

PEASENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Peasehall Parish Council meeting
held at the **Assembly Hall on Wednesday 16th April 2025 at 7.00 pm**

2025/037 Attendance and apologies

Attendees:

Cllr. Barry Rowing (Chairman)
Cllr. Zoe Horlock
Cllr. Roger Benstead
Cllr. John Bawtree
Cllr. John Bimson
Cllr. Gary Greenwood
Dist. Cllr Julia Ewart
Cnty Cllr Stephen Burroughes joined the meeting via Teams at Item 3 b)

Apologies for absence:

Cllr Sam Seddon
Cllr Oliver Charles
Cllr Stephen Long

In attendance:

Carol Hume - Parish Clerk
3 members of the public

Apologies for absence were approved.

2025/038 Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations

There were no Declarations of Interest or Requests for Dispensation

2024/039 Public Forum

a) A resident present at the meeting asked a question on behalf of another resident about the proposed allotments and why it is three years since they were proposed. He asked if there was a possibility of a temporary allotment. The Chairman said this would not be advisable, as suggested by the ESC legal department, however Revision 6 of the Management Plan has been received and this gives some hope that the allotment area may soon be handed over to PCC.

b) The latest report from CC Burroughes has been circulated and posted on the website. DC Ewart handed her report to the clerk at the meeting. DC Ewart spoke of some of the main issues from her report including the amount of Sizewell C work happening on the A12 and the air monitoring taking place. The county's five district and borough councils have responded to the decision by SCC to submit interim proposals for a new single unitary authority and do not think it a good idea. Also mentioned were Community Partnership working hard along with transport issues and planning. DC Ewart has stood down as Vice Chair of ESC Planning Committee to give support to local parishes. DC Ewart asked whether the new electricity sub-station being built near Mill Road is causing any disruption or noise. Cllr Bimson said that the workforce on site were friendly and happy to discuss aspects of the ongoing construction. CC Burroughes joined the meeting via Teams at this point and highlighted areas of his report particularly libraries being under SCC control again. All libraries will remain open and mobile library services will be protected. He also spoke about the new proposal for a unitary authority and said he and DC Ewart are working well together on local issues including funding. Regarding highways, he and Jo Kerridge will work together with a view to addressing the issues in the village now that a new budget is available. PPC may have to contribute some funds to any improvements.

2025/015

2025/040

Village Issues

a) The Street Improvements update - CC Burroughes is aware of the issues and has seen the plan of the lay-by and verge areas that Jo Kerridge has. The planned area will have to be carried out to SCC standards. The Chairman will make up a plan of the proposed improvements to submit to the landowner. The change to the junction of Sibton Road would be very expensive to do and would require capital funding from SCC, but of course safety is important. CC Burroughes said he felt that change may take several years to happen. He asked whether the CIL budget could be used to fund that project. In reply the Chairman said most of the neighbourhood CIL money has been allocated already but wondered if other CIL types might be available.

c) Traffic Issues - Jo Kerridge has replied to all the issues raised following the village meeting with Cllrs Rowing and Seddon on 14th March, with responses and advised actions for all of them. CC Burroughes asked if a map showing all these issues could be provided so that the complete project can be costed and planned. Cllr Rowing said that PPC would have to vote before SCC is approached for yellow lines to be installed for the visually obstructive parking problem, on the bend and brow at Hackney Rd. Cllr Rowing said that any residents with parking issues affecting their home could apply to SCC for a vehicle crossover white line advisory 'H' marking to be installed for their driveway if they wish.

The Rendham Road speed limit could be changed to a 40 mph buffer zone between the 30 mph and 60 mph limits but CC Burroughes said changes of this nature take a long time to do. A Smyth Close Director had recently written to PPC about the possibility of installing a speed camera on this road.

Cllr Horlock asked about the pothole repairs on Heveningham Long Lane which had been done very badly in a slovenly way. CC Burroughes asked her to take photos, send them to him and he would make sure that Suffolk Highways come out and make good those areas. CC Burroughes then left the meeting.

Bruisyard Rd bridge repair – SCC has replied to PPC as follows: *'we have prepared a scheme for the repairs at the above structure and are waiting for estimates to be returned, once we are content with the estimates we will order the work. Unfortunately at this stage we are unable to confirm when repairs will be undertaken'*.

Some of the other matters required online reports to be made by PPC, the results as follows:

Bruisyard Rd and Mill Hill faded junction lines – SCC say neither are bad enough yet to replace.

Hackney Rd broken railing – SCC have logged this for repair.

2025/041

Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th March 2025 were signed by the Chairman as correct.

2025/042

To receive progress reports for information

a) Emergency Plan – Cllr Charles has only just sent out a final draft of the plan which has 12 pages. Cllr Rowing suggested it should be split into two parts, a 3 or 4 page document containing practical information for residents to keep handy and a second document prepared by a future emergency committee to refer to. It was agreed that this item be moved to the June PPC meeting for a final version to be approved and adopted.

b) 2025 Risk Assessment amendments – Cllr Long had asked the clerk to collate information from the councillors who would require security software on their laptops, so that he can investigate further before the next PPC meeting and report back. The Risk Assessment will then be approved at that meeting.

2025/016

- c) Grass-cutting arrangements for 2025 – The Chairman and the clerk met with the two candidates for the grass-cutting job and have subsequently appointed a local contractor to the position. He has all his own equipment with a favourable hourly rate that should save PPC approximately 50% on the spend in 2023/2024 with more flexibility. The first interim grass cut will have been carried out today.
- d) PPC Expenses Policy – This was approved by PPC but following advice from SALC, councillors were advised that they should check with their car insurance company to find out if cover should be changed from SDP to business use if they intend to claim expenses for PPC trips.
- e) PPC Website updates – The clerk has yet to finalise the new “Allotment Sub-committee” page on the website.
- f) Air monitoring in the Street – Following a request to Rebecca Brooks, ESC Environmental Protection Officer, a monitor has been installed near the shop and will be in place until 31/12/2025.
- g) PPC Litterpick report – Cllr Horlock reported this was quite successful with 11 residents attending. There were 8 bags of litter collected which was less than last year. The bin man took away all the litter, including a mattress. The refreshments at Weavers were enjoyed afterwards by all the participants.

2025/043 Finance and Governance

- a) To note the bank balances as at 31.3.2025, including receipts of £350 (cemetery fees) and £131.09 (interest) – Current Account balance £32,173.21, Savings Account balance £37,195.12 – all noted.
- b) To approve the year-end Bank Reconciliation for Q4 - approved
- c) To review and approve the Internal Controls Policy – approved.
- d) To authorise the attached payment schedule – all payments were approved.

2025/044 Planning

There were no new applications received. DC Ewart, as previously reported, has stepped down as Vice-Chairman of ESC Planning Committee in order to provide more community support to parishes. The Chairman commented that this was very reassuring. DC Ewart has received further communication regarding Valley Farm and will monitor the situation. She stressed how important it is for PPC to respond to planning applications with more detail.

2025/045 Village Issues continued:

- b) SZC Community Forum – report and SZC response to public comment reported by PPC - At the meeting on 27th March a written request to have the blue plate installed on the front of SZC vehicles was refused on safety grounds in case residents stepped out in front of vehicles to take pictures. With regard to the size of SZC vehicles passing through the village, PPC will attempt to advise the public using the noticeboard with what type of vehicle to look out for in order to report any regulation breaches. The next Northern Transport Forum will be on 7th May at Darsham Village Hall between 18.30 pm and 20.30 pm.
- d) Dog waste bin new site and bin sticker suggestions – It was agreed that a second dog waste bin should be sited at the top of the cemetery and the sticker should say “If this bin is full up contact East Suffolk Services on 03300 166111” or similar.

2025/046 Mabels Walk

- a) Play area pre-planning application update – The Chairman said he had received an email from Iain Robertson (ESC Planning), saying he would need to speak to Sarah Shinnie who had provided details of funds held by ESC which PPC may be able to use for the play area, before he could respond to PPC. She was away on annual leave.
- b) Rev 6 Management Plan – Lorraine Francis had emailed REV 6 to the Chairman and this had been circulated to councillors before the meeting for them to consider, he read out a covering letter from Lorraine Francis. In her accompanying letter she said that the allotment issues are settled, however the developer remains insistent on transferring the open space land to a private ManCo for the development. The Chairman went through the main points of the REV 6, insisting that PPC must be seen to be reasonable in their response. Cllr Horlock suggested PPC should simply go ahead with the allotments without the play area but the Chairman said that ESC had advised that would not be possible. The Chairman outlined to Councillors a proposed response to REV 6 and asked for comments, he suggested it may be time for PPC to appoint a legal representative as PPC wants ownership of both the areas so that they can give residents what was in the original management plan in July 2022. ESC will be asked to advise on the timing of this appointment.

2025/047 Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council

- a) Suggestions for a speaker for the APM and annual report reminder – It was agreed that the clerk should contact the Rural Crime Commander at Martlesham Police Headquarters to see if he would be willing to come and give a talk at the APM. The clerk will send emails asking for annual reports for the APM from the same village organisations as last year.
- b) Clerk's appraisal – This was done on 11th April by the Chairman with a few recommendations and comments agreed by both parties. The Chairman recommended a salary increase by one increment on the current scale, which will be implemented in November 2025. A signed copy of the appraisal will be kept on record.

2025/048 Correspondence (previously circulated o Councillors)

- a) Introducing Natures at Work - noted
- b) 'Future Paget' briefing - noted
- c) Dementia Awareness – Wednesday 23rd April at Yoxford Village Hall – Councillors were encouraged to inform anyone they know about to attend this event.
- d) 'Brave Futures' grant/donation request – Last year PPC had overspent on donations, so it was agreed not to donate anything on this occasion. The Chairman asked if anyone was aware of this charity, or know of its presence in Peasenhall?
- e) Tree across the Gull at Russell Close and Sheep Barn Cottage hedge debris – The Chairman has tried to contact the resident at Sheep Barn Cottage but had not managed to speak to anyone about the debris. He will try once again and if unsuccessful he will give the clerk the contact number for EA incident reporting to inform them. The clerk will notify EA about the tree across the Gull as steps have been fixed to it and children seem to be using it as a play area.
- F) Community Governance Review – There are currently nine parish councillors out of a maximum of ten which it is felt is sufficient. No review will therefore be requested at this time.

DRAFT