

PEASENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Peasehall Parish Council extraordinary general meeting
held at the Assembly Hall on Wednesday 4th December 2024

2024/118 Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr. Barry Rowing - chairman

Cllr Roger Benstead

Cllr John Bawtree

Cllr John Bimson

Cllr Gary Greenwood

Cllr Sam Seddon

Cllr Zoe Horlock

Non-attendance: Cllr Oliver Charles

Apologies for absence:

District Cllr Julia Ewart

In attendance:

Carol Hume - Parish Clerk

11 members of the public

2024/119 Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations

None

2024/120 Public Consultation – Mabels Walk Open Space/Play Area, The Causeway, Peasehall

The chairman outlined what PPC are trying to achieve at the proposed Play Area in the village as they have been successful with an application they made for funding from the Sizewell C Community Fund having received £26K which will be match-funded by PPC to make a total budget for the project of £52k to be used with the allotment area. The grant must be used within the next two years. The next stage is to submit a pre-planning application to ESC following tonight's public consultation about ideas for play equipment, which is one of the conditions of the grant award. He then asked for comments or questions from the public.

A resident said that 15 years ago land in the village was offered by Mr Scrivener for a play area. Plans were submitted in 2016 with 1 of the 2 areas of land specified for this, so he felt there is an obligation for this to go ahead. Another resident asked why the proposed play area had to be in the centre of the village – there could be a larger facility with football pitch and sports area plus equipment for adults at the field in Sibton. It was mentioned that this would be around a mile from the Eastern end of Peasehall. A question was put as to who would be responsible for maintaining the play area so that it didn't become overgrown as the one near the road in Yoxford had. PPC would maintain the area and volunteer help would be appreciated. PPC would be responsible for safety checks and risk assessments. Mr Haydon (who was present at the meeting as a member of the public) replied to some of the questions which had been directed to his company, Haydon Holdings, as owners of the land where the play area will be proposed. He said that planning permission was granted for 6 new homes, allotments and an "open space". No mention was made of a "play" area or space. He also pointed out that the CIL money paid by his company for this development amounted to £182k and the Parish Council has benefitted considerably from this. The chairman mentioned that just £27k of this CIL had been passed to PPC.

The chairman said that PPC are trying to be positive about this issue and that the area is for the whole village, not just for children. He felt the centre of the village is the best place for a play area because families can walk or cycle to the area and not use cars. Slides were then shown on the large projector screen of mainly timber play equipment which, it is felt would be best for the village. There were photos of individual items of equipment including swings, a see-saw, low climbing frame, a wheelchair-friendly roundabout, balance beams and an embankment slide with a possible play tunnel underneath and all with safety flooring that grass will grow through and can then be mowed. It is a requirement of the grant award that at least one piece of equipment is accessible for people with disabilities. There were also some photos of other alternate timber equipment available. Also shown were photos of local playgrounds which have timber play equipment and one with steel equipment to show the difference.

A sketch of the whole area which has been set aside showed how much room would be allocated for play equipment and hopefully for one or two benches for parents and residents. The play area would be sited adjacent to the BT exchange. The boundary of the area would be outlined by hedgerow rather than fencing, and this would be paid for from the funds available. The site needs to be accessible for the disabled so some gravel paths may be used. Sutcliffes are the contractors who provided PPC with an earlier example scheme for play equipment last year. They have also provided a revised example which may still be too expensive but a selection of the equipment in their scheme may be suitable. In time, it is thought there may also be land available related to the old school site for a play area, but as the site is owned by SCC it would be useful to try and find out what future plans they may have for this.

At the end of discussions and comments the chairman said that he would do the work on a pre-planning application in an effort to save time. It was also mentioned that planning may not be needed at all on the associated allotment land because it may still be classed as being agricultural. The cost of the pre-planning application could be around £150.

The chairman thanked members of the Council and the public for attending the meeting, and for their ideas and comments.

2024/121 **Date of the next meeting** – The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 7pm in the Methodist Church Room

The meeting closed at 20.20 pm

Carol Hume

Parish Clerk Peasehall PC

Signed:

DRAFT