

PEASENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Peasenhall Parish Council meeting
held at the **Methodist Church Room on Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 7.00 pm**

2025/001 Attendance and apologies

Attendees:

Cllr. Barry Rowing
Cllr. Zoe Horlock
Cllr. Roger Benstead
Cllr. John Bawtree
Cllr. John Bimson

Apologies for absence:

County Councillor Stephen Burroughes
District Councillor Julia Ewart
Cllr Gary Greenwood
Cllr Sam Seddon
Cllr Oliver Charles

In attendance:

Carol Hume - Parish Clerk
2 members of the public

Apologies for absence were approved.

2025/002 Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations

There were no Declarations of Interest or Requests for Dispensation

2025/003 Co-option of new councillor

Mr Stephen Long gave details of his suitability to become a Parish Councillor. His co-option to PPC was proposed by Cllr Rowing and agreed to unanimously. He signed the Declaration of Office acceptance form.

2024/004 Public Forum

- a) A resident said that the Xmas Tree event held at the Assembly Hall was excellent and he had heard some very good feedback.
- b) The reports from CC Burroughes and DC Ewart will be circulated to councillors and will be published on the website.

2025/005 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th November 2024 and the EGM held on 4th December 2024 were both approved as accurate records and were signed by the Chairman..

2025/006 To receive progress reports for information

- a) Emergency Plan – DC Julia Ewart had previously requested that this be done so Cllr Charles needs to finalise the Plan as soon as possible.
- b) “Happy to Chat” bench funding – the Clerk had emailed Sam Kenward at ESC to ask if there is any funding for this but had not received a reply. It is still hoped to purchase a new bench in the cemetery.

2025/007 Finance and Governance

- a) To note the current financial position, including receipts – all noted.

2025/001

- b) To approve the draft budget for the financial year 2025/2026 – this item was discussed later in the meeting following Item 12.
- c) To approve the PPC Financial Regulations 2024 (amended Section 4) – revised version. This item will move to the PPC meeting in February.
- d) To set the level of Precept for 2025/2026 – this item was discussed later in the meeting following Item 12.
- e) To approve the Asset Register – subject to two small changes on the register, it was approved.
- f) To adopt the PPC Councillor Co-option Policy – this was approved.
- g) To note the LGA 1972 s137 expenditure limit for 2025 – this was noted.
- h) To authorise the payments as listed on the agenda – these were approved for payment.

2025/008 Village Issues

- a) Hackney Road parking and other traffic issues – A reminder from the original complainant has been received. Cllr Rowing has said she should contact CC Stephen Burroughes as it is a Highways problem. A site visit was discussed with CC Burroughes and he should provide the contact details for the new Liaison Officer, Jo Kerridge. He said there is no money left in the budget but there may be some SZC funding available. Cllr Rowing will remind SCC about the agreed re-markings at Emmetts crossroads. The pavement by the old school has been cleared. It was suggested that PPC may need to pay to replace the broken road signs.
- b) 2025 Grass-cutting contract – This item will be moved to the February PPC meeting so that the Chairman can do more research. He intends to advertise the position on Facebook and put an advert in the shop also in the Fisherman. Anyone interested will need their own equipment and public liability insurance. The Chairman will register PPC with Facebook and it is likely that only the Clerk and the Chairman will be able to approve items posted there.
- c) Traffic Survey results – The results for Heveningham Long Lane are not as bad as they were on the survey commissioned by Heveningham PC. Hackney Road results are not good, especially for westbound traffic. There is a budget allocation for at least part of calming measures as discussed previously. Any further ideas for traffic calming measures on the A1120 such as the “20’s Plenty” campaign, should be put forward as a future agenda item. The clerk will forward the survey results to CC Burroughes.

2025/009 Mabels Walk Open Space Area and Allotments

- a) Play area pre-planning application – The Chairman said it has been submitted this week. When a full application is made it will be available to view on ESC Planning Public Access. There should be a reply in about 20 days. There will be no cost to PPC as planning applications from Parish Councils are fee exempt. Land Registry has confirmed the landowner is Haydon Holdings

2025/010 Correspondence

- a) Cllr Rowing asked the clerk to remove Chris Norrington as a contact on the Circuit defibrillator website because he is still mistakenly receiving notifications.

2025/011 Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council

- a) Cllr Rowing asked councillors to look at the PPC website carefully and to advise any changes that need to be made to it. Either put any on the next agenda or notify the Clerk.
- b) Xmas Tree Event – This had mostly worked well, around 60 people attended. Comments that the tree couldn't be seen very well outside so may move it back to Weavers next year. 2 sets of new lights will be purchased soon as they should be cheaper at this time of year. The laser lights have been donated to PPC by Bill. The £350 budgeted may be increased for next year's event as it was difficult to keep to.
- c) Junction layout improvements to the Street/Sibton Road for pedestrian safety – Cllrs Seddon and Rowing have spoken of this issue since last July. There have been several near misses involving pedestrians and vehicles at this junction; a house in the vicinity has had to rebuild a wall 3 times after it was struck by vehicles. A provisional amount has been put in the budget for this as well as for street parking improvements.
- d) Cemetery improvements – There is a figure in the budget for this. The existing gravel pathway needs maintenance, and a new path is proposed to stop people from cutting across the grass when they approach the cemetery from Hackney Road. There are 8 saplings that need to be removed from graves plus a new bench has been previously suggested which can also be funded from the budget allocation.
- e) EV charging point – This too has an allocated figure on the budget. Suggestions for possible new locations may be included in future agendas.
- f) SZC Northern Transport meeting – The date for the next meeting is 5th February. Cllr Horlock will attend. There is also a Town and Parish Planning Forum on 3^{0th} January (Lowestoft) or 3rd February (Melton) which Cllr Horlock will attend, along with possibly some other councillors.
- g) A resident has complained about an uncovered grave in the cemetery. Cllr Rowing said that when the cemetery path work is carried out, spoil from that could be used to infill the grave and top up the settlement of around 20 cm

2025/007 b) 2025/2026 Draft Budget

The Chairman highlighted the changes in allocation showing in blue on the draft budget. Cllr Long asked how the income figure was arrived at and the precept was explained to him. The high amount of PPC reserves were highlighted when the Chairman was applying for the SZCCF grant so he had produced an addendum to show that PPC had discussed items for future expenditure, but these had not been added specifically to the draft budget. It is hoped that the "Street Improvements" figure on the budget may encourage the owner of the land to consider parking improvements there, an EV point has previously been suggested as part of any scheme. Following a proposal from the Chairman the draft budget was approved unanimously.

2025/007 d) 2025 Precept

The 2025 Precept figure of £13,672.86 to be requested was accepted unanimously.

2025/003

2025/012 Planning – DC/2024/0044/TCA – Hare Lodge, Church Street, Peasenhall IP17 2HL. 1 Beech, crown to reduce to 3m in height; 1 Yew, crown to reduce to 3m in height; 2 conifers, fell.

Cllr Benstead, the PPC Tree Officer will go to look at the conifers, as these cannot be seen from Rendham Road. No issues with the proposed beech or yew reductions. This is not a PPC consultation.

Cllr Rowing encouraged councillors to read the East Suffolk Developers Charter which had been circulated by the clerk today.

2025/013 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as being on **Wednesday 19th February 2025** at 7 pm in the **Methodist Church Room**.

The meeting closed at 20.40 hours.

Carol Hume

Parish Clerk/RFO

Minutes signed as correct:

Date:

