

## PEASENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Peasenhall Parish Council meeting  
held at the **Methodist Church Room on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7.00 pm**

### **2025/014 Attendance and apologies**

#### **Attendees:**

Cllr. Barry Rowing  
Cllr. Zoe Horlock  
Cllr. Roger Benstead  
Cllr. John Bawtree  
Cllr. John Bimson  
Cllr Gary Greenwood  
Cllr Sam Seddon  
Cllr Oliver Charles  
Cllr Stephen Long

#### **Apologies for absence:**

County Councillor Stephen Burroughes  
District Councillor Julia Ewart

#### **In attendance:**

Carol Hume - Parish Clerk  
2 members of the public

Apologies for absence were approved.

### **2025/015 Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations**

There were no Declarations of Interest or Requests for Dispensation

### **2024/016 Public Forum**

a) A resident complimented the Parish Council for having nine Councillors at present, although he felt it would be good to see more female Councillors in office. A second resident complained about the vehicles parked on Hackney Road that are causing a problem for him as it has led to unpleasant exchanges with the owner of the vehicles. Cllr Rowing said that he had recently toured the village with PCSO Hassler who had suggested that white "H" markings at crossovers might be a solution to this problem. These would have to be agreed with SCC and will be discussed further. Cllr Horlock said she had been told by a concerned resident that a house in Peasenhall has been bought for multiple occupancy use for Sizewell C workers. If a planning application is made in the future then PPC will be able to comment. There may well be a parking issue to be considered

b) The report from CC Burroughes has been circulated and posted on the website. The report from DC Ewart will be circulated to councillors when received by the Clerk and will be published on the website.

As CC Burroughes had said he would not now be attending this meeting, the Chairman had asked him various traffic related questions in an email. These included SCC funding for road sign replacements; the bridge parapet repairs at the Bruisyard Rd/Hackney Rd junction; the repair to "Give Way" markings at Church Street; SCC gritting policy in Peasenhall and whether SCC supports the introduction of 20 mph speed limits. CC Burroughes replied by saying that he would be meeting with Jo Kerridge on 27<sup>th</sup> February to prepare a response for PPC including an update on SCC funding availability following the government's decision on devolution in Suffolk. He will also arrange for a "walkabout" in Peasenhall with Jo and Cllr Rowing to visually assess what needs to happen.

**2025/005**

**2025/017**

**Minutes**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025 were signed by the Chairman after an alteration was pointed out by Cllr Horlock concerning who would be dealing with an uncovered grave in the cemetery.

**2025/018 To receive progress reports for information**

- a) Emergency Plan – Cllr Charles said this is now part drafted. He will be emailing the Clerk and the Chairman with some questions before finalising.
- b) Cemetery bench – Sam Kenward has confirmed there is no HTC funding available towards a new bench for the cemetery but there may be other funding and a new bench could be added to the proposed maintenance works for the cemetery.
- c) Grass-cutting arrangements for 2025 – An advert has been put on Facebook and one applicant has applied so far. An advert will be put in the March edition of the Fisherman. After contacting Clear Councils to clarify the policy, they agreed that the PPC policy will cover anyone taking on the work. This advice was different to that received from SALC when the same question was asked earlier
- d) PPC website changes – Following some confusion concerning the location for PPC meetings, there is now a list of all the PPC 2025 meetings and venues on the website. There are still a few updates to be done and a dedicated page for Allotment news etc. will be added.

**2025/019 Finance and Governance**

- a) To note the bank balances as at 31.1.2025, including receipts of £0 – all noted.
- b) To approve the Q3 bank reconciliation – approved.
- c) To review the budget v actual figures – it was noted that the amounts for donations and audit were higher than budgeted. In future, the donation total will need to be monitored regularly.
- d) To approve PPC Financial Regulations February 2025 – these were approved following a proposal from Cllr Rowing and a vote (all in favour).
- e) To review the Suffolk Code of Conduct – reviewed.
- f) To approve the Risk Assessment – Cllr Long will contact the clerk with a suggested amendment and a new risk concerning cyber attack prevention, both in the Records Management section.
- g) To authorise the payment schedule – the clerk and chairman had reviewed the invoices/payments as listed before the start of the meeting on a trial basis. All were approved and initialled. The wording on the payment schedule has been changed to “invoices/payments” to include donations.

**2025/020 Planning**

- a) Report on ESC Planning Forum held on 3/2/25 – Cllrs Rowing and Horlock had attended the forum, all the ESC officers present were approachable and pro-active. Topics covered included the new NPPF agreed last December showing 1644 new build homes, up from 916; a new local plan expected in 3 or 4 years' time; guidance on how parish councils should respond to planning application consultations; explanation of the three CIL categories and information that all village profiles have been updated on the ESC website. Cllr Seddon asked whether CIL money could be split between two district councils, for example could some of Laxfield's CIL be used for projects in Peasenhall? Cllr Horlock stressed how important it is for councillors to approach and speak to officers at ESC.

**2025/006**

## **2025/021 Village Issues**

- a) The Street improvements – an initial site meeting with the landowner has been arranged with the clerk and chairman, some time in March. The landowner has suggested a licence arrangement for the public parking area, whereas PPC would prefer a lease agreement, any agreement will depend on what the terms of the proposed licence are. The chairman said that it is important to use the budgeted money soon or the project would have to be scrapped.
- b) SZC Northern Transport Forum report – Cllr Seddon said that local contracts totalling £100m have been allocated, there will be 1k workers involved initially then rising to 2k. All level crossings are to be upgraded, during which the A12 will be closed at the Darsham crossing for a period. There will be average speed cameras on the Yoxford to Leiston road. The cycle route is currently blocked and closed. There will be a new park and ride at Willow Marsh Lane which will be closed for two years. The new Yoxford roundabout is scheduled for Q1, with the link road in Q2. Hydrogen buses are to be used to ferry staff in mornings and afternoons so may be available for public use during the day. Three new nature reserves have been created, also habitat creation and increased diversity. There will be traffic surveys every six months and if these show extra traffic in Peasenhall it may be possible to apply for funding. A list of future Transport Forum dates will be put on the noticeboard.
- c) Traffic Issues – The chairman had inspected proposed Speedwatch sites in the village with PCSO Hassler who will send his report with site recommendations to Cllr Horlock. Residents close to these sites have been helpful so it is hoped that progress can be made. There is a 20's Plenty webinar on 26<sup>th</sup> February, hopefully some councillors will watch it. Before any decisions are made on this campaign there may have to be a referendum or EGM as it may be divisive for residents. Road sign replacement will be a topic for any future onsite meeting with Jo Kerridge. Cllr Seddon described what happened on Rendham Road when conditions were extremely icy, there had been no gritting done and a car went into the ditch. It appears there is no gritting policy on Rendham Road, and it is done on a priority basis. The PCSO also said that the solar SID on Hackney Road needs to be adjusted to operate within the bounds of the 30mph zone. To be able to log data correctly it needs to be tilted, adjusted and the solar panel needs to be turned so as to be south facing. A resident has mentioned that The Causeway needs to have a "No through road" sign or similar at the western end to stop vehicles further damaging the bridge and trying to turn round at the Sibton end, this matter will be added to the list. Cllr Long said that there is significant subsidence around the bench on the Causeway. The bench belongs to PPC so the chairman will go and look, with a view to reporting to SCC.

## **2025/022 Mabels Walk**

- a) Play area pre-planning application update – A site meeting is to take place on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February with Iain Robertson, ESC Planning case officer and a member of the leisure team. The chairman will write and ask Lorraine Francis for any update on the management plan.

## **2025/023 Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council**

- a) Community transport for the village – Cllr Horlock said that at a recent meeting at the Huntingfield Hub, DC Ewart said that Chediston pay for a bus to take residents shopping etc. once a week. It would be good to have something similar in Peasenhall. Ben from CATS may come to a future coffee morning with information but they are very expensive to book. Whincops had been approached previously but were not interested.
- b) Open Gardens/Flower Festival – This will be held on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June. Cllr Horlock said more gardens to open are needed. The money raised will be split between various village amenities.

- c) Coby's Coffees mobile business – PPC has been asked to confirm they are happy for a new mobile coffee business to trade in Peasehall serving Whincops Garage. After some discussion PPC decided it was not in a position to either approve or disapprove this request. The clerk will email the owner of the business informing her of this decision.
- d) PPC and social media – PPC now has its own Facebook page. At present postings are limited to official information as agreed and authorised by the chairman and the clerk. In due course it is hoped that this platform will be used extensively.
- e) Cemetery grave – the grave reported at the last meeting has now been filled with soil. In future it will be checked whether this “backfilling” is the responsibility of the grave digger to put right.
- f) Cemetery ‘wildflower’ sign – This has been damaged again following previous replacement. Cllr Rowing has moved the post to an alternative position, he will purchase another sign to place there in the hope that it is not damaged again.
- g) PPC expenses policy – Following a recent claim by a councillor for travel expenses, it was found that PPC does not have a policy on the payment of expenses to councillors. Using a template from another parish, a PPC expenses policy has been drafted and will be circulated before the next meeting in March before approval and adoption.

Cllr Horlock said the village litter pick will be held on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March.

#### **2025/024 Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as being on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025** 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:

