

PEASENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Peasenhall Parish Council Annual Meeting
held at the **Assembly Hall on Wednesday 15th October 2025 at 7.00 pm**

2025/089 Attendance and apologies

Attendees:

Cllr Barry Rowing (Chairman)
Cllr John Bawtree
Cllr Roger Benstead
Cllr Stephen Long
Cllr Gary Greenwood
Cllr Sam Seddon
Cllr Zoe Horlock
DC Julia Ewart
SCC Cllr S Burroughes (via Teams)

Apologies for absence:

Cllr John Bimson

Non-attendance:

Cllr Oliver Charles

In attendance:

Carol Hume - Parish Clerk
27 members of the public

Apologies for absence were approved. Reason for absence was noted by the clerk.

2025/090 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

None received

2025/091 Public Forum

a) Reports from DC Ewart and SCC Burroughes had been circulated to councillors before the meeting. SCC Burroughes said he hoped his report was on the website and he would be happy to receive any concerns from residents via email. He said that the parking situation on the A1120 on Hackney Road is worse and he will speak about it to Charles Harrison who has taken over from Jo Kerridge at Suffolk Highways. He also said there is an increase in rural crime and fly-tipping in the area. The Chairman asked him if he had any news about the old school. He said that it should be going to public auction. The Chairman also asked if SCC Burroughes still held surgeries but he said he doesn't because of the risk of abuse. The best ways to communicate with him are by phone or online. DC Ewart said that she is horrified by the cost of changing bin lids in the area and she has asked for an inspection of the new sub-station site at Mill Road. Regarding the planning application to be discussed later in the meeting, she is trying to support both sides and will help, if required, with procedures for making related complaints to ESC.

b) A resident complained that dog waste bins have been overflowing and need to be emptied more often. The Chairman said that he has regularly reported this and this can also be reported by residents to ESC using their online tool. He also said that the recently installed new dog bin at the cemetery will be moved as it is in the wrong place.

Twelve residents made verbal complaints about and objections to the Valley Farm planning application DC/25/2990/Ful, which is to be discussed and voted on by councillors later in the meeting. One resident spoke to support the application. The main items of complaint concerned Noise Pollution, Smoke Pollution, Highways Safety, Industrialisation of agricultural land, unsafe road junctions and the smell from the chipping process generally. Photographic evidence of the state of the roads concerned was put up on the wall and a mobile phone recording of the alleged noise from the chipping machine was played. **2025/036**

2025/092 Planning

a) DC/25/2990/FUL – Change of Use of land to use in association with forestry business for the storage and processing of timber, and the siting of a wood chipping machine – Valley Farm, The Mounts, Peasenhall, Suffolk IP17 2LR.

The Chairman said that a week ago 5 councillors and the clerk had attended a site visit to Valley Farm in order to understand the chipping process and to see the other operations going on there. Mr Collins had explained the processes involved in his forestry business and had outlined the difference it would make if his application was granted. The Chairman also said it was a concern that the application was retrospective and questioned whether the planned acoustic wall would work. He then asked each councillor individually to give their comments on this application, which they all did. The Chairman said that the PPC response to be submitted on the ESC planning portal would be prepared immediately and then the clerk will upload by the deadline of 22nd October. There will be a number of comments offered in the PPC response in case the application is approved by ESC Planning. The proposal by the Chairman that 'PPC should object to the application as it was submitted', seconded by Cllr Greenwood, was accepted by 6 votes in favour and 1 against.

b) DC/25/3658/TCA – 1no Willow (on the Causeway near Deli) Fell. Willow tree on the Causeway opposite Peasenhall Deli, The Street, Peasenhall, Suffolk.

After some discussion it was agreed by PPC to request the tree be reduced by 50% maximum and not felled.

c) DC/25/3926/TCA – Several trees reduce in height, prune and/or fell – Farthings, Sibton Road, Peasenhall, Suffolk IP17 2JF.

It was agreed that a site visit should take place before submitting any comments on the planning portal. The deadline for comments is 5th November.

2025/093 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th September were approved as correct and were signed by the Chairman.

2025/094 To receive progress reports for information

a) New Affordable Village Housing – update. The Chairman will contact Paul Barham of Hastoe Housing to arrange a meeting. **He will later report back on this meeting.**

d) Emergency Advice – final version and central contact register. The final version of the document is on the PPC website. **The clerk will prepare a list of additional emergency contacts from the Assembly Hall Trustees and this list will be kept by her and the Chairman.**

2025/095 Finance and Governance

a) The current bank account balances were confirmed by the RFO:

Current Account balance as at 30.9.25: £39,512.93 (including receipts of £550 cemetery fees and £6836.43 precept).

Savings Account balance as at 30.9.25: £37,442.55 (including £123.87 interest)

b) The payments as listed on the agenda were approved for payment.

- c) The budget-v-actual figures for Qtr 2 were reviewed and approved.
- d) The bank reconciliation for Qtr 2 was approved.
- e) SALC was approved as the internal auditor for 2025/2026 financial year.

The Chairman requested at this point that the meeting would be extended by 30 minutes maximum.

2025/096 Village Issues

- b) SZC Community Forum 23/10/2025 at Sizewell Sports & Social Club – Cllr Horlock is hoping to attend this event.
- c) Litter Pick 4th October – Eight people attended, there was not too much litter but there were 3 lots of fly tipping. The council came and collected items quickly.
- d) Xmas Tree lighting event – This will be held on Sunday 7th December at 5.30 pm. It will be held back at the previous site near Weavers Tearoom. A 12 foot Nordic pine tree will be ordered, and Cllrs Greenwood and Seddon will put it in position and decorate. Cllrs Horlock and Rowing will be responsible for music, food and drink.

2025/097 Mabels Walk Allotments/Public Open Space

- a) Draft Allotments Land Transfer to PPC – The Chairman said that a draft TP1 document will be circulated to councillors at a later stage before it is finally agreed. The plan is incorrect, showing the parking area as “retained land” and the GPS co-ordinates differ from those supplied by the PPC surveyor. Minor revisions to the TP1 document may be requested. The Chairman has written to Lorraine Francis about these and other issues and is awaiting her reply before proceeding.
- b) Legal Advice and ESC complaint reply – The Chairman said there are no further updates on this. A draft complaint letter has been sent to ESC, who have classed this as ‘Stage 2’.
- c) Chairman’s Draft Question for ESC Full Council – The 3-minute version of this question has been circulated already to councillors for their comments and then the final version will be sent to the Monitoring Officer, Chris Bing for him to validate it for presentation to Full Council on 26th November

2025/098 Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council

- a) Moving to gov.uk domain name and email addresses – PPC agreed to go ahead with this changeover at the quoted cost of £289 per year. **The clerk will contact One Suffolk to start the process.**
- b) To discuss ideas/items for 2026/2027 budget – After some discussions it was agreed to allocate £3k for Village Maintenance on the new budget.
- c) Memorial Service – This will be on Tuesday 11th November at 11 am. This will be advertised in the Fisherman.
- d) PUC Trustee vacancy – The Chairman proposed Sue Little to be appointed as a Trustee, seconded by Cllr Long and agreed unanimously. The clerk will inform Cliff Nicholson of her contact details when the Chairman sends them.

2025/099 Correspondence (previously circulated to councillors)

a) A letter from SARS (Suffolk Accident Rescue Service) requesting financial support had been circulated to councillors previously. This item will be put on the agenda for the next meeting when the clerk will obtain more information about the organisation.

Agenda Item 6 b) – Rural & Community led housing webinar on 6th October – No councillor was able to report on this.

Agenda item 6 c) – Data Protection & Information Management Policy – A new version of this policy had been circulated by the clerk prior to the meeting but it requires further discussion and amendments before being adopted. This will be on the next PPC meeting agenda.

Agenda item 8 a) – Ongoing traffic issues – SZC HGV's – The Chairman said he has still not spoken to Zoe Botten of SZC about the blue plaque which should be displayed on any HGV's driving through Peasenhall. He proposed that the matter of blue plaques on SZC HGV vehicles should be raised again for the next Northern Transport meeting.

Agenda item 8 e) – Oakley Cottage complaint – debris and hedgerow – Parking spaces for neighbouring residents are being taken up with bins, broken plant pots and encroaching hedging at this property. PPC decided to take no action at this stage but to put this on the agenda for the next PPC meeting.

2025/100 - The next meeting will be on Wednesday 19th November 2025 at 7 pm in the Methodist Church Room

The meeting closed at 21.10 hours.

Carol Hume

Parish Clerk/RFO

Minutes signed as correct:

Date:

