

## PEASENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Peasenhall Parish Council meeting  
held at the **Methodist Church Room on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7.05 pm**

### **2024/104 Attendance and apologies**

#### **Attendees:**

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

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

County Councillor Stephen Burroughes

#### **In attendance:**

Carol Hume - Parish Clerk  
3 members of the public

Apologies for absence were approved. District Councillor Julia Ewart tried to gain access to the meeting at approximately 19.50 pm but was unable.

### **2024/105 Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations**

There were no Declarations of Interest or Requests for Dispensation

### **2024/106 Co-option of new councillor**

Mr John Bimson gave details of his suitability to become a Parish Councillor. His co-option to PPC was proposed by Cllr Rowing, seconded by Cllr Bawtree and agreed unanimously. He will sign a Declaration of Office acceptance form at the next meeting in January.

### **2024/107 Public Forum**

a) A resident said they are concerned about a white van which has been parked for some time immediately opposite the cemetery on the main road causing issues for pedestrians and traffic. Cllr Rowing thought this could be a matter for the police and Cllr Seddon said there is a Suffolk Constabulary website where this type of issue can be reported. After some discussion Cllr Rowing said he would report the problem on the Suffolk Highways portal and ask if a new white line should be painted on that selected part of the road.

b) The reports from CC Burroughes and DC Ewart had been circulated prior to the meeting and will be published on the website.

### **2024/108 Minutes**

The minutes of the Parish Council Annual Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman, Cllr Rowing.

### **2024/109 Planning**

**DC/24/3511/LBC The Old Thatched House, The Causeway, Peasenhall** – no objections or comments

**DC/24/3729/LBC 2 Hobsons Cottages, Sibton Road, Peasenhall** – no objections or comments

**DC/24/3986/FUL 2 Hobsons Cottages, Sibton Road, Peasenhall** – no objections or comments

**DC/24/3578/LBC 3 Malthouse Cottages, The Street, Peasenhall** – no objections or comments

Cllr Horlock expressed concern regarding Bridge Cottage renovation. Cllr Rowing said that now planning permission has been granted on the new bungalow, there is a Section 106 applied to the property which should cover that.

**2024/029**

**2024/110 To receive progress reports for information**

- a) Emergency Plan – Cllr Charles is still working on the new draft. He will circulate it before the next meeting so that it can then be approved.
- b) Littler Bins – Cllr Horlock has spoken to the Council and put in a request for a new bin in the village which cannot be larger than current bins. The Council will review the request, check the land is suitable and provide a cost. There would also be a £100 charge for emptying the new bin.
- c) SZC Northern Transport meeting 6<sup>th</sup> November report and Yoxford roundabout update – Cllr Seddon said he had attended the meeting. A housing fund of between £3k to £5k is available for householders interested in giving accommodation to Sizewell workers. Vegetation has been cleared at the site of the new Yoxford roundabout and work should start in Spring 2025. Sizewell vehicles display a blue oval on the back showing SZC and an identifying number. The clerk will put the image details, website address, email address and phone number to be used when reporting speeding or other issues relating to Sizewell vehicles.

**2024/111 Finance and Governance**

- a) To note the current financial position, including receipts – all noted.
- b) To review and adopt the Standing Orders and new Financial Regulations (as recommended by NALC) – both were agreed and adopted.
- c) To review and approve the CIL report – approved and signed by the Chairman.
- d) To review and approve the clerk's salary increase as recommended by NALC – approval was proposed by Cllr Rowing, seconded by Cllr Charles and approved unanimously.
- e) To discuss the 2025 village grass cutting contract – this item was moved to the end of the meeting.
- f) To authorise the payments as listed – these were duly authorised.

**2024/112 Village Issues**

- a) Hackney Road parking issues and overhanging hedges – the parking issue had been raised earlier in the Public Forum. The issue of overhanging hedges by the school, notified to PPC by a resident, have now been reported to SCC. This facility is also available to residents on the Suffolk Highways website. Cllr Horlock asked if it would be possible for PPC to hire a contractor to cut back all roadside hedges.
- b) Grit bin refills – all have been checked and refilled.
- c) Happy to Chat benches – the clerk will contact Sam Kenward at ESC to ask if funding is available for a second bench in the cemetery.

## **2024/113      Mabels Walk Open Space Area and Allotments**

a) To discuss a PPC approach for the Open Space Area Play Equipment in preparation for the EGM and subsequent pre-planning meeting with ESC – Cllr Seddon said he has heard some parking concerns about the Play Area and Allotments, but it is hoped that people will cycle or walk rather than drive there. Cllr Rowing said that following a conservation area consultation it may be preferable for timber play equipment to be used. He circulated photos of timber swings, slide, an embankment tunnel and suggested a climbing frame or wall. Play equipment will be suitable for the target age of between 2 years and 10 years. There would be some design flexibility and a like-minded approach from councillors will be needed at the EGM. Cllr Greenwood will contact the company who provided the example quote for play equipment and ask them to provide an alternative design using wooden equipment. It will be hoped to make a pre-planning application for equipment before the next PPC meeting in January especially as there is a time limit on the SZCCF grant award.

Cllr Rowing updated the Council on the recent Allotment Committee meeting and he said the minutes are on the PPC website. Recent communications with ESC planners in respect of amendments to the layout, suggested that a planning pre-application to establish any planning position on this could be made by PPC.

## **2024/114      Correspondence**

a) Councillor email addresses and website domain name – After some discussion it was decided not to make any changes to these at the moment. This decision can be reviewed at a future PPC meeting.

b) A request for mediation at Valley Farm – Cllr Rowing explained that a request had been received from Dr Stansfield for either himself or the clerk to be present as a mediator at any future meeting with Mr Collins and the resident group. It was stated that this request is inappropriate for PPC.

c) Speed Survey – Data from a survey commissioned by Heveningham PC along Heveningham Long Lane had been circulated to councillors. Until PPC receives data from their own recent survey it is not possible to make any comment on the figures.

d) Traffic issues – Residents of Smyth Close have agreed to a request from the local police force to be able to station themselves at the entrance from time to time in order to monitor speeding vehicles. The Speedwatch Co-ordinator has rejected suggestions by PPC's own Speedwatch group for where to station themselves in the village. A meeting will be arranged to try and agree a suitable location.

e) Cllr Rowing has contacted the Assembly Hall trustees asking if PPC can use their projector at future meetings or village events. They have agreed to that request so Cllr Rowing will learn how to use it before the EGM in December.

f) There is currently an offer available from London Hearts to buy a second village defibrillator at a cost of £750. The Assembly Hall would like their own one so it was agreed that if they make an application then PPC will match fund half of the initial cost.

## **2024/115      Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council**

a) The list of suggested dates for PPC meetings in 2025 was agreed.

b) Xmas Tree illumination event – Cllr Rowing will order a larger tree from Allan Dale to be delivered to the Hall on 6<sup>th</sup> December. Budget for this year is increased to £350 as there will be extra electric costs, hall hire and new lights. Cllr Seddon will help with setting-up on the day and further help may be needed on the day when refreshments will be provided. An event advert will be put in the village shop by Cllr Horlock.

c) Cllr Rowing thanked the councillors who attended the memorial service on 11<sup>th</sup> November, along with DC Ewart, who also attended. Cllr Rowing also thanked Cllr Horlock for purchasing and planting a marker rose in the cemetery at Rose Harsent's grave. He is purchase a nameplate and all season artificial flowers to mark the grave.

d) Precept 2025/2026 – There are changes due to government legislation giving a 100% increase in second home council tax which means an increase in the precept available to PPC. The clerk will circulate the precept letter from ESC to councillors before the January PPC meeting.

#### **2024/116 (Item 8e) – The 2025 grass-cutting contract**

Cllr Rowing said there are three ways PPC could deal with this:

1. Use the tender process as last year, which was not ideal as only one contractor responded (East Suffolk Services) so PPC had no option but to use them. Interim cuts had to be done by Cllr Rowing.
2. To employ someone which would mean PPC purchasing equipment and taking on all the responsibilities as an employer.
3. Using someone who is self-employed. This should be relatively risk free and no equipment would need to be bought. If the right person could be found there would be other jobs they could do for PPC. This would need to be advertised locally. The clerk will check if PPC has public liability insurance cover. To be further discussed at the next meeting.

#### **.2024/117 Date of the next meeting**

There will be a PPC EGM on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December** at 7 pm in the **Assembly Hall**

The next meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as being on **Wednesday 15th January 2025** at 7 pm in the **Methodist Church Room.**

The meeting closed at 21.10 hours.

Carol Hume

Parish Clerk/RFO

Minutes signed as correct:

Date:

DRAFT

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