lane, Peasmarsh TN31 6UT - Variation of conditions 2 & 12 imposed on RR/2024/1040/P to add additional lighting. Comment agreed via email and submitted on 22/04/25 as comment needed to be made by 29/04/25:- ***“Cornerways is in an elevated position within the parish and at the edge of the development area and as such is in a key position for ensuring we retain our dark skies policies and whilst the Parish Council recognises that there are safety and security needs to be addressed we would expect that, as stated in the policy PNDP Policy D5 dark skies: “the impact of all external lighting should be minimised in terms of direction, power, colour and duration”. A more detailed external lighting plan should be submitted with the proposal setting out how this is to be achieved”.***

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[RR/2025/391/P](#) - Millwood, Mackerel Hill, Peasmarsh TN31 6TB - Conversion of existing integral garage, demolition of existing detached garage and installation of roof mounted PV panels. Comment agreed via email and submitted on 24/04/25 as comment needed to be made by 29/04/25: - ***“The Parish Council notes this planning application and has no comment”.***

Decisions – [RR/2025/123/P](#) - Barline Farmhouse, Starvecrow Lane, Peasmarsh TN31 6XL -

Variation of conditions 2, 3 & 4 imposed on RR/2024/771/P to relocate a store building revising the driveway layout – **APPROVED 04/04/2025.**

[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. **APPROVED 29/04/2025.**

32. Dates of Forthcoming Meetings: Parish Assembly, 7.30pm, 15th May 2025 and monthly meeting, 7.30pm, 4th June 2025, both at Memorial Hall, Peasmarsh.

The meeting finished at 8.55pm.

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