



Minutes of the Council meeting held Wednesday 4th March 2026 at 7.30pm at Peasmarsh Memorial Hall.

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

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

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

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

204. Minutes of the last Council meetings - Monthly meeting – 4th February 2026 - agreed by all and signed by BR.

There were 3 members of the public present. One of the members of public was in attendance to discuss his concerns about Speed Watch and its effectiveness and the need for more police officers in the area to monitor speed. The PC noted these comments but reiterated that Speed Watch and the VAS are still effective tools in managing speeding and in compiling data regarding the village for future proposed housing developments. The member of the public left.

The two other members of the public present were in attendance to discuss a charity fundraising fete they are organising at the Pavilion/Recreation Ground. They wanted to have permission to have food trucks on the Recreation Ground and to have dogs on the field for a dog show. **RESOLVED:** The PC said that the weather had caused the field to be very waterlogged and it also needs to be kept in good condition for the football team which hires it on a weekly basis. However, May is generally a dry month and hopefully the field will have dried out and the recent issue with holes on the pitch should have been resolved by then. Therefore, depending on the condition of the field prior to the event, the PC agreed to the food trucks being on the field and dogs to be allowed on the field for this one-off event. The Clerk confirmed with the member of public that they held public liability insurance for the event and an entertainment license from Rother District Council.

The two members of the public also requested an improvement to the fencing of and access to the play area at the Recreation Ground. For those children with autism or other additional needs the area is not fully enclosed and those playing inside can leave the play area easily creating a safeguarding risk. Buggies and wheelchairs/mobility scooters also struggle to access the Recreation Ground. **RESOLVED:** The Clerk to investigate grant opportunities for funding a more accessible/better fenced play area/Recreation Ground. GS suggested 'Awards for All', Dungeness Power Station and Little Cheyne Wind Farm grant schemes.

The members of the public left.

205. District & County Councillor reports – County Councillor report - PR supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC's website. Discussions were had about potholes and PR said that potholes marked with 'T' denoted a temporary fix which needed to be

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permanently fixed with 28 days. GD raised the issue of a motor biker injuring himself after hitting a pothole on the Rye Road from Peasmarsch. The pothole has not yet been fixed. PR said he would chase this if GD forwarded the case number. PR discussed the upcoming reinstated County Councillor elections in May 2026.

District Councillor report – PO discussed the District Council's recent meeting signing off their devolved assets. PO confirmed that Peasmarsch should receive the freehold for the requested assets, including the Woodlands Close allotments.

206. Draft RDC Local Plan consultation – The PC resolved to finalise their comments on this at an extraordinary meeting on 11th March at 7.30pm, prior to the consultation's deadline on 23rd March.

207. Local Plan working group – MG reported that the working group continues to gain resident interest and there has been good attendance at the Tuesday evening meetings. Lots of response forms have been handed out by volunteers and a drop-in session outside Jempsons is planned for Sat 7th March and at the Memorial Hall on Sun 8th March. GD has given residents lots of online tips for completing the forms on the village Facebook pages – emphasising the need to make each response individual. MG said that the Plan is constantly deemed to be 'sustainable' by RDC, but that development at this level in a village this size with poor infrastructure and services is unsustainable. Discussions were had about how inaccessible the website was in responding online to the consultation and MG said that it was not available on an app, therefore it was unlikely that the under-30's would engage with it. The Clerk asked how the collected hard copy responses would be sent to RDC. MG said that Simon South would be hand delivering the responses and asking for a receipt for each individual response.

208. Housing, major developments and neighbourhood planning for Peasmarsch – The Clerk reported that there were no updates at present for the Pippins, Kitewood or Pond Cottage developments.

209. Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) – The Clerk reported that NALC advice was to not pay any costs for devolved assets as all assets would eventually be shed once the Unitary authority is set up.

210. Recruitment of new Clerk and RFO – GS reported that the HR Committee had began the recruitment of a new Clerk/RFO following the resignation of the Clerk on 17th February. The Clerk has advertised the vacancy with ESALC, the Rother Clerk's network, on the PC's website and on the village and PC Facebook pages. The closing date is Thursday 19th March, with interviews due to take place on 25th March. The HR Committee and the Clerk would be the interview panel. Hopefully, this will give enough time for a handover before the Clerk leaves on 17th April. The Clerk said that she had received one application so far.

211. Village traffic and roads

211.1 VAS – PL supplied a written report which is on the PC's website. Increased sunlight has improved the working of the VAS.

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

211.3 Black Cat speeding device – PL supplied a written report which is on the PC's website. The Clerk and RK said that a resident had requested more monitoring at the West end of the village. PL agreed he would do further monitoring to support the data for the Draft Local Plan consultation responses.

- 212. Recreation Ground/Playspace/Pavilion** – The Clerk said that Rye Bay FC had reported a hole on the Recreation Ground near the top goal and could not play on it for health and safety reasons until the problem is resolved. The Clerk has contacted Platinum Groundworks as they dealt with the larger sinkhole on the Recreation Ground a couple of years ago. The Clerk is due to meet with them on 06/03. **RESOLVED:** GD/Clerk to cordon off the area to keep everyone safe. Clerk to report back following the meeting with Platinum Groundworks and discuss next steps.
- 213. Skate Park** – The Clerk said local handyman, Tim Lambeth had been to quote for the removal of the old skate park bins and the installation of the new single large bin. The bins will need to be removed with an angle grinder and this will involve using a generator for electricity supply. Clerk to update on cost once the quote is received. The Clerk reported that the estimated cost of replacing the skate park would be between £25,000-35,000. The Clerk advised that the Recreation Ground Committee would need to be reestablished to be able to manage fundraising if such a project was agreed by the PC in the future. BR suggested this went on the next agenda for discussion.
- 214. Coronation Garden** – The Clerk said that there was nothing to report.
- 215. Allotments** – The Clerk said that in preparing the upcoming allotment rent request letters she wanted agreement from the PC that allotment plots 1,2 and 3 would not have a rent increase of £2 from 2027 due to water costs as they do not access water from the main site. Their plots are both attached to their properties and they use their own water supply. The PC agreed to this approach.
- 216. Caretaker report/repairs and maintenance** – The Clerk said that the existing Caretaker can no longer do any work for the PC due to new work commitments and can no longer do any walk around checks on the Recreation Ground, allotments etc. Therefore, as requested by the Caretaker the standing order for his retainer fee has been cancelled. The Clerk has put an advert in the Rye and District Fixtures publication which is due to come out this week.
- 217. Reports and other items**
- 217.1 Clerk's Report for February** – Noted.
- 217.2 Approval of IT Policy incorporating AI and Data Protection Policy** – the Clerk highlighted the need to have an updated policy for the purposes of the new Assertion 10 requirement on the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). **RESOLVED:** The PC approved the policy – Clerk to upload it to the PC's website.
- 217.3 Councillor vacancy** – The Clerk reported that a resident was interested in joining and would likely be co-opted at the April meeting.
- 217.4 AGM and Parish Assembly** – proposed dates 13th or 20th May – Clerk to confirm availability of the Hall with the Memorial Hall Committee and book one of these dates.
- 217.5 Memorial Hall** – In his absence, MC emailed the Clerk to say that there was no report from the Memorial Hall Committee, everything was ticking along nicely.
- 217.6 ESCC Highways report** – No reports
- 217.7 Rights of Way and Footpaths report** – No reports.
- 217.8 Police and PCSO Reports** – No reports.
- 217.9 Village and environment** – No reports.

218 Financial Matters - PL approved.

218.1 Reports – PL approved.

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- 218.1.1 Monthly statement of receipts and payments** – for February 2026.
218.1.2 Budget comparison and bank reconciliations – for February 2026.
218.1.3 Savings Account – bank statement of interest for February noted.

218.2 To approve and ratify payments – all approved. RB and MG to approve the online payments.

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

218.2.2 Clerk's February expenses: £37.70 – working from home allowance.

218.2.3 NI Employer contributions Month 11 (6th February 2026 – 5th March 2026): £87.35 paid by business debit card by the Clerk on 10/02/2026.

218.2.4 Reimbursement to S. South for Vistaprint purchase – banner printing for Local Plan working group: £153.63

218.2.5 Artwrite Ltd leaflet printing for Local Plan working group: £288.00

218.2.6 Adams' advertisement in Rye and District Fixtures for 3 months – Caretaker advert: £109.27

218.2.7 Lloyds monthly bank maintenance fee from 10 January – 09 February 26 – taken via direct debit on 17/02/26: £4.25

218.2.8 Cleaning of Recreation Ground/Pavilion – February - £TBC – no invoice received yet.

218.2.9 Clerk's phone – Tesco Mobile – February £16.66 to be paid via direct debit on 09/02/26.

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

218.2.11 Netwise UK – email accounts x10 and domain name: £360.00

218.2.12 Grass cutting- Orchard Landscapes: £TBC – no invoice received yet.

218.2.13 South East Water – direct debit for Pavilion on 02/01/26: £1.00

218.2.14 EDF – direct debit for Pavilion electricity paid in February: £37.67

218.2.15 Biffa Waste collection – monthly direct debit paid in March: - £117.30

218.3

218.3.1 £25 received for Pavilion rental for Fete in May.

219. Correspondence – noted.

219. 1 Letter received from Castle Water on 05/02/26 for Allotment water stating the account is £7.76 in credit.

219. 2 Letter received from Castle Water on 19/02/26 for the Coronation Garden stating the account is £6.10 in credit.

220. Planning Matters – noted.

Applications – [262380](#) RR/2025/2089/FULL - **Equestrian Property to the Rear of the Recreation Ground and Maltings Business Park** - Retrospective planning permission for the siting of a non-residential, non-habitable welfare unit used during daytime hours in connection

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with the care and supervision of privately owned horses. Equestrian Property to the Rear of the Recreation Ground and Maltings Business Park. ***The PC agreed to comment on this application as follows; "Due to the size and design of the welfare unit, the PC is concerned that the building is designed to be a domicile in the future, which would be inappropriate for the location."***

Decisions – none to date.

Appeals – none to date.

221. Dates of Forthcoming Meetings: Extraordinary meeting, 7.30pm, 11th March 2026 and monthly meeting, 7.30pm, 1st April 2026, Memorial Hall, Peasmarsh.

The meeting finished at 9.45pm.

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