

PEASENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Peasehall Parish Council Meeting
held at the **Methodist Church Room on Wednesday 21st January 2026 at 7.00 pm**

2026/01 Attendance and apologies

Attendees:

Cllr Barry Rowing (Chairman)
Cllr John Bimson
Cllr Roger Benstead
Cllr Stephen Long
Cllr Gary Greenwood
Cllr Zoe Horlock
Cllr John Bawtree
DC Julia Ewart

Apologies for absence:

Cllr Sam Seddon
Cllr Oliver Charles
SCC Stephen Burroughes

In attendance:

Carol Hume - Parish Clerk
12 members of the public

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

2026/02 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

Cllr Rowing declared an interest in Item 7 a). There were no requests for dispensation.

2026/03 Public Forum

a) Report from SCC Burroughes had been circulated to councillors before the meeting. The clerk will check with SCC Burroughes in two weeks for confirmation he will be coming to the PPC meeting in February.

b) The resident who lives in Chapel Cottage declared a public interest in Item 7 a). He was questioned by a member of the public about the reasons for his tree work application at his property.

Agenda Item 7 a) – Planning – DC/26/0018/TCA Chapel Cottage, Chapel Street, Peasehall

Cllr Rowing had no comment on this application. Any other Councillors should submit their comments to the clerk by 29/1/2026.

Agenda Item 7 b) – Planning – DC/25/2990/FUL Valley Farm, The Mounts, Peasehall

A resident who lives close to Valley Farm said that she had the same objections to the application as before in October. The noise of the chipper and the drier affected her when working from home and she had concerns about the noxious smoke coming from the farm which will affect the pub and the camp site. At this point the Chairman read out an email received by the clerk from this resident pointing out that Cllr Horlock should have declared a pecuniary interest at the PPC meeting in October when this planning application was discussed and voted on by PPC. Cllr Horlock agreed to declare a pecuniary interest in this item and to not make comments on the application or vote on it, there was no objection to her remaining in the room. A second resident then spoke about the acoustic report saying that the noise levels had only been reduced minimally and that this was an insufficient correction. The drier noise is present at night disturbing sleep and there is a lack of detail in the report about the bale noise barrier. A third resident reiterated the potential impact on the roadways with more damage from HGVs to roads and properties,

and the increased dangers to pedestrians. All this has worsened over the last few months.

The Chairman then made his comments about the new plan revisions saying he has reservations about the remaining aspects that PPC had previously objected to and that had not been dealt with. This is the same planning application with the same reference number which PPC voted against last year. He felt that any fresh comments should relate to the expansion not to the business and perhaps PPC should wait for the date of the next ESC Planning Committee. Cllr Long said that the statistics about traffic in the application appear to reference the number of lorries and not lorry inbound and outbound journeys, stating that it is surprising that Suffolk Highways have not commented. Cllr Bimson agreed with the comments relating to increased traffic and pedestrian safety. Cllr Greenwood also commented on the increased dangers on the roads. The Chairman asked if councillors agreed that he should make a verbal representation at the ESC Planning Committee meeting. All were in favour. (Cllr Horlock did not take part in the discussion or vote). DC Ewart said she will “call-in the application” and will let the clerk know the date of the ESC Committee meeting. The Chairman will draft a new 500 or so word declaration to circulate to Councillors for comments.

Agenda Item 3 a) DC Ewart then spoke about items from her previously circulated report. She is speaking to O2 about poor mobile coverage in the area and to Evri about their bad service locally. She outlined the new Local Government Re-organisation which means there will not be local elections this year. There are currently two options for Suffolk as yet to be decided on and Government decisions will affect all County Councillors and Parish Councillors with their decisions too with, for example, deciding the level of the Precept.

2026/04 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th November 2025 were approved as accurate and were signed by the Chairman.

2026/05 To receive progress reports for information

a) Assembly Hall request for funding – Work on the toilet refurbishment will start on 16th February and final figures for the funding request amount will come from Mr Frank Potter soon.

b) IT Policy update – Cllr Long agreed that the new template is more suitable. He has a few questions for the clerk and will then draft a new IT Policy version for circulation to councillors.

c) Possible note to landowners with encroaching hedges that affect road and pedestrian safety – No councillors have been approached by residents about any similar issues in the village. The Chairman will draw up a polite letter to a number of households where remedial hedge work is needed for safety reasons. This problem is really a matter for SCC and PPC can only report to them.

d) New PPC councillor gov.uk email addresses – Four councillors have yet to change to the new email format. Cllr Long will liaise with them to meet at Cllr Bawtree’s house to complete the update.

2026/06 Finance and Governance

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

Current Account balance as at 30.11.25: £36,804.24

Savings Account balance as at 30.11.25: £37,551.80

- b) The draft budget for 2026/2027 needs further changes and will be approved at the February PPC meeting.
- c) The payments as listed on the schedule were approved for payment.
- d) The LGA 1972 s137 expenditure limit for 2026/27 has been set at £11.60 per elector.

2026/08 Village Issues

- a) Ongoing traffic, problem hedges and parking issues to report to SCC – These items have been covered already at 2026/05 c). Two residents had come to this meeting specifically to speak to a Police representative and SCC Burroughes about the traffic issues along Hackney Road and were disappointed that they were not present. They voiced their frustration about trying to contact the Police directly. The Chairman said that PC Christian Hassler can be contacted directly and DC Ewart said she is taking up these issues with Sam Kenward, ESC Communities Officer so that he can work with villages directly. Potholes are also a problem, and all these highways issues need to be brought to the attention of SCC Burroughes at the next PPC meeting. The clerk will chase SCC to install the “H” markings along parts of Hackney Road as PPC paid for them several months ago. It was reported that the bottle bank needs to be emptied. Cllr Horlock will report this.
- b) Report on SZC Traffic Monitoring PC Workshop (Friday 21st November 2025) – As Cllr Seddon was not present at the meeting there was no report on this item.
- c) Report on Xmas tree event (8th December 2025) – The Chairman said this had been a successful evening with around 50 or 60 residents attending. He thanked Cllr Horlock, Janet Rowing, Tricia Allen, Mike and Jeremy Thickett, Sue Trovell, Mr & Mrs Sedger for all their help in making it a success. He also thanked the Xmas tree installers, Cllr Greenwood and Cllr Seddon.
- d) Oakley Cottage complaint – This had been dealt with under 2026/05 c).

2026/09 Mabels Walk Allotments/Public Open Space

- a) Draft Allotments Land Transfer to PPC – further update – The Chairman has written to Lorraine Francis of ESC with a cc to Ben Woolnough, requesting that as the only other party to the S106 legal agreement they write to the landowner to support our request for the transfer to proceed with a correct plan and with no restrictions. No reply has come back yet. It was suggested that public access to the Public Open Space should be added to the revised management plan as access is currently shown over a private road. Simon Button has left Atkins Dellow, replaced by Simon Burnip.
- b) Complaint to ESC, referral to Ombudsman – further consideration – The Chairman has drafted a 2-page document for the next complaint stage to go forward to the Ombudsman including the ESC response to the presentation he made to the Full Council on 26th November 2025. He considers this to be the last chance to achieve the play area on the Mabels Walk Public Open Space. All were in favour of the Chairman continuing with the referral

2026/10 Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council

- a) Chairman’s meeting with Paul Barham, Hastoe Housing – This took place on 27th November 2025 to discuss a proposal for 10 affordable homes on Mill Hill. * The Chairman adjourned the meeting at this point briefly to enable councillors to look at the plans which are not for public viewing at this stage*. PPC will be contacted by Hastoe Housing about this site in due course. DC Ewart said that at a recent Sibton Parish Council meeting there were positive comments about still having sports facilities at the Peasenhall Playing Field and there are ideas about the old Peasenhall School site too. She said there are many opportunities and concepts for PPC to consider.

2026/11 Correspondence (previously circulated to councillors)

a) ESC draft Statement of Community involvement consultation – This had been circulated and there were no comments.

b) ESC Town and Parish Forum February 2026 – The Chairman said he will be attending one of the consultations and is happy to take any other councillor who may want to go.

A notice about the temporary closure of the A12 at Yoxford from 13th February to 16th February was read out by the Chairman.

2026/12 - The next meeting will be on Wednesday 18th February 2026 PLEASE NOTE THIS DATE IS NOW 20TH FEBRUARY at 7 pm in the Methodist Church Room

The meeting closed at 20.50 hours.

Carol Hume

Parish Clerk/RFO

Minutes signed as correct:

Date:

Payments requiring authorisation			21st January 2026				
Date	Supplier	Item	Gross	VAT	Net	Comment	Power
01/01/2026	Carol Hume	Salary - November 2025	£ 338.56		£ 338.56		LGA 1972 s112
15/01/2026	Carol Hume	Expenses	£ 105.60	£ 13.60	£ 92.00	as per clerk's expenses detail sheet	n/a
05/11/2026	HMRC	Month 9 PAYE due 22/01/26	£ 24.40		£ 24.40		n/a
06/12/2025	Methodist Church	Church Room hire 19/11/25	£ 20.00		£ 20.00	Paid BACS 15/12/25	
05/12/2025	HMRC	Month 8 PAYE due 22/12/25	£ 24.20		£ 24.20	Paid BACS 15/12/25	
10/12/2025	David Kindred	Invoice PPC-5-25	£ 48.00		£ 48.00	Paid BACS 15/12/25	
30/11/2025	Assembly Hall	Hall hire 7/12/25 - Invoice 475	£ 48.00		£ 48.00	Paid BACS 15/12/25	
25/11/2025	H R Sedger	Xmas tree lighting power supply	£ 50.00		£ 50.00	Paid BACS 15/12/25	s137
11/12/2025	B Rowing	Xmas event food and drinks repaid	£ 89.19		£ 89.19	Paid BACS 15/12/25	s137
01/12/2025	Carol Hume	Salary - December 2025	£ 338.76		£ 338.76	Paid BACS 15/12/25	LGA 1972 s112
15/12/2025	Carol Hume	Expenses - as per clerk's detail sheet	£ 24.00		£ 24.00	Paid BACS 15/12/25	
Total			£ 1,110.71	£ 13.60	£ 1,097.11		
	Authorised By			Date	21/01/2026		
		Chairman					
	All invoices and payments listed above have been examined, verified and certified by the RFO, Carol Hume						
	Signed:						

