

PEASENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Peasenhall Parish Council meeting
held at Peasenhall Assembly Hall on Wednesday 30th June 2021 at 7:00 pm.

2021/59 Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

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

Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Stephanie Liston

In attendance:

6 members of the public

2021/60 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Levett-Scrivener declared an interest in Agenda item 7

2021/61 Public Forum

Cllr. Pewsey welcomed members of the public to the meeting and invited them to speak. A number of views were expressed regarding the County Councils proposals for the old school site. In particular, that there was a need for smaller affordable houses for younger people. Concerns were stated over the vehicular access to the site. It was mentioned that the local government Ombudsman had directed that complaints made in respect of the District Council's decision to adopt site 12.60 onto the local plan warranted and would be investigated.

2021/62 Minutes

The Council approved as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on 31st March 2021 subject to a minor change to minute 2021/52 proposed by Cllr. Earle.

2021/63 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

2021/64 Co-option of Councillors

Cllr. Pewsey reported that 2 members of the public were interested in becoming parish councillors. Vaughn Harber was unable to attend tonight so would be considered at a future meeting. Zoe Horlock introduced herself to councillors and was unanimously co-opted onto the Council. Cllr. Pewsey formally welcomed her to the Council and explained that she would need to complete the acceptance forms and the register of interests.

2021/65 Vacancy for Parish Clerk

Cllr. Pewsey stated that there were 2 people interested in the vacancy for Parish Clerk. An interview panel would be convened shortly.

2021/66 Planning

a) Cllr. Pewsey reported that there had been a number of meetings with Suffolk County Council (SCC) regarding their intentions for the old school site, including with a local residents group. SCCs current best option is to sell the site for low density housing development. Their initial, indicative, proposal is for 3 or 4 bungalows, 5 or 6 affordable houses and a terrace of 3 houses. If the old school building can be saved, it will be converted into the 3 terraced houses. If not, it would be demolished and the 3 terraced houses built on the site. Vehicular access would be from the Badingham Road and SCC are confident that adequate access can be provided. The next stage would be a pre-planning meeting with East Suffolk Council. The

site would then be sold to a developer with an enforceable set of conditions to ensure that whatever proposal was agreed would be delivered.

b) Cllr. Pewsey adjourned the meeting to allow members of the public to speak. A member of the residents group, who was involved in the meetings with SCC stated his belief that SCC had made a decision to develop the site and that they were sincere in wanting to retain the school building if at all possible.

c) There were discussions on the suitability of the proposed vehicular access to the site and on the potential for community gain from the development. Cllr. Levett-Scrivener raised the possibility of the local community purchasing the site and, in addition to new housing, providing a new village hall or other community building. Cllr Levett-Scrivener stated that we had consistently been told via the District Council that nothing was happening over the old school site other than storage. In practice, they clearly had an idea of what was going on behind the scenes.

ACTION: Cllr Pewsey to inform SCC of the Parish Councils views.

2021/67 Grounds Maintenance

a) Cllr. Levett-Scrivener took no part in the discussion or vote as he had declared an interest in this item.

b) Cllr. Pewsey reported that two bids for the grounds maintenance had been received. One of these was received after the deadline. The Council agreed to consider both bids. After some discussion, Cllr. Potter proposed that the Council accept the bid from Sibton Abbey Contracting as it was marginally less expensive than the other bid and it was preferable to keep the business within the immediate locality if possible. This was seconded by Cllr. Benstead and agreed by unanimous vote.

ACTION: Cllr Potter to contact Sibton Abbey Contracting to accept their bid for the grounds maintenance contract..

2021/68 Highways

a) It was reported that the Highways department have ordered work to the damaged bridge over the gull and the potholes on the causeway, but no start date had been given for either. The Highways drainage team have inspected the blocked culvers opposite the Post Office and are now waiting for a specialist team to visit the site for further investigations.

b) Cllr. Earle reported that the combined effects of Covid and a lack of volunteers for the speedwatch and the SID meant that neither were currently in operation. However, he proposed that we apply for an ANPR camera to be sited in the village. The layby near the old school met the criteria and already had a suitable pole which was originally provided for the SID. This proposal was supported by the Council.

2021/69 Forward Planning

a) Cllr. Pewsey reported on the proposed Festival of Suffolk which is being arranged as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The event will run from Thursday 2nd June 2022 to Sunday 5th June. Suggestions for how the village can get involved would be welcome.

b) There was a discussion on whether we should hold an Annual Parish Meeting this year. The consensus was that we should, Covid permitting. The Council will plan to hold the meeting in September.

2021/70 Finance

a) Cllr Potter presented the 2021-22 quarter 1 bank reconciliation. He reported the current bank balances, on 30/06/21, as £8848.02 in the Community Account and £33,135.73 in the Business Premium Account.

b) Cllr. Potter reported that the 2020-21 accounts and governance arrangements have been submitted the SALC for Internal Audit.

The Council thanked Cllr Potter for his efforts in preparing the accounts.

2021/71 Correspondence

Cllr. Pewsey reported that there had been no correspondence of note since the last meeting.

2021/72 Any Other Urgent Business

There was no other urgent business.

2021/73 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Wednesday 28th July 2021 at 7:00 pm. The meeting is to be held at Peasenhall Assembly Hall.

The meeting closed at 8:45 pm.