

PEASENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Peasehall Parish Council Meeting
held at the **Methodist Church Room on Friday 20th February 2026 at 7.00 pm**

2026/13 Attendance and apologies

Attendees:

Cllr Barry Rowing (Chairman)
Cllr Stephen Long
Cllr Roger Benstead
SCC Cllr Stephen Burroughes

Apologies for absence:

Cllr Zoe Horlock
Cllr Gary Greenwood
Cllr John Bawtree

Not present:

Cllr Oliver Charles
Cllr Sam Seddon
Cllr John Bimson

In attendance:

SCC Community Highways Engineer,
Charles Harrison
Carol Hume - Parish Clerk
21 members of the public

Apologies for absence were approved. Reasons for absence were noted by the clerk.

2026/14 Declarations of Interest

None

2026/15 Requests for Dispensation

None

2026/16 Public Forum

a) Report from SCC Cllr Burroughes had been circulated to councillors before the meeting. He said that following a government decision, local elections will take place in just seven weeks' time, and all SCC resources are now going into planning for 7th May. As there will be new boundaries under local re-organisation, Peasehall will be in a greater Halesworth ward and SCC Cllr Burroughes would lose it. After 17th March everything will be put on hold but highways issues can still be discussed. He said that the new 20 mph Speed Limit Policy backed by SCC would be good for the village. This would involve traffic surveys and community consultations. SCC has set out plans for their 2026/27 budget but after the May elections the spending delivery could all change. SCC Cllr Burroughes then introduced Charles Harrison who has only been in his current role of Community Highways Engineer for about six months. He is aware of all the issues concerning the A1120, Church Road, Mill Hill and Hackney Road. SCC Cllr Burroughes also apologised for the police being unable to attend evening meetings due to availability and 'budget pressures'.

b) The Chairman asked if there were any others who wished to speak at this point. The resident who lives in Oakley Cottage had received a letter from PPC asking him to move bins and planters from the front of his property for safety reasons. He said he is not willing to move the planters because if he did then up to three

2026/005

cars will park there. He has the option of making the requested changes before Suffolk Highways become involved.

2026/17 Village Issues

a) The Chairman asked residents present to voice their concerns about any village highways matters for consideration by SCC Cllr Burroughes and his Community Highways Engineer, Mr Harrison. Several residents spoke about various different issues which included:

- Paths are not wide enough, making them wider could create some traffic calming.
- Speeding traffic through the village not keeping to 30 mph.
- Too many large HGV's using small 'C' roads. Possible new signage may be needed.
- Problems near Emmetts junction including damage to private property.
- Hackney Road excess speeding due to lack of visibility and parking problems.
- Overhanging hedges need to be cut back by residents.
- Traffic monitoring through the village had shown 18% increase over a year.
- Community Speedwatch needs volunteers before it can be run.
- Using the footpath from Mill Hill down to Emmetts is dangerous.
- Signage improvements – a 'STOP' sign and markings needed at the Mill Road junction.
- Potholes are much worse following the wet winter.
- Parking improvement scheme opposite the Post Office/village store.
- A1120 drain/gulley check

The Chairman read out parts of an email from a Hackney Road resident who has concerns about the issues on the A1120 together with a suggested solution from Suffolk Police sent to SCC Cllr Burroughes addressing the visual obstruction caused by parked vehicles, but only directly opposite the cemetery on the A1120. A comment was also read out, made by an adjacent Hackney Road resident. PPC support was offered to SCC, but before action is taken, the process will involve a formal consultation with PPC, to detail where any proposed traffic restrictions there might start and finish. Cllr Long asked those present if they would be in favour of PPC pursuing a 20 mph limit in the village by a show of hands. The majority were in favour. As a result of discussions, PPC will come up with a to-do list to be sent to Mr Harrison, followed by his visit to the village after the March PPC meeting when up to two Councillors will join him to walk round the village to further discuss the list. The Chairman thanked SCC for removing the vacant signposts down by the old school and asked about the SCC position on repairs to the Bruisyard bridge and the Causeway bridge which were reported to SCC some time ago. SCC Cllr Burroughes said he will check if the work is scheduled. The Chairman thanked SCC Cllr Burroughes and Mr Harrison for attending tonight's meeting.

b) Report on the SZC NT Forum held at High Lodge, Darsham. The Chairman attended along with representatives from our neighbouring Parish Councils. Willow Marsh Lane looks to remain closed to vehicles until the Spring and not open until the Summer for pedestrians and cyclists. SZC intend to install signage along this general route from Pouy Street, asking SZC traffic to not use it. SZC said they will discuss these signs with Sibton PC. It was stated that after completion, the new SZC link road will be remaining in place. The new Yoxford roundabout will hopefully open in April, followed by the Friday Street roundabout a bit later. SCC Cllr Alexander Nicoll requested that SZC contributes towards pothole repair. There was some mention about a gateway and 20 mph speed restriction proposal at Darsham village. Network Rail were in attendance and there was some mention of bus replacement services from Ipswich to Sax/Lowestoft/Halesworth over the weekends of 7th/8th, 14th/15th and 21st/22nd March.

c) A1120 pollution monitoring provisional results. An email from Rebecca Brooks, ESC Principal Environmental Officer said that raw data showed very low levels of nitrogen dioxide at the Peasenhall monitoring site and that she expected final results, when available later in the year, to be below the health based objective level of 40ug/m³ as an annual average.

2026/18 Minutes

The minutes of the PPC meeting held on 21st January 2026 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2026/19 To receive progress reports for information

- a) Update on the Assembly Hall request for funding. The work started on 16th February and Mr Potter has sent photographs showing the current situation. The clerk will contact Mr Potter to ask him to confirm the final amount of funding to be paid by PPC.
- b) IT Policy update. Cllr Long will send the clerk a draft PPC IT Policy to be circulated to Councillors and discussed at the March PPC meeting.
- c) Note to landowners with encroaching hedges affecting road and pedestrian safety. Notes have been sent to three residents and reminders will be sent if no action is taken.
- d) Final PPC Councillor email address changes. Cllr Long will suggest a date for meeting with the remaining Councillors still to change their email addresses to assist them.
- e) Hackney Road 'H' markings update. PPC applied for these in August 2025 and paid the application fee in November 2025. The clerk has emailed to request an update but no reply has been received yet. Mr Harrison said he will chase for an update.

2026/20 Finance and Governance

- a) The bank balances as at 31.1.2026 were confirmed by the RFO:
Current account £36,277.59 Savings account £37,551.80
- b) The budget as presented for 2026/2027 was approved
- c) The payment schedule was approved for payment
- d) The budget-v-actuals Q3 figures were approved and signed by the Chairman (£295 moved to legal)
- e) The bank reconciliation Q3 was approved and signed by the Chairman
- f) The Suffolk Local Code of Conduct was not reviewed and will be moved to the next meeting.
- g) Cemetery Fees review will be moved to the next meeting (the clerk will provide comparison figures)
- h) The Risk Assessment review will be moved to the next meeting (Chair/clerk to discuss on TEAMS)
- i) The Asset Register was approved following a change of address for Xmas tree lights storage and addition of second dog waste bin in cemetery area.

2026/21 Planning

- a) DC/25/2990/FUL – Valley Farm, The Mounts, Peasenhall IP17 2LR – Application second PPC response.
A PPC response to the Valley Farm plan revisions has been sent to Eleanor Attwood, ESC Planning Dept and can be read on the ESC planning portal. PPC should be given notice if this application is to go before the Planning Committee.
- b) SALC Factsheet – “Planning Reform and what it means for local councils”. This factsheet has been circulated to all Councillors.
- c) Report on ESC Planning Forum 9.2.2026. The Chairman attended this event in Lowestoft and reports: We were told that the revised NPPF content will now carry more weight, becoming a ‘material consideration’ in planning applications and there will be a presumption in favour of approval, especially on sustainable development. Something that will directly affect us at the school site, should it be put forward, is that a positive approach will be given to ‘heritage assets’.

Sheltered homes applications will also be encouraged, the Chairman commented this could provide an alternative for the elderly who often need to move away from our village to find suitable accommodation. We will not know which sites have been put forward until the Spring. The Chairman noted a few points from the forum that may help PPC in the forthcoming 'call for sites' consultation.

d) ESC Statement of Community Involvement. The draft version of this has been circulated to Councillors and they have been encouraged to submit their own individual comments.

2026/22 Mabel's Walk Allotments/Public Open Space

a) Draft Allotments Land Transfer to PPC. After an email reply from the developer's solicitor, who still wished to apply restrictions on land ownership transfer and not to provide a correctly marked plan, the Chairman wrote to ESC saying that as we are outside of the S106 legal agreement, we felt that they had left us without any authority to negotiate with the developer over this and the transfer conditions. Following this Lorraine Francis kindly replied, saying that she had now written to the developer in this respect. The Chairman also has now written again to the solicitor on behalf of PPC, who await a response. Details of all recent communications between PPC and ESC have been sent to Simon Burnip of Atkins Dellow who is now handling the PPC file on this proposed transfer.

b) ESC Complaint, referral to the Ombudsman. A draft document has been circulated to Councillors; no amendments were suggested and any necessary adjustments to the document after proof reading will be made before starting the process of pasting it on to the form to go to the Ombudsman on behalf of PPC.

2026/23 Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council

a) Housing opportunities in Peasehall. There is currently nothing to update on this.

b) Draft PPC Grants and Donations Policy. The Chairman proposes to leave this until after the AGM in May in case a new Chairman may wish to change it.

2026/24 Correspondence

a) PPC Resilience and Emergency measures. The Chairman read out an email from a resident listing some areas of concern following the harsh winter weather. The Chairman suggested that regular checks of grit bins, trees etc. already take place. There is a webinar on Friday 27th February titled 'Emergency Preparedness and Building Community Resilience' offered by ESC which the Chairman and the resident will be able to register for and attend. Residents can produce their own short resilience document and PPC may wish to review our own Emergency Advice. The two damaged grit bins at Mill Road junction will be dealt with.

b) Defibrillator storage review. Cllr Benstead said The Circuit will undergo a storage review if requested. The clerk will get in touch with them for more information.

2026/25 The next meeting will be on Wednesday 18th March at 7 pm in the Methodist Church Room.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Carol Hume

Parish Clerk/RFO

Minutes signed as correct:

Date:

