

PEASENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

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

2024/034 Attendance and apologies

Attendees:

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

Apologies for absence:

County Cllr Stephen Burroughes

In attendance:

Carol Hume - Parish Clerk
District Councillor Julia Ewart (joined the meeting
at 7.45 pm)
18 members of the public

2024/035 Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations

Cllr Collins declared a pecuniary interest in Item 4 and has submitted a Request for Dispensation

A vote amongst six councillors then followed. Cllr Rowing proposed the Request for Dispensation be accepted, seconded by Cllr Greenwood. Votes in favour: Cllrs. Rowing, Greenwood, Horlock, Benstead and Seddon. Cllr Bryant voted against the proposal. Cllr Rowing then proposed that Cllr Collins should be permitted to remain in the room during Item 4 discussions, seconded by Cllr Greenwood. Votes in favour: Cllrs. Rowing, Greenwood, Horlock, Benstead, Seddon and Bryant. Cllr Collins then moved to sit in the public area until the conclusion of Item 4.

2024/036 Public Forum

a) The report from County Cllr. S Burroughes had been circulated to councillors before the meeting. No report had been received from District Cllr. J. Ewart before the meeting but will follow in a few days.

b) A resident asked if there was any news relating to the old school. The Chairman replied that 18 months ago a Suffolk CC consultant had prepared some layouts for a possible housing estate but nothing since then. The resident expressed concern about the school building being liveable premises and could potentially be rented out.

2024/037 Valley Farm concerns

The Chairman explained to the meeting that a letter signed by eight residents of Peasenhall and Sibton had been received by the clerk and that having taken advice from the East Suffolk Council Monitoring Officer, Chris Bing, he had decided to put this item on the agenda for discussion and a possible vote. The clerk then gave a brief description of the main points in the letter in which the residents had voiced their concerns about the noise, smoke and fumes coming from Valley Farm relating to the wood chipping and drying business based there. There were also concerns about lorries going into and coming out of Valley Farm, using single-track roads in and around the village and being a potential danger to pedestrians and other road users. Reference was made to the 1990 Environment Act, section 82 which, it was felt, is being contravened on four counts. The Chairman then asked for the complainants to make any further comments and for Mr Mark Collins to give details of how his business operates, followed by any comments from other parish councillors. After some extensive debate by both sides of the argument it emerged that inspectors from East Suffolk Council departments have been involved since 2021 with the business activities at Valley Farm. Mr Collins said nothing has been found to date to be breaching regulations, but if something comes back from them he will deal with it. Other parish councillors felt it was important to keep dialogue open between both parties and for Mr Collins to consider some possible mitigation. DC Ewart said she would contact the relevant ESC department to get some testing done on site. PPC agreed to write to Mr Collins asking him to consider some mitigation and to enter into some dialogue with the concerned residents.

2024/010

2024/038

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th March 2024 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

2024/039 To receive progress reports for information

- a) The Chairman had contacted Mr Potter who confirmed the unknown location of some items on the Asset Register which had previously been in doubt. The list is now finalised and accurate.
- b) Cllr Collins had circulated a proposal for a First Aid course to be held at the Assembly Hall which set out three options. Sam Kenward (ESC Communities Officer) may be able to provide some funding for part of a course. Peasenhall PC would pay also 50% of the end cost to willing participants, to assist everyone who wanted to take part. PPC agreed that the course offered by East Anglian Medical Care was the best option. The next stage will be to ask villagers what they want and see how many are interested in taking part in a course.
- c) Clarification on hedge-cutting at the cemetery. It was agreed that the hedge should be cut in phases so there will always be some hedge which hasn't been cut and therefore allowed to flower each year. This will be brought up again later in the year when the grass-cutting contract is discussed.

The Chairman has asked ESC if the dog poo bin can be moved from the railings by the cemetery in Hackney Road to nearer the footpath.

The Chairman attended the recent Sizewell C community forum held at Trinity Park on 9th April and was able to ask a question about heavy traffic diverting through Peasenhall on the A1120, should the Orwell Bridge ever be closed. There was assurance that this would not happen, and all heavy traffic over 3.5 tonnes would be monitored. Cllr Horlock will attend the next Sizewell C Northern Transport meeting on 8th May at Stratford St Andrews.

2024/040 Finance and Governance

- a) PPC authorised the clerk/RFO to prepare the AGAR for the financial year April 2023 to March 2024.
- b) The Q4 bank reconciliation, having been circulated prior to the meeting, was approved.
- c) Cllr Horlock presented figures for purchases needed for litter picking. 10 hoops at £11.99 each and 20 pickers in total needed at £10.75 each. Already have 6 pickers so need to buy 14. Total figure is circa £250 which was agreed unanimously. Cllr Horlock will store the equipment at her address. The need for extra litter bins will be put on the agenda for the next PPC meeting in May.
- d) The current bank account balances were confirmed by the RFO:
Current Account: £32,966.66
Savings Account: £36,651.30 – receipts £136.56 interest
- e) Payments as listed on the agenda were approved for payment.

2024/041 Planning

The Chairman requested that wording for future planning application formal submissions following PPC discussions should be agreed by PPC before the clerk puts any consultee comments on the website.

2024/011

2024/042 Mabel's Walk/Allotments

The developer has yet to supply an agreed Management Plan for the open space and allotment areas which was due over two years ago. This matter is now with the ESC legal department. There is further Field to Fork grant scheme funding available from ESC but Peasenhall is not eligible because there is no time line available for the allotments.

2024/043 Village Issues

a) A meeting was held in the village on April 15th with the Chairman, Cllr Seddon and Wayne Saunders from Suffolk Highways present. Various items were discussed including the position of the solar SID, the removal of six signposts near the former school, new posts and signs near Weavers and the traffic surveys. Heveningham PC are to be asked to contribute £150 towards the survey along Heveningham Long Lane. Cllr Horlock will supply the clerk with a map showing where the tubes will be so that she can update the Heveningham parish clerk. Wayne Saunders also advised on the completion of the Community Self Help Scheme Annexe A form. Cllrs Horlock and Seddon agreed to be supervisors for the scheme. The Chairman will complete the form and submit it. PPC will be re-imbursed for the purchase of any equipment used for the scheme, and County Cllr Burroughes may help with funding if items required are given to him. The SID outside Weavers is now working with a new battery fitted. Cllr Bryant requested that the 30-mph limit on Rendham Road be extended. Wayne Saunders had earlier confirmed this suggestion may be re-visited, if requested, although it would be costly.

b) Freckenham's Emergency Plan, which had been circulated to councillors, would have to be personalised for Peasenhall. Cllr Bryant agreed to have a look at preparing it, although it was felt it would take several meetings to agree on a final version.

2024/044 PPC vacancies

The clerk said she had received two emails from persons interested in joining PPC as councillors. One had regretfully not responded to two email requests from her asking for some basic information used to measure eligibility for co-option, nor a subsequent follow-up email either. Mr John Bawtree, a former council member, had given the requested information successfully and would be co-opted to the parish council at the PPC May meeting.

2024/045 Correspondence

The clerk had received a letter from a member of Dr Therese Coffey's staff asking whether any fetes or carnivals were planned for the summer. There are no plans for any so the clerk will reply accordingly.

2024/046 Guest Speaker – Annual Parish Meeting

The Chairman suggested Cathy Smith, Conservation Adviser, Suffolk Wildlife Trust. He will email to invite her to come and speak for about 30 minutes. Cllr Bryant will ask DC Ewart if she is free to come and speak in case Ms Smith is unable to.

2024/047 Date of the next meeting - The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Meeting on **Wednesday 15th May 2024 at 7 pm followed by the PPC Annual Meeting in the Assembly Room.** Refreshments will be available at **6.45 pm** before the meeting.

The meeting closed at 21.20 hours.

Carol Hume, Parish Clerk/RFO

Minutes signed as correct:

Date:

2024/012

