

PEASENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Peasehall Parish Council virtual meeting
held via Zoom Meetings on Wednesday 31st March 2021 at 7:00 pm.

2021/37 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:

None.

In attendance:

5 members of the public

2021/38 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Levett-Scrivener declared an interest in agenda items 7 a, b and d. Cllr Potter declared an interest in agenda item 11 as chair of the trustees of the Assembly Hall.

2021/39 Public Forum

Cllr Pewsey welcomed members of the public, including three who were observing as prospective councillors. One member of the public wished to comment on the potential housing development in Mill Road. It was agreed that he would be given time to speak during the councils discussion on the subject.

2021/40 Minutes

The Council approved as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2021, subject to a minor amendment to item 2021/25bc proposed by Cllr Earle.

2021/41 Matters Arising

a) Cllr Pewsey provided an update on the government requirements for parish council meetings. From 7th May to 21st June 2021 meetings would need to be held in person, but in a socially distanced way. Beyond 21st June it is expected that social distancing rules will be lifted. Our next meeting is the Annual Meeting planned for 5th May using Zoom. The next planned meeting after this is 30th June. It was noted that the Methodist Chapel may not have re-opened by this time, in which case it would be necessary for us to book the Assembly Hall for meetings.

b) Cllr Pewsey reported that he had contacted the chief executive of East Suffolk Council to discuss the response to our complain over site 12.60. He had left a message requesting a call back. A member of ESC staff replied by e-mail simply referring back to the ESC response to the Parish Councils Stage 1 complaint. Cllr Pewsey replied by e-mail to the chief executive asking whether he thinks it is morally right and lawful to include a site for development in the Local Plan when both the principal authority and the inspector were aware that the site was submitted not by the owners but by persons unknown pretending to be the owners.

2021/41 Vacancy for Parish Clerk and Casual Vacancies

a) Cllr Pewsey reported that no applications had been received for the vacant clerk position. He had been in contact with SALC for advice. They referred him to a Parish Clerk locum service which would be able to help. Cllr Potter said that he believed we would need help with preparation of the annual accounts and also the annual Accounting and Governance Reporting (AGAR) statement. It was agreed that the locum service should be approached.

b) Cllr Pewsey noted that a number of residents were attending the meeting with a view to potentially becoming councillors. He would contact them after the meeting to discuss the co-option process.

2021/42 Planning

- a) An indicative sketch of the proposed development in Mill Road was presented. Orwell Housing Association was proposing a development of 12 homes consisting of 4 1 bed flats, 4 2 bed houses and 4 3 bed houses.
- b) The meeting was suspended while a member of the public spoke, as had been agreed under agenda item 2021/39. He stated that any affordable housing scheme should include housing for the elderly, in addition to the planned starter homes. He also stated his concern over the lack of visitor parking in the sketch that had been provided.
- c) The meeting was re-convened and a wide ranging discussion took place on the subject. Cllr Pewsey summed up the Parish Councils agreed position as follows. The council is in favour of more affordable housing in the village, but has concerns about this specific site. In particular, the impact of the addition traffic from 12 new homes on a very narrow road and the provision of sewerage and other utilities to the site. There may be more suitable sites in the village and the council are keen to hear the County Councils intentions for the old school site. At this stage the Parish Council is neither for or against the proposed Mill Road development.

ACTION: Cllr Pewsey to inform Orwell Housing of the Parish Councils position.

2021/43 Highways

- a) Highways engineers have inspected the 3 blocked culverts opposite the shop and have listed them for action, although with no clear timescale (Highways ref 306895).
- b) The damage to the bridge over the Gull opposite Weavers Tea Rooms was noted. Highways are aware and have barriered the area off (Highways ref 31781). Cllr Pewsey has spoken to the landowner of the Causeway and the local residents. Use of the bridge by large vans and small lorries has increased in recent time. Residents wish for cars to be able to use the bridge, but not vans and lorries. The council agreed that we should contact Highways proposing the introduction of a weight limit on the bridge and a no through road sign for the direction from the road to the Causeway.

ACTION: Cllr Pewsey to contact Highways with the suggestions.

- c) The Parish Council have been provided with a reference number from Highways (308496) for the proposal to move the speed limit sign on Rendham Road further away from the village Highways had been awaiting the submission of a marked up map and photographs of the site from the Parish Council These have now been sent.
- d) Cllr Earle provided an update on the Speed Indicating Device and Community Speedwatch. The SID is not in use at the moment as there is no one prepared to move it between sites and charge the batteries. Community Speedwatch is not possible with the current social distancing requirements, as members of the team have to work in close proximity. It is expected that the Community Speedwatch team will re-start following the lifting of social distancing guidelines.
- e) The discussion on the snowplough was deferred as Cllr Levett-Scrivener had left the meeting as a result of internet connectivity problems.

2021/44 Cemetery Management

- a) Cllr Pewsey had contacted Essex and Suffolk Water. They confirmed that the water supply had never been turned on. They would be able to send an engineer to diagnose the lack of water, but not until the Parish Council has set up a commercial billing contract.
- ACTION: Cllr Pewsey to investigate the mechanism for setting up a commercial billing contract.**
- b) Cllr Dance was thanked for cleaning the signs in the cemetery. It was agreed that the council would reimburse the costs to reinstall the sign board which had fallen over.

2021/45 Environmental Issues

The Parish Council has received a number of complaints from residents over the noise and smoke from activities at the forestry business at Valley Farm. These have been forwarded on to the District Council Environmental Health team.

2021/46 Forward Planning

- a) Cllr Pewsey reported that he had held cordial discussions with the chair of Sibton Parish Council. They had agreed to keep in touch, on an informal basis, too discuss issues of mutual interest.
- b) The discussion on the proposed Sibton Abbey social event was deferred as Cllr Levett-Scrivener had left the meeting as a result of internet connectivity problems.

2021/47 Finance

- a) Cllr Potter presented the bank reconciliation for the quarters ending 31st December 2020 and 31st March 2021, noting that the 31st March reconciliation was out of balance by 40p. He reported the current bank balances, on 31/03/21, as £1964.32 in the Community Account and £33,134.90 in the Business Premium Account. Cllr Potter was thanked for preparing and presenting the financial information.
- b) The meeting was suspended for a Trustee of the Assembly Hall to request a donation from the Parish Council. The Assembly hall wish to move forward with a project to provide accessible toilet facilities and storage in the hall and to improve the look and practicability of the side entrance to the hall. Quotes have been received for a dimensional survey of the hall and grounds, the production of architects drawings and costings by a quantity surveyor of £1770.00. Cllr Burroughs has agreed to fund the majority of this from the Localities Budget, but there is a shortfall of ~£206.00. Cllr Liston proposed that the Parish Council donate a sum up to £500 to make up the shortfall. This was seconded by Cllr Dance. The proposal was unanimously agreed. Cllr Potter did not take part in the discussion or vote as he had declared an interest in this item.

2021/48 Correspondence

There was no correspondence of any significance to report.

2021/49 Questions to the Chair/Items for the Next Agenda

Nicola Jenner, the new Communities Officer from East Suffolk Council, has asked to speak to the Parish Council on her role and Rob Hancock from the County Council's Education team has asked to update us about proposals for the old school site. It was agreed that an additional meeting would be held, via Zoom, on 14th April 2021. Cllr Liston proposed that highways and speeding should be added to the agenda.

2021/50 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 14th April 2021 at 7:00 pm, with the Annual Meeting to be held, also virtually, on 5th May 2021.

The meeting closed at 8:45 pm.