



Minutes of the Council meeting held Wednesday 1st October 2025 at 7.30pm at Peasmarsh Memorial Hall.

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

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

100. Apologies for absence – Cllr Mick Coleman (MC).

101. Disclosure of interests under the Council's Code of Conduct – None.

102. Minutes of the last Council meeting - Monthly meeting 3rd September 2025 and Extraordinary Meeting 17th September 2025 - agreed by all and signed by BR.
There were no members of the public present.

103. District & County Councillor reports – County Councillor report – PR supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC's website. PR discussed local government reorganisation as discussed in his main report. BR asked PR what will happen to Seaford/Peacehaven as they don't want to be part of Brighton. PR said that it was unclear at this stage. The Clerk said she had sent PR an email regarding a parking and neighbour issue on School Lane/Park View with the house next to the school struggling to exit their house due to parking at the junction entrance by visitors to houses in Park View. **RESOLVED:** PR offered to ring the resident to discuss the situation and to find out if there were any solutions available from a Highways perspective which could ease the situation. **District Councillor report** – PO discussed devolution/government reorganisation further and said that the true measure of success for people day to day will be bin collection, as long as this continues to work well, the broader issues are less likely to engage people. His concerns continue to be the loss of local knowledge with Councillors and officers who decide not to become subsumed into the new unitary authority. Discussions were had about the potential for devolving more responsibility to Town and Parish Councils. This was seen as an undemocratic solution as a lot of Parish and Town Councils don't even have elections as most members are co-opted. BR said that an increase in responsibility for Parish and Town Councillors would be problematic without a job description.

PO said that he would ask the Planning Department at RDC to 'Call In' the Kitewood planning application on the basis that it is not in the developmental boundary. The Clerk said that she had submitted the PC's agreed objection comments to the RDC Planning Department on 26th September. However, as their website is currently being updated, it has yet to be published.

RESOLVED: Clerk to publish the comments on the PC's website and on social media.

104. Authorisation of scanned invoices as per item 116.2 - All agreed. MC and RB to authorise.

105. To note AGAR Section 3 – External audit final report for FY24-25. The PC noted this. The Clerk said that in future she would make sure to submit the total Clerk costs including tax-free payments as requested by the auditor.

Signed:

date:

- 106. Housing, major developments and neighbourhood planning for Peasmarsh** – The Kitewood development was discussed under Item 103. There have been no updates on the Pippins application. The Pond Cottage development has not been decided yet, discussions were had as to the status of the layby which is owned by ESCC and its sale has not been subject to consultation yet.
- The Clerk reported that she had booked for Graeme Quinnell from RDC to speak at the PC's January meeting as he is visiting town and parish councils in response to the housing needs survey completed in 2024 to discuss potential exception sites or Community-led Housing projects.
- 107. Devolution** – PL and RK attended a meeting in Battle with RDC on 30/09/25 regarding devolution and government reorganisation. Attached are their notes from this meeting. PL to circulate slides to the PC when he receives them.
- 108. Village traffic and roads**
- 108.1 VAS** – PL supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC website.
 - 108.2 Speed Watch** - PL supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC's website.
 - 108.3 Black Cat speeding device** – PL supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC website.
- 109. Recreation Ground/Playspace/Pavilion/Skate Park** – GD reported that a resident has been feeding seagulls on the recreation ground. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to put a polite notice on the Peasmarsh Facebook group pages to request residents not to feed the seagulls due to the mess it creates on a field played on by children and the risk of it attracting vermin. The Clerk reported that she had received two quotes for grass cutting – one from Orchard Landscape (£3,687.30 ex VAT) and one from Francis Warren (£3,500.00). Another quote was requested from John O'Conner but they did not submit a quote by the deadline. **RESOLVED:** Councillors voted unanimously in favour of changing contractors from Francis Warren to Orchard Landscapes as this contractor is an approved contractor for 'urban mowing' for ESCC Highways and is much recommended by, amongst others, Bodiam Parish Council. Clerk to write to Francis Warren to let him know. New contractor to also address overgrown hedges on the Recreation Ground.
- The Clerk reported that she had obtained a quote from Fuzion4 to install a new fire alarm system at the Pavilion - £1,450.00 ex VAT with a yearly maintenance fee of £220.00 ex VAT. This contractor already supplies this service to the Memorial Hall therefore it seems logical that it serves both buildings. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to book installation of new fire alarm with Fuzion4.
- 110. Skate Park** – The Clerk said that she has yet to determine the planning status of the skate park to be able to determine how to proceed with potential different uses in the future. However, she has now got the necessary files to determine its status and will report back her findings at the PC's November meeting.
- 111. Coronation Garden** – The Clerk reported that the raised beds are looking good but weeds in the communal areas are still a problem. The Clerk will ask the Caretaker to address this as agreed at the September meeting, however, he is very busy with his main job at the moment so she has only requested the completion of essential jobs at the moment, e.g. fixing the list of recommendations sent by RoSPA. The Clerk removed the bowls club bench from one of the sheds

and is waiting for the Caretaker to relocate this to the play area when he has help and in consultation with GD.

112. Allotments – The Clerk said that all looked ok generally. The Clerk has requested plot 4a cuts their hedge but has had no response yet.

113. Caretaker report/repairs and maintenance – Noted. The issues raised in the report are being addressed.

114. Oast Cottage – No further updates. The developer is awaiting ESCC's archaeological report to be able to determine if demolition can take place.

115. Reports and other items

115.1 Clerk's Report for September – Noted.

115.2 Request for additional members for HR Committee – The Clerk stated that the annual performance review for the Clerk was due to take place in October but the HR Committee requires an additional member to be quorate. **RESOLVED:** RK volunteered to become the third member. Clerk to organise a meeting with GS, MC and RK.

115.3 Councillor Vacancy – The Clerk reported that she had advertised the vacancy with RDC and had one interested resident who she sent further information to. No formal application has been received yet.

115.4 Hedge at Willow Lodge – RB showed the PC a draft letter which he had written. RB to circulate the letter via email. Clerk to check and send to resident. The letter reiterates the same position as agreed in April regarding the replacement of the hedge – the PC will pay half the cost.

115.5 Memorial Hall – In MC's absence, the Clerk reported that MC had successfully gained online access to Lloyds Banking for himself and Hilary Pankhurst to run the Memorial Hall bank account.

115.6 Tree in Farleys Way – The Clerk reported that she had written to the neighbours that live near to the small section of land which the PC own in Farleys Way to ask if they were content with the choice of cherry tree to replace the tree which was cut down a few years ago due to Ash dieback or if they had any other suggestions. The Clerk has not received any responses. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to purchase a mature cherry tree with trunk guard and ask the Caretaker to plant it.

115.7 ESCC Highways report – No reports.

115.8 Rights of Way and Footpaths report – No reports.

115.9 Police and PCSO Reports – No reports.

115.10 Village and environment – The Clerk reported that as per 117.1, she had received a copy of the letter a resident has sent to the RDC Enforcement team complaining about the siting of a large mobile home in the grounds of Woodside Stables without planning permission. GD reported that the mobile home was initially left on the corner by the Recreation Ground in two parts and had damaged a post. The Clerk said that she had let the resident know that the PC has no power to take action on this and that the RDC Enforcement team will need to investigate this and visit the site. **RESOLVED:** If no official RDC enforcement report has been made on this by November's meeting, the PC will follow up with RDC. GD requested the purchase of a poppy wreath for Remembrance Sunday. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to order a wreath on the British Legion website and GD to liaise with the Church about the laying of the wreath at the service on 9th November 2025.

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116 Financial Matters

116.1 Reports – PL approved.

116.1.1 Monthly statement of receipts and payments – for September 2025.

116.1.2 Budget comparison and bank reconciliations – for September 2025.

116.1.3 RB to complete additional Lloyd's form to vary his access to the bank account to full user. RB gave the completed form to the Clerk. Clerk to scan and send back to Lloyds Business Banking via email.

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

116.2.1 Clerk's September pay – monthly standing order: £974.25 – comes out on 26th of the same month.

116.2.2 NI Employer contributions Month 6 (6th September – 5th October 2025): £83.64 paid by business debit card by the Clerk on 11/09/2025.

116.2.3 Medisave – adult defibrillator pads: £67.19

116.2.4 Lloyds monthly bank maintenance fee from 10 August – 09 September 25 – taken via direct debit on 18/10/25: £4.25

116.2.5 Clerk's September expenses: £26.00 – working from home allowance.

116.2.6 Cleaning of Recreation Ground/Pavilion – September - £250.00.

116.2.7 Clerk's phone – Tesco Mobile – September £16.66 paid via direct debit on 08/09/25.

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

116.2.9 123 reg – domain name annual fee: £15.59 – paid via direct debit on 15/09/25.

116.2.10 PKF Littlejohn external audit fee: £378.00 – paid online on 15/09/25. Authorised by MC and RB.

116.2.11 Memorial Hall grant: £2,000.00

116.2.12 South East Water – direct debit for Pavilion on 02/10/25: £1.00

116.2.13 Castle Water allotment water – direct debit paid in September: £34.56

116.2.14 Castle Water Coronation Garden water – direct debit paid in September: £648.88 – to be adjusted next month as this was based on an estimate. Actual meter reading has been submitted.

116.2.15 EDF – direct debit for Pavilion electricity paid in September: £33.62

116.2.16 Biffa Waste collection – monthly direct debit paid in October: - £83.18

116.3 Receipts

116.3.1 None to date.

117. Correspondence –

117.1 Listed under item 115.10.

118. Planning Matters – Noted.

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Applications - [RR/2025/1399/P](#) - Barnets House, Barnets Hill, Peasmarsh TN31 6YJ - Erection of wooden oak fronted cart lodge. Comment by 01/10/25. As comments were needed prior to this meeting it was agreed via email to submit the following comment: - ***"The Parish Council note the planning application and has no comment"***.

[RR/2025/1582/P](#) - Rose Lodge, Malthouse Lane, Peasmarsh TN31 6TA - Roof light on south east side to serve home office space. Comment by 07/10/25. The Parish Council agreed the following comment: ***"The Parish Council note the planning application and has no comment"***.

Decisions – None to date.

Appeals – None to date.

119. Dates of Forthcoming Meetings: Monthly meeting, 7.30pm, 5th November 2025, Memorial Hall, Peasmarsh.

The meeting finished at 9.20pm.

Signed:

date: