



Minutes of the Council meeting held Wednesday 3rd December 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), Gina Sanderson (GS) and Rose Kiley (RK).

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

140. Apologies for absence – None.

141. Disclosure of interests under the Council's Code of Conduct – MC for min ref 155.3 as he is a member of the Memorial Hall Committee.

142. Minutes of the last Council meeting - Monthly meeting – 5th November 2025 - agreed by all and signed by BR.

There were no members of the public present.

143. District & County Councillor reports – District Councillor report – PO reported that the Rother Local Plan was due to start a consultation period in early to mid-January. PO said that an additional 15,500 houses were due to be built and Peasmarsh could see an additional 70 houses being built on top of existing planned developments. PO urged the PC to look through the Local Plan in detail and respond to the consultation. Discussions were had about the value of having the PNDP when Central Government can override it. However, GS reiterated that it was an important document in making sure that RDC knows the infrastructure, sewerage and utility issues which Peasmarsh experiences. **County Councillor report** - PR supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC's website. He discussed the huge budget deficit ESCC has (c.£30 billion already taking into account their general reserves). ESCC may have to ask Central Government for emergency support but this will only increase their borrowing and debt which will need to be repaid. The Central Government pay settlement for local government is announced towards the end of December, so the financial situation will be clearer then. PL discussed the Central Government consultation on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) options. He urged the PC and individuals to vote and he felt that the One East Sussex option was the most sensible unitary option as it copies the existing East Sussex footprint. The deadline is 11/01/25 and a decision should be made by Central Government by mid-February 2026. **RESOLVED:** The PC agreed to support the One East Sussex option although there was scepticism as to the representation small rural villages like Peasmarsh would have under this new unitary authority.

GD asked PR if any more planned road works were due to take place on Main Street, as the work in mid-Nov which saw red line marking around the crossing by the entrance to the Maltings only took one night. PR said that he wasn't aware of any further works. The Clerk said that she thought that this was the safety work that ESCC had said it would do to highlight this crossing to road users.

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PL asked for more information regarding EV charging points. PR said that 30% of residents don't have the option for off-road charging points, therefore there was a need to invest in publicly accessible sites at a 30% concession. However, there are lots of issues to take into consideration, e.g. a tourist will likely need a high-speed charging point, whereas a resident can use a slower-speed charge, usually overnight.

PL asked PR who Highways used for maintaining/fixing their VAS street furniture as the PC's VAS needed checking as he is unable to obtain data from it at present. **ACTION:** PR said that he would find out and let PL know.

144. Authorisation of scanned invoices as per item 156.2 - All agreed. MC and RB to authorise.

145. Internal audit – 25/11/25 – GS thanked the Clerk for completing the audit successfully. The Clerk raised the key recommendations. Firstly, the need for the Clerk to have full access to online banking. The Clerk said that as the main administrator, she currently only has limited access to online banking which has not been a problem previously as this allows payments to be raised for onward authorisation. However, the Clerk cannot apply for a savings account (as agreed at November's account) without full access. **RESOLVED:** The PC agreed that the Clerk should apply for full access of the Lloyds business banking account. The Clerk reiterated that payments would continue to require two authorisers and there was no change to the existing banking mandate. The Clerk asked full access users, MC and RB to authorise the paperwork to apply for this access. MC and RB signed the paperwork. Clerk to scan and return to Lloyds' business banking online.

The Clerk said that the IT policies needed to be updated to incorporate AI considerations and to comply with new AGAR assertion 10 requirements to do with transparency and accessible websites. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to draft policy templates as required and present to the PC at an upcoming meeting. The Clerk also reported that the auditor requested signed consent forms from all Councillors regarding the acceptance of email communication on joining the PC.

RESOLVED: Clerk to circulate this paperwork for signing at the January meeting.

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

147. Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) – The Clerk reported that the Devolution team at RDC had contacted her to say that they would be happy to transfer the freehold of the Recreation Ground but had not included the allotments in this offer. Missing offers are to be discussed by the Devolution team in due course. PO said that it is due to the fact that RDC are looking at allotment sites as potential housing sites before deciding whether to transfer the freehold. LGR was discussed under the County Councillors report under item 143.

148. Village traffic and roads

148.1 VAS – PL could not supply a written report as the VAS battery was depleted and PL cannot access the data. PL said that he thinks that the VAS has reached the end of its life as it enters its ninth year of use. **RESOLVED:** The PC said that the first step would be for Highways to check the VAS to see if it is fixable and then go from there as to whether to fix and budget for a replacement in FY26-27 or seek an immediate replacement.

148.2 Speed Watch – no report this month as no Speed Watch session took place.

148.3 Black Cat speeding device – PL did not supply a report for the Black Cat this month.

149. Recreation Ground/Playspace/Pavilion – The Clerk reported that grass cutting took place last week and she was monitoring it every couple of weeks to see if and when it needs cutting during the winter months. GD said a complaint had been made from a resident regarding the bin bag placed on the road next to the private woods by the bike ramps. It is getting full and not being emptied. The Clerk reported that it was an agreement made with the previous owner of Woodside Stables, for the PC to pay for bin liners and for the owner to empty the bag into the Biffa bin. Now that the previous owner has left (but still visits the stables and empties the bag albeit less frequently), the bin is now being filled with dog bags and not litter from the teenagers using the bike ramps as it was originally intended for. Dog bags are not meant to be put in the Biffa Bin and Rother District Council will not install dog bins on minor roads; they have to be on main roads. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to contact the previous owner to let them know we are taking away the black bin liner and will no longer be responsible for supplying them as this stretch of road is not the PC's responsibility. Clerk to also put a message on the village Facebook pages to state that the bin bags will be removed as they are not the responsibility of the Parish Council and a dog bin cannot be installed there for the reasons stated above. Normal litter should go in litter bins or taken home and dog waste must be disposed of in the appropriate dog bins (one at the entrance of the Maltings and various along Main Street).

The Clerk said that the new fire alarm system had recently been installed at the Pavilion and all was working well. The Clerk has set up a schedule of fire alarm checks once a month and it was agreed that GD would also see how this worked in case the Clerk was not around. The PC has also paid for an annual maintenance fee.

GD asked whether the hedge had been cut next to the Recreation Ground/Coronation Garden. The Clerk said that she didn't think it had been but would check. The Clerk had asked the resident at the Old Hop Garden whose fallen tree had prevented the cutting of the hedge to remove the tree. The resident said that she had already contacted the landlord, Southern Housing Group but they have yet to send someone to complete the job. The Clerk asked the resident to chase Southern Housing Group.

150. Skate Park – The Clerk reported that initial social media engagement regarding alternate uses for this land had received a lot of responses suggesting that the park is still very much used by residents as a skate park and they would like to see it maintained. The PC discussed the cost of a replacement skate park and it would be around c.£200,000 and would require a lot of fundraising/grant funding. **RESOLVED:** PC to defer the decision to a future meeting. The Clerk reported that the cleaner was trying to empty the skate park bins but that she had experienced difficulty in doing this. The Clerk has asked the Caretaker to have a look at the bins.

151. Coronation Garden – The Clerk reported that MC had reported to her that Bed number one was untended and she raised this with the tenant and they have since tidied their plot. The grass has been cut inside the Coronation Garden last week.

152. Allotments – The Clerk said that she had sent plot holder 4a an end of tenancy notice but they had said that they did want to continue with their plot and would tidy it and cut the hedge. So far, some partial tidying has occurred and the hedge has been cut but not the very top branches. The Clerk said that she would give the tenant a chance as the weather has been bad but

would send another polite reminder at the end of January/beginning of February. The Clerk said that the hedges surrounding plot 9 and 10 had been cut following her reminder.

153. Caretaker report/repairs and maintenance – The PC noted the Caretaker's monthly report and the Clerk said that he had agreed to stay on doing checks each month until a new caretaker can be found.

154. Urban grass cutting options FY26-27 – To decide which option to go with – Option 1 - Standard x 2 cuts per year. Option 2 – Parish Council fund an additional x 4 cuts per year (£1,782.92 per year) or Option 3 – self-delivery e.g. using Orchard Landscapes to do the work. (ESCC would cover £891.46 per year to make up for the x 2 mandatory cuts). **RESOLVED:** The PC agreed to Option 2 and may opt to use Orchard Landscapes in the future once the PC has worked with this contractor for longer.

155. Reports and other items

155.1 Clerk's Report for November – Noted.

155.2 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.

155.3 Memorial Hall – MC reported that everything was going well but the heating was not working and a contractor had been contacted to come and fix this as soon as possible.

155.4 ESCC Highways report – No reports

155.5 Rights of Way and Footpaths report – No reports.

155.6 Police and PCSO Reports – No reports.

155.7 Village and environment – The Clerk said that she had sent the RDC enforcement team an email with the resident's complaint letter regarding the large trailer-type caravan placed at Wellside Stables. She said that she hadn't seen a formal Enforcement report for this in their fortnightly report and asked them for a response on this issue. No response has been received as yet.

156 Financial Matters

156.1 Reports – PL approved.

156.1.1 Monthly statement of receipts and payments – for November 2025.

156.1.2 Budget comparison and bank reconciliations – for November 2025.

156.1.3 Savings Account – Clerk to apply for a Lloyds' savings account as discussed at the November meeting once full access to online banking has been achieved.

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

156.2.1 Clerk's November pay – monthly standing order: £999.00 – comes out on 26th of the same month.

156.2.2 Clerk's November expenses: £26.00 – working from home allowance.

156.2.3 NI Employer contributions Month 8 (6th November – 5th December 2025): £87.35 paid by business debit card by the Clerk on 11/11/2025.

156.2.4 Lloyds monthly bank maintenance fee from 10 October – 09 November 25 – taken via direct debit on 18/11/25: £4.25

156.2.5 Cleaning of Recreation Ground/Pavilion – November - £225.00

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- 156.2.6** Clerk's phone – Tesco Mobile – November £16.66 paid via direct debit on 10/11/25.
- 156.2.7** Caretaker monthly fee – December: £100.00 – paid via standing order on 2nd of each month.
- 156.2.8** Caretaker fee for fitting additional bowls green memorial bench to the play space: £303.00. Paid online on 10/11/25, authorised by GD and MG.
- 156.2.9** Fuzion4 50% remaining fee for fire alarm installation and annual maintenance fee: £1,134.00 – bank transfer authorised by MG and GD on 10/11/25.
- 156.2.10** Maintenance of War Memorial grant: £500.00
- 156.2.11** Mulberry and Co interim internal audit fee: £302.70
- 156.2.12** ICO fee for CCTV at the Pavilion: £52.00
- 156.2.13** PL travel expenses for ESALC AGM 04/11/25: £40.95
- 156.2.14** PL travel expenses for RDC Housing development event on 28/11/25: £12.15
- 156.2.15** Grass cutting- Orchard Landscapes: £TBC
- 156.2.16** South East Water – direct debit for Pavilion on 03/11/25: £1.00
- 156.2.17** EDF – direct debit for Pavilion electricity paid in November: £39.71
- 156.2.18** Biffa Waste collection – monthly direct debit paid in December: - £103.98

156.3 Receipts – noted.

- 156.3.1** Castle Water refund for Coronation Garden account: £664.69

157. Correspondence – noted.

157. 1 Southern Water, letter received 07/11/25 – monthly direct debit for the Pavilion raising from £39.83 per month direct debit to £42.00.

157. 2 Hastings Contemporary art gallery sent a letter on 11/11/25 with a request for the PC to promote their venue to Rother residents including two complimentary tickets. **RESOLVED:** The PC did not want to accept the gifted tickets as it was a thank you in return for promotion of the gallery. Although this is a rare occurrence, the Clerk said that she would check the rules on accepting gifts. The PC asked the Clerk to see if the Primary School would like to have the tickets for a raffle.

157. 3 Copy of a letter received from resident on 12/11/25 sent to MP Helena Dollimore expressing concern at Sussex Police not acting in public interest. **RK discussed the theft and recent reattempt at theft of a neighbour's quad bike as well as the theft of a car near Flackley Ash and the lack of police action on the matter due to shift patterns/lack of resources. The MP had said that she has asked the District Commander for Hastings and Rother for a response. RESOLVED: The PC agreed that this was not a Parish Council issue and was for the Police/Police and Crime Commissioner to address.**

157. 4 Letter received from Castle Water on 21/11/25 for Coronation Garden water stating the account is £6.10 in credit.

157. 5 Letter received from Castle Water on 21/11/25 for Allotment water stating the account is £38.27 in credit.

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158. Planning Matters – Noted.

Applications –

[262114](#) - RR/2025/1864/TPO - Middle House, 2, The Mallards Main Street, Peasmarsh, Rye, East Sussex, TN31 6SU - Prune birch tree 30-40% - the PC agreed the following comment: ***“Peasmarsh Parish Council notes the application and has no objection.”***

Decisions –

[RR/2025/1582/P](#) - Rose Lodge, Malthouse Lane, Peasmarsh TN31 6TA - Roof light on south east side to serve home office space. **APPROVED – 05/11/25.**

Appeals – None to date.

159. Dates of Forthcoming Meetings: Budget meeting, 7.30pm, 10th December 2025, Memorial Hall, Peasmarsh and monthly meeting, 7.30pm, 7th January 2026, Memorial Hall, Peasmarsh

The meeting finished at 9.20pm.

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