

PEASENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Peasenhall Parish Council meeting
held at Peasenhall Assembly Hall on Wednesday 17th January 2024

2024/001 Attendance and apologies

Attendees:

Cllr. Barry Rowing (Chairman)
Cllr. Jane Collins
Cllr. Zoe Horlock
Cllr. Sam Seddon
Cllr. Gary Greenwood
Cllr. Sam Bryant
Cllr. Roger Benstead

Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Stephanie Liston
County Cllr Stephen Burroughes

In attendance:

District Cllr. Julia Ewart
Carol Hume - Parish Clerk
2 members of the public

2024/002 Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations

None received

2024/003 Public Forum

a) A member of the public asked if the specification for the new grass-cutting contract would be in the public domain. Cllr. Rowing said that he did not see why not and that the new contract will commence on 1st April 2024.

b) The District Councillor's and the County Councillor's reports had been circulated prior to the meeting. Dist. Cllr Ewart, having arrived at the meeting later, spoke about the recent floods and said the reduction in the budget will affect future funding. Some grants have already been paid out with more to come. It may be useful if someone would join the Flood Resilience Group. The new planning application for Cockfield Hall was discussed. Villages affected will need plenty of information in order to make their own comments on the plans. Sizewell C is going ahead with proposed traffic routeing at the Bramfield turning on to the A12. Budget cuts to arts and culture will influence village life, with further shortages possible in 2025 too.

2024/004 Minutes

a) The minutes of the meeting held on 15th November 2023 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman, Cllr Rowing. The minutes will also need to be signed by Cllr. Liston because she chaired the main part of the meeting following the election of Cllr. Rowing as chairman.

2024/005 Mabel's Walk/Allotments

Cllr Greenwood spoke about Sutcliffes, the company he and Cllr Seddon have approached for a quote for the proposed play area. A large plan of their proposal was made available along with the cost of the project which would be circa £39k. A member of the public said he has experience of building playgrounds and that three more quotes would be needed in due course along with planning permission which could take six months. A future public meeting to discuss the play area was suggested.

Cllr Rowing reported on the allotments. No progress has been made so the East Suffolk Council enforcement officer, Lorraine Francis has written to Mr Haydon asking him to respond with 20 days with regard to the Section 106 Agreement. Regarding the remediation of the allotment land a proposal was put to the PC by Cllr Rowing to write to Mr Haydon asking for his permission for independent professional soil testing to be carried out by the PC at their own cost on the remaining 300mm of subsoil to a total depth of 600mm. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Greenwood and carried unanimously. The cost of further onsite soil testing will be no more than £1800. It has been suggested by ESC that there should be no charges for the car parking at the allotments.

2024/006 Highways

Cllr Horlock said that there has been no further response from Wayne Saunders following a reminder to him. The battery on the SID needs to be changed but the Allen key is missing. Speedwatch training needs six people which is proving difficult but four volunteers from the PC at the meeting meant that training can now go ahead. The sign by Weavers is damaged and may need to be replaced with a new one. Further traffic surveys have been initiated at a budgeted cost of £615 for two surveys. There will be a contribution to this cost by Heveningham PC. The second SID needs to be sent back to the manufacturers for repair which could cost up to £500. Cllr Rowing will have a look at it before a decision is made. The cost of removing the traffic poles will need to be added to the budget for 2024/25.

2024/007 Finance and Governance

- a) Carol Hume (RFO) confirmed the current account balances:
Current Account: £39,566.64 – Receipts: bank interest £126.71
Savings Account: £36,514.74
- b) Following discussion and some additions the draft budget for the financial year 2024/2025 was approved.
- c) The precept for 2024 was set at £12,089, which is the same as for 2023.
- d) The AGAR final report and certificate issued by the external auditors for y/e 31.3.2023 was received and accepted. The RFO will carry out the actions as specified in the report.
- e) The items listed for payment were approved. Items already paid in December as listed were also approved. The clerk will check previous minutes for approval of a £2400 grant from PPC to the Assembly Hall so that it can be paid before the next meeting.

2024/008 Planning

DC/24/0040/FUL – There were no comments on this retrospective application.

2024/009 Defibrillator

Cllr Benstead has agreed to be the 'Guardian' as per the Circuit website, and he will make regular maintenance checks. Following recent replacement of pads and battery the defib is now fully functional, showing as 'emergency ready' and appears on the BHF online map as 'available'.

2024/010 Village Issues

- a) The grass-cutting contract for 2024 has been finalised. Only one quote was received from the three original contractors contacted which was from East Suffolk Services. Their quote was accepted, the total annual cost will be £3008 and will begin on 1st April 2024.
- b) Following an email from Mr Levett-Scrivener sent to the clerk on 14/11/23 regarding the suggested street improvements it was decided to put this item on hold for now as no progress is being made. The date for the village litter pick is Saturday 2nd March. Cllr Horlock will arrange this.

2024/011 Correspondence

- a) Neighbourhood Plan – this item will be put on the agenda for the meeting to be held on 21st February 2024
- b) ESC Winter Support Grant – no call for this at present

c) The clerk said that following a request made to SALC regarding new PC email addresses it is currently not mandatory for the PC to have a gov.uk address. NALC will be issuing guidance in due course.

d) Cllr Rowing said that the charity which owns the Peasenhall playing field has asked for donations towards upkeep. Sibton PC may be asked to contribute to this and Cllr Rowing wondered if PPC would match that donation. As yet he has no idea how much that donation would be.

2023/125 Date of the next meeting - The date of the next meeting will be **Wednesday 21st February 2024 at 7 pm** in the Methodist Church Rooms.

The meeting closed at 21.35 hours

Carol Hume

Parish Clerk/RFO

Minutes signed as correct:

Date:

