



Minutes of the Council meeting held Wednesday 4th June 2025 at 7.30pm at Peasmarsh Memorial Hall.

Present: Councillors: Ben Randall (BR) (Chairman), Peter Lamont (PL) (Vice Chairman), Georgina Dunham (GD), Gina Sanderson (GS), Robert Barham (RB), Suzy Mills (SM), Marcus Gould (MG) and Rose Kiley (RK).

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

- 33. Apologies for absence** – County Councillor Paul Redstone (PR), District Councillor Lizzie Hacking (LH) and Parish Councillor Mick Coleman (MC).
- 34. Co-option of Councillors** – to vote on co-option of MG and RK. Both candidates gave some background about themselves and why they wished to join the PC. BR proposed and RB seconded that MG and RK be co-opted and all agreed. Both MG and RK signed their acceptance of office forms in the presence of the Clerk. The Clerk also provide them with the Code of Conduct/Pecuniary interests form for completion and return to Clerk as soon as possible for forwarding to Rother District Council for their records. The PC and the Clerk introduced themselves to the new Councillors. The Clerk said that she would book them onto the next ESALC New Councillor training on 12th June at 7pm via Zoom.
- 35. Disclosure of interests under the Council's Code of Conduct** – None.
- 36. Minutes of the last Council meetings – AGM and Monthly meeting** 7th May 2025 - agreed by all and signed by BR.

There was 1 member of the public present. The member of public was attending the meeting to discuss the proposed Kitewood development. He asked why the Peasmarsh Neighbourhood Development Plan (PNDP) was completed when development could happen regardless of its existence. The member of public felt that he had been misled in voting 'Yes' in last year's Referendum. As a member of the PNDP group, GS responded to say that the PNDP still had weight with RDC and it is a legal document which must be consulted by developers and planning applicants. However, it was never intended as a document to stop development as this would be impossible. We are now under the mandate of a new central government with new housing targets and an increased pressure to build quickly and in greater numbers. Discussions were had about the lack of investment in infrastructure, in particular drainage and sewerage by water companies. This is a nationwide problem and not specific to Peasmarsh. Discussions were also had about the access to the site and the lack of visibility and the potential demolition of the Garden House to create the access. The PC reassured the member of public that they would keep the village notified of any updates and Rother District Council will publicise the application once it is submitted. The timeline to respond is usually only 21 days from when the pink notice is published so an extraordinary meeting may be needed to formulate a response at short notice. The member of the public left the meeting.

- 37. District & County Councillor reports – District Councillor Report** – PO reported that RDC had recently had their AGM and he continues to undertake the same roles as last year. The

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main issues at RDC at the moment are the local government reorganisation and devolution of assets. PO expressed concern that if Central Government wanted to speed up the planning process and stop Planning Committees, it leaves District Councillors unable to adequately represent the communities' concerns related to Planning applications. PO confirmed that food waste collection was due to start in April 2026.

- 38. Authorisation of scanned invoices as per item 52.2** – All agreed the invoices. The Clerk confirmed that as MC was due to be on holiday and absent from this meeting, he had pre-authorised the invoices for payment with RB as the seconder on 30/05/25.
- 39. Review of Internal Audit** – The Clerk confirmed that the internal audit for FY24-25 had taken place with Mulberry Local Authority Services Ltd on 15/05/2025. The audit was agreed once the Clerk confirmed that she would restate this years and the previous year's figures to reflect early allotment rent payments. This way the accounts would be consistently treated on a Receipts and Payments basis and not mixing up two different accountancy styles.
- 40. Authorisation of AGAR Section 1** – Annual Governance Statement FY2024/25. The Clerk highlighted that box 4 was ticked 'no' as the exercise of public rights was not completed correctly last year as the auditor's contact details were not properly placed on the PC's website. The PC approved Section 1 and BR and the Clerk signed the document.
- 41. Authorisation of AGAR Section 2** – Accounting Statements 2024/25. As discussed under item 39, the figures have been restated to reflect the correct receipts and payments of the bank account and not to adjust for early allotment rent payments. The PC approved Section 2 and BR and the Clerk signed the document.
- 42. Housing, major developments and neighbourhood planning for Peasmarsh** – The PC continued discussions on issues related to the Kitewood development as raised under item 36. RK raised the issue of the public layby being bought by the Jempsons as part of the Pond Cottage development. RK said that there has to be a 'stepping up' process to obtain the layby and ESCC Highways should consult the PC about this purchase.
- 43. Devolution** – The Clerk said that she was still awaiting answers to queries regarding the rural business park and car park prior to completing the asset request form. PO confirmed that he had checked about the rural business park and car park and it would be retained by RDC. The Clerk confirmed that she would therefore request the freehold of the allotments and the Recreation Ground. BR raised the idea of obtaining charitable status for the land. The Clerk said that she wasn't sure if this was allowed – **ACTION** – BR to find out more and report back.
- 44. Village traffic and roads**
 - 44.1 VAS** – PL supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC website.
 - 44.2 Speed Watch** – PL supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC's website. He said that the noise of vehicles often leads to the incorrect perception of speeding.
 - 44.3 Speed monitoring survey on the Rye Road to Rye Foreign** – The Clerk said that no confirmation had been made by Rye Foreign PC yet as to whether they would pay half for this.
 - 44.4 Black Cat speeding device** – PL supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC website. PL said that in monitoring the West end of the village it was clear that the Jempsons' junction served as a speed reducer and speeds were higher on a Sunday when Jempsons was shut. However, speeding was still an issue that predominantly impacts the East end of the village.

45. Recreation Ground/Playspace/Pavilion/Skate Park – The Clerk confirmed that PAT electrical testing and Chubb fire extinguisher servicing/replacement had taken place and the annual RoSPA inspection of the Play Space/Skate Park etc would take place in June. GD asked if the small gate to the Play Space could be unlocked as she had received a request from a resident. **ACTION:** Clerk to unlock the small gate.

46. Coronation Garden – The Clerk reported that Reeves Water had completed work this week to install a new pipe to supply water to the raised beds. A new tap has also been installed as the previous one was broken. The new tap allows for hose pipe to attachment. The Clerk raised the issue of weeds in the communal shingle. **ACTION:** Clerk to ask Caretaker if he will address this issue.

47. Allotments – The Clerk reported that all was looking good at the allotments but some hedges needed trimming. **ACTION:** Clerk to send out reminders in due course.

48. Caretaker report/repairs and maintenance – Noted. The Clerk said that the Caretaker had also fixed the bottom panel of the BT phone box for no fee.

49. Oast Cottage – No updates.

50. Policies for review – All agreed. **ACTION:** Clerk to upload the reviewed versions to the PC's website.

50.1 Accessibility Statement

50.2 To note that 'Data Subject Access and the Data Protection Act' and the 'Privacy notice for Staff, Councillors and Role Holders' have been subsumed into the 'General Privacy Notice' as reviewed in April 2025.

51. Reports and other items

51.1 Clerk's Report for May – Noted.

51.2 Beckley layby – In PR's absence, there is no update on the costs of fencing this area by ESCC Highways. **ACTION:** Clerk to ask PR for an update.

51.3 Councillor emails – The Clerk confirmed that all Councillors were up and running with the new government emails. **ACTION:** Clerk to set up the newly co-opted Councillors MG and RK with government emails.

51.4 Memorial Hall Committee – In MC's absence there was no report. **ACTION:** The PC asked the Clerk to ask the Memorial Hall Committee to look into the accessibility of the new WIFI password, as no one has been able to connect to it since it changed.

51.5 Peasmarsh archive – The PC noted (with thanks) the final archive inventory document put together by PL, noting all items kept in the lobby filing cabinets. PL said that there was also a rolled memorial WW1 scroll which he thought should be framed for preservation. **ACTION:** To discuss with the framing company used for the Peasmarsh map.

51.6 ESCC Highways report – No reports.

51.7 Rights of Way and Footpaths report – No reports.

51.8 Police and PCSO Reports – No reports.

51.9 Village and environment – **ACTION:** Clerk to report dumped sandbags at the Peasmarsh sign verge by Church Lane.

52 Financial Matters

52.1 Reports – PL approved.

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52.1.1 Monthly statement of receipts and payments – for May 2025.

52.1.2 Budget comparison and bank reconciliations – for May 2025.

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

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

52.2.2 NI Employer contributions Month 2 (6th May – 5th June 2025): £79.11 paid by business debit card by the Clerk on 06/05/2025.

52.2.3 Clerk's May expenses: £46.70 – working from home allowance and travel expenses for ESALC Clerk's networking meeting in Heathfield.

52.2.4 G. Dunham expenses for Parish Assembly: £29.14. Approved by MC and RB on

52.2.5 Amazon – pin board for Barnets Hill' bus shelter paid by business debit card on 08/05/25: £16.99

52.2.6 Zurich Insurance renewal from 1st June 2025: £865.52

52.2.7 Internal audit fee – Mulberry: £189.00

52.2.8 Cleaning of Recreation Ground/Pavilion – May – no cleaning charge.

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

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

52.2.11 ESCC additional grass cutting x 4 extra cuts: £1,655.06

52.2.12 PAT electrical testing at the Pavilion: £66.00

52.2.13 South East Art and Framing - Peasmarsh historic map: £200.00

52.2.14 PL expenses claim for archive stationery: £39.18

52.2.15 South East Water – direct debit for Pavilion on 01/05/25: £1.00

52.2.16 EDF – direct debit for Pavilion electricity paid in May: £40.05

52.2.17 Biffa Waste collection – monthly direct debit for June –: £103.98

52.3 Receipts

52.3.1 VAT reimbursement for FY24-25: £4,822.22.

52.3.2 Raised bed 5 rent for FY25-26: £25.00.

53. Correspondence – Noted.

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

53.2 Castle Water Coronation Garden water invoice – received 29/05/25 - £2.56 in credit.

53.3 Thank you card from former Councillor Hilary Pankhurst for her leaving gift.

54. Planning Matters – Noted.

Applications – [RR/2025/628/P](#) - Hermitage Farm, Starvecrow Lane, Peasmarsh TN31 6XL -

Demolition of existing dwelling. Erection of self-build dwelling, together with associated landscaping and ecological enhancements. The PC agreed to highlight the design code of the PNDP. The Clerk submitted the following to the RDC planning portal: ***"In examining this***

planning application, Peasmarsh Parish Council would like RDC to note the following design

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codes in the Peasmarsh Neighbourhood Development Plan:- D1 : Local Setting Development must conserve and enhance the character area in which it is located. Developments that have regard to the following will be supported : i) Designs must demonstrate how the local context has been considered and that they reflect the character and vernacular of the area using architectural variety in form and materials. ii) Innovation in design will be supported only where this demonstrably enhances the quality of the built form in a character area. iii) Development proposals must address the criteria in Design Code 3.2 in Addendum D6 : Peasmarsh Villagescape and Design Codes, as appropriate to their scale, nature and the location of development. D2 : Placemaking Development must demonstrate a high quality of setting design, which responds and integrates well with its surroundings, meets the changing needs of residents and minimises the impact on the natural and historic environment. Development proposals must demonstrate how they have considered and addressed the matters in Design Code 3.3 in Addendum D6 : Peasmarsh Villagescape and Design Codes as appropriate to their scale, nature and location. D3 : New Homes Development must demonstrate a high quality of dwelling designs, which respond and integrate well with their surroundings and capable of meeting the changing needs of residents. Development proposals must demonstrate how they have considered and addressed the matters in Design Code 3.4 in Addendum D6 : Peasmarsh Villagescape and Design Codes as appropriate to their scale, nature and location."

Decisions – [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. **APPROVED: 22/05/2025**

Appeals – [3069](#) - Partridge Farm, Starvecrow Lane, TN31 6XN - Change of use of building and land from holiday let accommodation to permanent dwelling. **Appeal started 20/03/25 – no update.**

55. Dates of Forthcoming Meetings: Monthly meeting, 7.30pm, 2nd July 2025, Memorial Hall, Peasmarsh.

The meeting finished at 9.30pm.