PEASENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Peasenhall Parish Council Meeting
held at the **Assembly Hall on Wednesday 15 July 2026 at 19:00**

2026/76 Attendance and apologies

Attendees:
Cllr Barry Rowing (Chair)
Cllr John Bawtree
Cllr Roger Benstead
Cllr John Bimson
Cllr Gary Greenwood
Cllr Esme Smith
District Cllr Julia Ewart

Apologies for absence:
Cllr Stephen Long
County Cllr Annette Dunning

In attendance:
Alison Nichols - Parish Clerk
20 members of the public

Apologies were received from Cllr Long (working away from home). It was agreed to accept Cllr Long's apologies.

2026/77 Declarations of Interest

None

2026/78 Requests for Dispensation

None

2026/79 Public Forum

a) The July report from SCC Cllr Dunning had already been circulated to councillors and is available on PPC website.

b) The public forum:

A resident asked for an update on Mabels Walk. Cllr Rowing replied that there was no progress to report. The council is waiting for the result of the ombudsman enquiry, which should be available in August, and also to hear from their own solicitor regarding progress with the secure storage site for the allotments.

2026/80 Parking on 1 to 14 Hackney Road

Cllr Rowing started the discussion by pointing out that the installation of H markings was about safety: it is illegal to park across dropped kerbs and the H markings are to draw attention to them. The dropped kerbs make it easier for people, especially the disabled, to step on/off the pavement, allowing a clear space for those crossing the road and allow cars to pull in to avoid oncoming traffic. The council would not support the installation of yellow lines east of No 3 but would explore all options to prevent visually obstructive parking outside No 1. Unfortunately the police are unable to place the traffic cones there that PPC has requested. They suggest a Traffic Regulation Order might be needed. The installation of the H markings has been delayed until after the meeting.

Members of the public countered with some observations of their own:

1. The dropped kerbs were installed for the benefit of schoolchildren. The school has been closed for ten years so few people now cross there, which limits the safety benefits of the dropped kerbs.

2. The H markings do not change the legal status of the dropped kerbs, they simply draw attention to them. This is not a good use of money.
3. Reducing the speed of cars along Hackney Road would be a more useful contribution to safety.
4. The spaces left by dropped kerbs are not large enough to allow vehicles to pull in safely without clipping cars parked nearby.
5. Installing parking spaces over the culvert and land on the south side of the road was suggested.
6. Another suggestion was to fill in the gaps in the rails on the opposite side of the road to two of the dropped kerbs to discourage crossing.
7. Although parking across a dropped kerb is obstruction, it is poorly enforced.

Cllr Rowing responded that one solution would be to have some of the dropped kerbs removed but it was unlikely that funding would be found. An alternative would be to look at traffic calming measures such as another SID.

It was agreed by the council that the clerk should contact SCC Highways to halt the H markings with a view to the council reflecting on them at a later date.

2026/81 Planning: DC/26/2318/FUL

Cllr Rowing suggested that PPC's consultation reply should request a condition that only the storage of woodchip or processed material, not logs, should be allowed at the site to reduce the likelihood of future chipping operations, the expansion of business activities leading to increased HGV movements. PPC should also ask for details of transport routes and times as Mill Hill and the Emmetts junction have experienced particular problems with HGV traffic.

Residents commented on the noise of fans drying the timber, particularly noticeable at night in the summer when residents hope to have their windows open, and visible air pollution, also from the drying operations. Concerns were expressed that this application was a back door attempt to reinstate the operations for which a previous planning application had been withdrawn. Cllr Rowing responded that, although he was aware of the noise problems, this application referred purely to the storage of materials. Another resident felt that the number and timings of HGV movements was key and that any business should be able to furnish details of these, while another commented that B8 land should be connected to a good road network. Attention was also drawn to the danger HGVs pose to pedestrians on local narrow roads, particularly those without pavements.

Cllr Ewart was asked to look again at the problem of visible air pollution and she in turn recommended approaching Suffolk Highways for a site visit, saying that the new administration took a more pragmatic approach than the previous one.

It was agreed that the council should oppose the retrospective application on the information that was available and details of transport routes and timings would be requested.

2026/75 The next scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday 16 September 2026 at 7 pm in the Assembly Hall. However, it is hoped to hold an extraordinary meeting before the end of July to cover the agenda items that could not be fitted in at tonight's meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

Alison Nichols — Minutes signed as correct:

Parish Clerk/RFO — Date: