

PEASENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Peasenhall Parish Council meeting
held at Peasenhall Assembly Hall on Wednesday 15th March 2023

2023/25 Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr. Steve Pewsey – Chair
Cllr Nick Levett-Scrivener
Cllr. Roger Benstead
Cllr. Zoe Horlock
Cllr. Barry Rowing

Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Stephanie Liston
Cllr. Frank Potter- Vice Chair

In attendance:

Lisa Eveleigh - Parish Clerk
5 members of the public

2023/26 Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations

Cllr Levett-Scrivener declared an interest in item 7.

2023/27 Public Forum

a) Julia Ewart, the Liberal Democrat candidate for Kelsale & Yoxford District in the forthcoming elections on May 4th introduced herself and spoke about her interests in Education, child welfare, environmental issues and local transport. She has previously worked closely with Cllr Stephen Burroughes and sits on the Suffolk Association of local councils

b) Though there were no reports from County and District Cllr. Stephen Burroughes received by the meeting the Clerk has since received these and will circulate them with the minutes

c) Matters Arising

(i) Cllr Pewsey thanked Cllr Horlock for the splendid job she did in organising the litter-pick which took place on 11th March, the first for three years. Twenty volunteers took part, and a great deal of rubbish was collected. It was suggested that another one could be arranged at the end of the summer.

ACTION: Clerk to put this on the Agenda for the June meeting

(ii) Cllr Pewsey reported that the bus service has been withdrawn, which is a matter of regret.

2023/28 Minutes of Previous Meeting

a) After a request from Cllr Rowing for an amendment to 2023/20 (b) and the addition of concerns about the bottle bank were agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 15th February 2023 were approved.

b) The Clerk reported that Carter Jonas had written seeking agreement in principle to an affordable housing scheme on land behind the Assembly Hall and this was agreed

2023/29 Finance and Governance

a) Code of Conduct. SALC is recommending replacing the Suffolk Code of Conduct with the LGA Code of Conduct. The main difference is that Pecuniary interests are set out more clearly and seven principles of conduct in public bodies are set out. Cllr Pewsey asked the Clerk if members of the public who are on a Parish Council sub-committee are covered by the LGA Code of Conduct and she confirmed that this is the case. It was agreed to adopt the LGA code.

- b) Internal Controls. The updated Internal Controls statement was approved
- c) With one amendment the GDPR policies were approved
- d) The Clerk reported on the current financial situation:
Community Account: £22,433.37
Savings Account: £36,215.28
- e) Seven payments listed on the agenda were approved

2023/30 Planning

- a) Cllr Levett-Scrivener raised a concern that the Peasenhall Delicatessen scheduled to open in April might adversely affect the trade of the Village Shop, Weaver's Tea Room and Emmetts by serving food, possibly to the rear of the building. No change of use licence from A1 to A3 has so far been applied for.
- b) DC/23/0935/TCA | 1no. Holm oak (A on plan) - Reduce in height by up to half of existing height 1no. Holm oak (B on plan) - Prune all branches overhanging pavement | The Ancient House Church Street Peasenhall Saxmundham Suffolk IP17 2HL. There were no objections.

2023/31 Mabel's Walk/Allotments

Cllr Pewsey explained the background to the Mabel's Walk Allotment scheme. At the February Parish council meeting it had been agreed that the Clerk would contact East Suffolk Council for advice on the subject of 'fleeceholds' and ask SALC for a recommendation of a solicitor to deal with the conveyancing of the allotments to the Parish Council. The advice was that a firm of solicitors in Ipswich called Birketts could deal with both matters and SALC had approached them on the Parish Council's behalf.

However, without consulting the Chairman or Clerk, the Allotment Committee sent an email to the section 106 department of ESC commenting on an email sent by Seamans and copied to the Clerk. As a result, Cllr Pewsey asked ESC to ignore this email and asked when the Allotment Committee had met to agree to send this email and why they were ignoring the agreed Parish Council strategy above.

Additionally, Cllr Rowing circulated a report dated 14th March 2023 (which contained an inaccurate statement) to all Councillors instead of routing this through the Clerk. Cllr Pewsey wanted to know if the Committee had met to discuss its contents; Cllr Horlock said that they had.

Cllr Pewsey concluded that the Allotment Sub-Committee is not conducting its business in accordance with the Model Standing Orders, and that disappointingly little progress has been made in six months.

Cllr Levett-Scrivener commented that more progress might have been made if there had been an Allotment Society rather than a Committee and asked whether the Council should disband the committee.

Cllr Pewsey replied that though the Council has the power to dissolve the Committee it would be better to strive to make it more fit for purpose and that no decision should be taken before the Elections in May.

Cllr Rowing responded to Cllr Pewsey's points indicating that 2 of the 3 Allotment Committee always meet before agreeing a report or an action. He also stated that Cllr Pewsey had resigned last year over the Allotments issue. Cllr Pewsey replied that a temporary move of Council meetings from Wednesdays to Mondays meant that he only stood down due to a prior commitment on Mondays and that decision was rescinded anyway.

Cllr Rowing reported that the Committee have not heard back from Duncan Haydon of Seamans regarding the service charge and soil remediation following the January 30th meeting with him. The Clerk pointed out that although Cllr Rowing has written to Mr Haydon since, the Council have not had sight of that email - and nor has Mr Haydon replied.

The Chairman suspended the meeting so that Mr Bill Miller of the Allotment Committee could speak

Mr Miller expressed sadness at the criticisms levelled by the Chairman and made some criticisms of his own.

The meeting resumed.

2023/32 Highways

- a) Rendham Hill/Road speed issues/signage. The Clerk has researched gateways to go on Rendham from Glasdon which are £2000 plus and it was agreed that she would obtain a firm quote for the April meeting. Additionally, the Clerk is to find a date to meet concerned residents with a representative from Suffolk Highways
- b) Emmett's Corner – grants are now in abeyance because of the period of 'purdah' before an election but the Clerk is in contact with Highways over this
- c) Speedwatch/SID – both Cllr Horlock and the Clerk have been sourcing quotes and will progress these before the next meeting.

2023/33 Community/Positive Peasenhall

- a) Queen's Green Canopy – there were three last minute orders for trees, but all the rest have been successfully collected.
- b) Coronation Celebrations – the Clerk will discuss this with the Assembly Hall and Positive Peasenhall committee - £500 allocated by Parish Council

2023/34 Elections 4th May

The Clerk had nomination papers Parish Councillors for distribution and the posters for the District elections have gone up on the Parish Noticeboard and in the Assembly Hall.

2023/35 Correspondence

No correspondence received since the last meeting

2023/36 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be on **Wednesday 19th April 2023 at 7pm** in the Assembly Hall

The meeting closed at 20:55hrs.

Lisa Eveleigh

Parish Clerk

2023/12