

PEASENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Peasehall Parish Council virtual meeting
held via Zoom Meetings on Wednesday 27th January 2021 at 7:00 pm.

2021/6 Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr. Steve Pewsey - Chair
Cllr. Frank Potter – Vice-Chair
Cllr. Roger Benstead
Cllr. Nick Levett-Scrivener
Cllr. Stephanie Liston
Cllr. Ric Earle
Cllr. Peter Dance

Apologies for absence:

County and District Cllr. Stephen Burroughes

In attendance:

2 members of the public

2021/7 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None.

2021/8 Public Forum

2 members of the public spoke on the subject of site 12.60 within the Local Plan. Both expressed their appreciation for the Parish Council's efforts in pursuing their complaint to ESC but recognised that the route to complain to the ombudsman is not open to the Parish Council. They explained that a number of residents intend to lodge their own complaint with ESC on the matter and requested that the Council give their support to this complaint. One of the members of the public wished to thank Sharon Smith, the previous Parish Clerk, for her hard work in relation to the Local Plan issues.

The District and County Council reports provided by Cllr Burroughes were presented.

2021/9 Minutes

The Council approved as accurate the minutes of the meetings held on 25th November 2020 and 6th January 2021, including amendment's put forward by Cllr. Ric Earle.

2021/10 Matters Arising

- a) Cllr Pewsey reported that the boards on the Causeway bridge have now been moved to the outside of the rails.
- b) Cllr Pewsey reported that the requested report from Highways on the potential Orwell Housing development in Mill Road had not been forthcoming. He had discussed the timescales for development of the proposal with Orwell Housing and proposed to the Council that discussion of the issue be deferred for a couple of months whilst Orwell Housing refine the proposal. This was agreed by the Council.
- c) The ESC response to the Council's Stage 2 complaint on the inclusion of site 12.60 in the local plan was discussed, noting that the complaint was not upheld and the Council does not have the right to refer the matter to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman. The Council agreed that it should send an acknowledgement to ESC, noting that some local residents may be submitting their own complaint on the matter.

ACTION: Cllr Pewsey to send acknowledgement to ESC.

Cllr Potter suggested that the Council could take up the offer from ESC, in its responses to the Stage 1 and 2 complaints, that it's staff would be happy to discuss the issues around site 12.60 with the Council. It was agreed that this should be pursued.

ACTION: Cllr Pewsey to contact ESC staff in accordance with the offer from ESC.

d) It was noted that the Council had received a donation of £500.00 from Peasenhall United Charities towards the funding of tablet computers to enable home learning for local school children. The charity were thanked for their donation.

2021/11 Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

a) The Council discussed the resignation of the Clerk. It was proposed, and unanimously supported, that the Councils thanks to the Clerk should be recorded in the minutes and that we should also write to her with our thanks for her service. Cllr Pewsey reported that he had taken possession of the Councils records and had set up a Zoom account for the Council. The vacancy for a new Clerk will be advertised in the usual way and other local Clerks will be contacted to determine whether they would be interested in the job.

b) Cllr Pewsey proposed that Cllr Potter be appointed Responsible Financial Officer as an interim measure. This was unanimously agreed by the Council. Cllr Potter reported that he was currently the only signatory for cheques and bank transfers, and that in accordance with the Councils Financial Regulations, 2 signatories are required for all transactions. Cllr Pewsey is in the process of becoming a signatory. It was also agreed that Cllr Potter would take the meeting minutes.

c) Cllr Pewsey proposed that, for the duration of the pandemic, planning applications which require consideration by the Council outside of routine meetings should be reviewed by e-mail, with an extraordinary meeting only being required if an application raises issues of particular significance. This was unanimously supported by the Council.

2021/12 Casual Vacancies

Cllr Pewsey reported that two notification of interest had been received, although one of these was from an individual with no internet access. The Council agreed that, particularly in the current climate, it would not be practicable to co-opt a Councillor without access to the internet.

2021/13 Post Covid Planning

a) Cllr Pewsey reported that he had been contacted by a number of residents suggesting community events once the pandemic situation allowed. Cllr Levett-Scrivener explained that he was exploring the possibility of an event in the grounds of Sibton Abbey, with a tentative date of 29th August 2021. The event would involve an open air religious service followed by a community picnic. It may be possible to have experts from Historic England present to talk about the history of the Abbey. Cllr Levett-Scrivener reported that the vicar and Sibton Parish Council were supportive of the idea. The Council thanked Cllr Levett-Scrivener for his kind offer of the use of the Abbey grounds and expressed their full support for the proposal.

b) The Council discussed potential areas of cooperation with Sibton Parish Council, with suggestions including the potential Sibton Abbey event and traffic management issues.

c) A request for support from Peasenhall and Sibton Bowls and Tennis Clubs was received. The clubs intend to jointly apply to the district council for funding from the Outdoor Playspace Fund. The application would be for approx. £3400 for a specialist scarifier. The Outdoor Playspace Fund currently stands at £13,672.43. The 2 clubs requested that the Council support the funding application. The Council unanimously supported the proposal.

ACTION: Cllr Pewsey write to the clubs expressing the Councils support for the funding application.

2021/14 Sizewell C Community Forum Representative

There were no volunteers for the vacant position of Council representative on the Sizewell C Community Forum.

2021/15 Highways

Cllr Pewsey reported that the Council is still awaiting a response from the county Highways Department on road safety in Mill Road and speed limit signage within the village.

2021/16 Public Transport

It was noted that the Border Bus 522 gets some use, but it was agreed that it was not appropriate to review the bus usage during the pandemic. The item will be placed on the agenda in the autumn..

2021/17 Finance

a) Cllr Potter reported that he did not have the current bank balances to hand, but that he would include them in the minutes. On 28/01/2021 the Community Account balance was £2602.02 and the Business Premium Account balance was £33,134.03.

b) Cllr Pewsey introduced the draft budget for 2021/2022. After discussion, the budget was agreed by the Council, noting that the reserves are higher than recommended. This has been mitigated within the budget by earmarking an additional £5000.00 from the reserves for the street improvement scheme.

c) In accordance with the budget agreed in b) above, the 2021/2022 precept was agreed as £11,957.00, noting that this was the same as the previous year and would, therefore, result in no council tax increase for residents.

d) The Council authorised the following payments:

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary to end Dec 20	Sharon Smith	£233.32	LGA 1972 s.112
Clerk's Salary Jan 2021	Sharon Smith	£135.38	LGA 1972 s.112
Clerk's PAYE to end Dec 20	HM Revenue and Customs	£175.00	LGA 1972 s.112
Clerk's PAYE Jan 2021	HM Revenue and Customs	£33.80	LGA 1972 s.112
Councillor Training	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	£60.00	LGA 1972 s.111
Christmas Tree	Sibton Country Supplies	£65.00	LGA 1972 s.137
Christmas Lights Electricity	Stephen Pewsey	£25.00	LGA 1972 s.137

2021/18 Correspondence

a) The Council noted the correspondence received between 20th November 2020 and 21st January 2021.

2021/19 Questions to the Chair/Items for the Next Agenda

Cllr Pewsey asked for the following matters to be added to the next agenda – a review of cemetery fees, the bank reconciliation and a review of the asset register and risk register.

2021/20 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next virtual meeting of the Council which is scheduled for 24th February 2021 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting closed at 8:40 pm.