



Minutes of the Council meeting held Wednesday 5th November 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), Mick Coleman (MC), 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).

120. Apologies for absence – Cllr Gina Sanderson (GS) – received and accepted apologies on 06/11/25.

121. Disclosure of interests under the Council's Code of Conduct – MC for min ref 135.8 as he is a member of the Memorial Hall Committee.

122. Minutes of the last Council meeting - Monthly meeting – 1st October 2025 - agreed by all and signed by BR.

There were no members of the public present.

123. District & County Councillor reports – County Councillor report – PR supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC's website. PR said that the Dungeness power station grant has expanded its catchment area for applications and urged the PC to apply for a grant for any upcoming projects. Discussions were had about the conversion of the skate park field project and how a grant could be put towards this depending on what is proposed.

RESOLVED: PR to contact the grant team to check deadline for applications this financial year. PL discussed with the PC and PR his recent attendance at the ESCC Highways stakeholder's meeting and his query to them about why a team would fix a pothole but not several within proximity of the fixed pothole. PL said that their representative did say that this was being looked at and may change. PR reiterated that the issue is that there is a limit in the quantity of materials that can be brought to the site at one time and due to a lack of funding the teams are still sticking to the strict fixing criteria. PR said that they are always looking for ways to optimise a system but it is inherently a difficult one to optimise. GD asked PR what access would be like for Peasmarsh residents during evening and overnight closures of Main Street between 17-19th November. PR said that he would check. **District Councillor report** – PO said that it had been a quiet month but that there would be an upcoming consultation launched regarding the Local Plan. PR added that with regard to government reorganisation, there had been discussions about adding 'neighbourhood groups' as a middle layer between the unitary authority and town/parish councils to keep the level of local representation consistent. This has received mixed views as it could be perceived as a duplication of work and adding another level of bureaucracy into a system that is trying to be simplified.

124. Authorisation of scanned invoices as per item 136.2 - All agreed. MG and GD to authorise.

125. Remembrance Sunday – The Clerk gave GD the poppy wreath and all Councillors signed the attached card. GD to lay the wreath and said that the Church would welcome any other members of the Parish Council to attend on Sunday 9th November, 10.30am at Peasmarsh Church.

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126. Housing, major developments and neighbourhood planning for Peasmarch – No updates at present for the Pippins, Kitewood or Pond Cottage developments.

127. Devolution – No further updates since last month's meeting.

128. Village traffic and roads

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

128.2 Speed Watch - PL supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC's website. PL said that there is only one other volunteer on the Speedwatch team so the group can only tick over. The Clerk said that she had received a request to put up a slow/children sign on the crossing by the Maltings. **RESOLVED:** There is no place to safely position a sign at this section of the road but MC would put a slow/children poster in an appropriate place near the school on School Lane.

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

129. Recreation Ground/Playspace/Pavilion – **RESOLVED:** No action to be taken on broken manhole cover at present – the area is fenced off and not in the way of the Football pitch. New grass cutting contractor has begun and they have been doing a good job. Clerk to write to a resident whose tree has fallen onto the recreation ground's hedge as it is preventing the hedge being cut. The Clerk reported that the new fire alarm system is due to be installed on 07/11/25. GD asked if there was any more grit available for the grit bins in the Maltings. The Clerk said that the existing bin by the play area was full as it was locked by her until the weather got colder, but she would check for any other grit bags at the Pavilion/lock up.

130. Skate Park – The Clerk reported that the PC owned the land and there was nothing in the legal contract to suggest that a change of use planning application was needed. The land cannot be used for housing. The PC discussed ideas for the field including a dog walking field. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to begin to informally consult the community about ideas for this space by putting up a social media post asking what people would like to see. Following responses from this a more formal online and paper consultation can be put together with a shortlist of suggestions. Clerk to research the cost of removing the existing skate park equipment and fencing costs if a dog park were to be supported.

131. Coronation Garden – The Clerk reported that she had replaced the lock on the gate with a combination code lock as the key lock was not opening for one tenant. The bench at the Coronation Garden will be moved by the Caretaker and installed in the play space this week. MC said that he could only find one remaining bag of soil from the pallet of soil donated last year. It is unclear where the soil has gone. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to check with tenants to see if any bags have been stored in the old bowls club sheds.

132. Allotments – The Clerk said that plot 4a is untended and she has not received a response from the tenant regarding cutting of their hedge. Plot 9 and 10's hedge also needs to be cut. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to give notice to the tenant of plot 4a with acknowledgement of this within 10 working days. If there is no response, MC has agreed to cover the plot to stop the weeds growing. Clerk to remind the tenant of allotment 9 and 10 to cut their hedge.

133. Caretaker report/repairs and maintenance – The Caretaker has handed in his notice due to new job commitments and the Clerk has advertised the role on Facebook but has not had any applications yet. The Caretaker's last day will be 30th November. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to keep advertising on Facebook and if no interest by the Dec meeting, a more formal advert might be considered.

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134. Oast Cottage – The PC noted that the cottage has been demolished this week. **RESOLVED:** It was agreed that following this action, this item can be removed from the agenda and addressed in future under any planning applications and/or the 'Housing, major developments, and neighbourhood planning for Peasmarsh' section of the agenda (as per item 126 above).

135. Reports and other items

135.1 Clerk's Report for October – Noted.

135.2 HR Committee meeting 21/10/25 minutes and Clerk/RFO's objectives– PC agreed the meeting minutes and the objectives including the Clerk's pay rise. GD/MG to approve the amendment of the Clerk's monthly pay standing order on Lloyds online banking.

135.3 HR Committee request for separate budget meeting in December – **RESOLVED:**

The PC to meet on 10th December at 7.30pm. MC to book the meeting room.

135.4 RDC Parish Conference – 15/10/25 – PL supplied a report which is attached and on the PC's website.

135.5 ESCC Highways Stakeholder Conference – 23/10/25 – PL supplied a report which is attached and on the PC's website.

135.6 ESALC AGM and Conference – 04/11/25 – PL supplied a report which is attached and on the PC's website. PL will circulate the slides when he receives them. The PC gave thanks to PL for representing the PC at the meetings referenced under 135.4, 135.5 and 135.6 and the reports supplied.

135.7 Councillor vacancy – The Clerk reported that she had no further interest in the vacancy but would continue to advertise it and re-advertise on social media in January.

135.8 Memorial Hall – MC reported that everything was going well with bookings for the hall and locals have also been hiring the hall to host birthday parties. Recent work has been completed on the hall's thermostat system and a new pump has been installed for the underfloor heating.

135.9 Tree in Farleys Way – The Clerk reported that MC planted the cherry tree in the Farleys Way play area last week. The PC gave thanks to MC for carrying out this work.

135.10 ESCC Highways report – As discussed under Item 123, the only report is the upcoming closure of Main Street from 17-19th Nov from 8pm to 6pm for roadworks.

135.11 Rights of Way and Footpaths report – No reports.

135.12 Police and PCSO Reports – No reports.

135.13 Village and environment – The Clerk said that she had not seen a formal RDC enforcement report regarding the siting of mobile homes on land at Woodside Stables.

RESOLVED: Clerk to contact the RDC Enforcement team for an update. The Clerk also reported that there is a tent pitched on a field near Mill Lane. It looks to be being used by a homeless man. The Clerk has tried to report this via the website which RDC recommend but the system would not accept the post code. **RESOLVED:** RK said that the landowner is aware. In this case, as the tent is sited on private land, it is for the landowner to address this situation.

136 Financial Matters

136.1 Reports – PL approved.

136.1.1 Monthly statement of receipts and payments – for October 2025.

136.1.2 Budget comparison and bank reconciliations – for October 2025.

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136.1.3 Savings Account – RESOLVED: Clerk to apply for a Lloyds Notice Account and place the minimum amount of £10,000 of the current account in there on a 95-day notice period for a better interest rate.

136.2 To approve and ratify payments – all approved. MG and GD to provide authorisation.

- 136.2.1** Clerk's October pay – monthly standing order: £974.25 – comes out on 26th of the same month.
- 136.2.2** Clerk's October expenses: £26.00 – working from home allowance.
- 136.2.3** NI Employer contributions Month 7 (6th October – 5th November 2025): £83.64 paid by business debit card by the Clerk on 08/10/2025.
- 136.2.4** Lloyds monthly bank maintenance fee from 10 September – 09 October 25 – taken via direct debit on 20/10/25: £4.25
- 136.2.5** Cleaning of Recreation Ground/Pavilion – October - £150.00
- 136.2.6** Clerk's phone – Tesco Mobile – October £16.66 paid via direct debit on 10/11/25.
- 136.2.7** Caretaker monthly fee – November: £100.00 – paid via standing order on 2nd of each month.
- 136.2.8** Caretaker fee for fencing off manhole cover: £35.00 – approved on 27/10/25 by MG/MC.
- 136.2.9** Fuzion4 50% deposit for fire alarm installation: £870.00 – bank transfer authorised by MC and RB on 13/10/25.
- 136.2.10** Cherry tree purchase plus tree securing equipment: £205.00 – paid by business debit card on 13/10/25.
- 136.2.11** Remembrance Day poppy wreath – British Legion: £24.49 – paid by business debit card on 03/10/25.
- 136.2.12** Amazon – purchase of combination lock for Coronation Garden gate: £13.99
- 136.2.13** PL travel expenses for various meetings – RDC, ESALC and Highways Stakeholder: £32.62 – approved on 27/10/25 by MC/MG.
- 136.2.14** Grass cutting- Orchard Landscapes: £TBC
- 136.2.15** Bourne Sports Association 50% subsidy for football training course – 27-10-25: £40.00 (7 Peasmarsh children in attendance). Bourne Sports Association kindly donated £30.00 back to the PC for the upkeep of the play space.
- 136.2.16** South East Water – direct debit for Pavilion on 02/10/25: £1.00
- 136.2.17** Castle Water allotment water – direct debit paid in October: £30.76
- 136.2.18** EDF – direct debit for Pavilion electricity paid in October: £33.51
- 136.2.19** Biffa Waste collection – monthly direct debit paid in November: - £83.18
- 136.2.20** Amazon – bin liners for Pavilion/Recreation Ground bins – paid on business debit card: £11.95
- 136.2.21** Grass cutting – outstanding work from Francis Warren 8/7/25 – 2/10/25: £1,114.00
- 136.2.22** PL expenses for 04/11/25 ESALC AGM travel expenses: £40.95

136.3 Receipts

136.3.1 None to date.

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137. Correspondence – Noted.

137.1 Action in Rural Sussex – Sussex Community Housing Hub leaflets received in the post. The Clerk showed the PC the leaflets and said that RDC's Graeme Quinnel was coming to the January meeting and would likely discuss this option.

137.2 Castlewater – water bill in credit at the Coronation Garden: £664.69 – requested refund on this credit on 22/10/25. The Clerk reported that the refund was received on 03/11/25.

138. Planning Matters – Noted.

Applications – None to date.

Decisions – [RR/2025/1399/P](#) - Barnets House, Barnets Hill, Peasmarsh TN31 6YJ - Erection of wooden oak fronted cart lodge. **APPROVED – 31/10/25.**

Appeals – None to date.

139. Dates of Forthcoming Meetings: Monthly meeting, 7.30pm, 3rd December 2025, Memorial Hall, Peasmarsh and FY26-27 Budget meeting, 7.30pm, 10th December 2025, Memorial Hall, Peasmarsh.

The meeting finished at 9.20pm.

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