

PEASENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Peasenhall Parish Council meeting
held at Peasenhall Assembly Hall on Wednesday 18th January 2023

2023/1 Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr. Steve Pewsey - Chair
Cllr. Stephanie Liston
Cllr. Nick Levett-Scrivener
Cllr. Roger Benstead
Cllr. Zoe Horlock
Cllr. Barry Rowing
Cllr. Stephen Burroughes

Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Frank Potter

In attendance:

Lisa Eveleigh - Parish Clerk
2 members of the public
Mr Duncan Haydon of Seamans

2023/2 Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations

Cllr Levett-Scrivener declared an interest in items 6(b) and 8(d) of the agenda. Cllr Liston declared an interest in item 6(a).

2023/3

Cllr Pewsey reported that he had written to former Cllr Ric Earle following his resignation from the Council, thanking him for his contributions and advice over the years. This means there are now two vacancies on the Council but there are elections on 4th May.

2023/4

Cllr Pewsey invited Mr Duncan Haydon of Seamans to speak and answer questions regarding Planning Application item 6 (b) - DC/22/4831/LBC and DC/22/4830/FUL.

Mr Haydon said that Bridge Cottages would be totally renovated to form a single dwelling with a modest extension to the rears. Two new homes would be built, to match the Mabel's Walk development. The listed building officer had been consulted. The cottages have not been occupied for more than forty years and their restoration which improve the look of The Causeway/The Street. The Heritage Officers had paid an informal visit to the cottages

Cllr Horlock asked about access to the proposed additions and Mr Haydon replied that the planned Mabel's Walk roadway would be extended, and that garaging and parking arrangements are shown on the recent plans.

Cllr Rowing said that he welcomed the planned remedial work on the cottages but would have preferred the new buildings to be single-storey in order not to affect the vista across the fields to Sibton, and that the garaging would impact the view as well. Cllr Pewsey read out a section from the East Suffolk design and conversation report stating that the impact on the vista was outweighed by the heritage benefits to Bridge Cottages.

Mr Haydon stated that the topography of the new site does not have the same rake as Mabel's Walk.

Cllr Rowing held up a draft design he had prepared as an alternative. Mr Haydon said a 'street scene' of his plans could be supplied with CAD.

A vote was taken from those councillors eligible to vote and two were in support of the applications and two were against. Cllr Rowing did not support the designs of the new houses and Cllr Horlock was concerned

about access for four extra cars. Cllr Liston commented that the vista was important and whilst she mostly approved of the plans she wondered if Mr Haydon would rethink the height of the new-builds.

District Cllr Stephen Burroughes stated that the Council should decide on the applications as presented. Cllr Horlock. A further vote was taken and the applications were approved with the expressed reservations.

2023/5 Public Forum

a) A member of the public asked if the Council understood the difference between pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests. Cllr Pewsey assured him that we did, that the interest referred to was non-pecuniary and that we had taken advice from SALC in advance of the meeting.

b) District and County Council

Cllr Pewsey welcomed District and County Councillor Burroughes and thanked him for his District and County reports, inviting him to speak.

Cllr Burroughes explained that evening meetings have prevented him from attending the Parish Council meetings very often, and this is one of the reasons he is stepping down from the District Council; combining two roles has become overwhelming, and there is little administrative support. He will remain as County Councillor until 2025 to consolidate the work he has been doing on children in care. The District Council elections will be called in March, take place in May, and there should be a new District Councillor in place thereafter. Cllr Pewsey said that Cllr Burroughes advice and support at District Level has been much appreciated and we will be sorry to lose him.

Cllr Burroughes then outlined the work that the County Council is doing regarding warm spaces and the cost of living crisis. Following consultation with the electorate, support for vulnerable children and adults has been identified as a priority. Funding of £800,000 has been granted and another focus is on encouraging new business growth and job opportunities.

At District Council level, the leader of the Council and three members are retiring, and there are likely to be more Labour councillors elected. A £2.75m fund has been allocated to the East Suffolk investment plan to help new businesses. The Digital Springboard initiative has successfully delivered free Wifi to all twelve market towns.

Cllr Pewsey asked if there is a change of structure at County Level will that mean extra funding and if so, what might the consequences be? Cllr Burroughes replied that the Government is looking at having elected leaders for Councils which will may come into effect in 2024. There will be no extra spend but approximately £52 million will be granted over 30 years.

Cllr Pewsey also asked about the implications of an environmental strategy in conservation areas ie solar panels and double-glazing on listed and heritage buildings. Cllr Burroughes replied that a decarbonising strategy threw up many issues, citing the increasing costs faced by Leisure centres in the district, heating swimming pools in particular. Some councils are closing their pools, but that efforts are being made to save costs by other means.

Regarding heritage buildings, there is no obvious solution, since (for example)solar panels can't be installed on a thatched roof. He pointed out that satellite dishes will soon become obsolete and perhaps other technology will save the day. Cllr Levett-Scrivener commented that EPC regulations on listed buildings prohibit certain remedies.

Cllr Pewsey thanked Cllr Burroughes for such a thorough update.

2023/6 Minutes of Previous Meeting

a) The minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2022 were approved.

b) Matters Arising: Cllr Pewsey reported that the Christmas Tree lights switch on was a great success and thanked all those who helped to organise this. Cllr Rowing asked that thanks be passed on to the Gent's Club

2023/7 Finance and Governance

- a) Cllr Pewsey presented the draft 2023/2024 budget of £12,900 which was approved, although Cllr Liston asked if Cllr Potter had seen this as Treasurer. In fact, there is no such position and the Clerk is the Responsible Financial officer, but Cllr Pewsey had shared it with Cllr Potter and he had not commented adversely. An amount of £500 has been allocated for Coronation celebrations.
- b) Cllr Pewsey recommended keeping the 2023/2024 Precept at the 2022/2023 level which is a charge of £32.69 for Band D properties and this was approved.
- c) The LGA 1972 s 137 expenditure limits were explained by Cllr Pewsey and noted
- d) The Clerk reported the current financial position was as follows:
Community Account: £25,928.41
Savings Account: £36,170.39
Receipts: £200 Cemetery fee
- e) 6 payments listed on the agenda were authorised and payments made in December were noted

2023/8 Planning

- a) Planning application DC/23/0087/TCA was approved
- b) DC/22/4831/LBC and DC/22/4830/FUL – discussed and voted on as reported in 2023/4 above
- c) The Old School Site. The Clerk had asked Rob Hancock of East Suffolk Council for an update but nothing had come in. Cllr Burroughes reported that he had already asked for an update on this. But there needs to be a decision from the Secretary of State to de-register it as an asset which may explain the delay.
- d) Land behind the Assembly Hall – the Clerk had been sent a Land Registry plan of the land behind the Assembly Hall by Carter Jonas on behalf of the owners which defined which of their two parcels of land they were considering developing. No plans have yet been drafted but the Clerk had invited them to address the Council when they were at that stage.

Questions were asked about access and ownership of access.

Cllr Burroughes asked if Peasenhall has a neighbourhood plan and recommended that it would be advisable in terms of Community Infrastructure Levy.

Cllr Liston proposed that discussion of a Neighbourhood Plan should be on a future agenda, seconded by Cllr Pewsey. Since the Clerk will need advice from SALC the Clerk proposes to put this on the March agenda.

2023/9 Mabel's Walk/Allotments

Cllr Pewsey thanked Cllr Rowing and the Allotment Committee for their work to date.

Cllr Rowing reported that he had not seen revisions to the Management Plan until the day of the meeting.

Talking of the perceived impasse over the £2k liability charge Seaman's propose to levy, Cllr Rowing wondered if the District Council might help and/or advise. Cllr Burroughes replied that they would not want to pre-empt that negotiation but might be willing to advise. Cllr Pewsey explained that there is a management charge to residents which the Parish Council might be obligated to fund after acquiring the land.

Cllr Burroughes recommended contacting the legal team at East Suffolk to manage a way forward, and that he had a pot from the County Council which might help out with the first year's funding, but after that, a way

forward needed to be agreed. And if subsequent funding needed to be added to the Precept, then it was a decision that the Council would need to take.

Cllr Liston asked if it was felt there was any room for negotiation. Cllr Rowing replied that he thought not although Cllr Horlock and Cllr Pewsey after being questioned by Cllr Liston said that the liability was calculated on the number of parking spaces the allotment group would use. Cllr Burroughes intervened and said would it be helpful for the Planning Department to give a steer on that. Answers to be passed to the Clerk. Cllr Pewsey asked Cllr Rowing about soil remediation following previous discussions. Cllr Rowing replied that it should ideally be 600 mil in depths and that Seamans quoted 300-450. Cllr Pewsey wanted to establish whether this was a 'drop-dead' issue or not. Cllr Rowing said it wasn't an acceptable level of remediation in his opinion.

Cllr Pewsey then asked if this was the view of the Allotment Committee. Cllr Horlock said that her personal opinion was that 450 ml was acceptable.

Existing trees on the site are not shown on the section 106 plan. Cllr Rowing had suggested that Mr Haydon may need to take down the trees, as the Parish Council would not want to take over a piece of unremediated land with contaminated soil. Cllr Rowing suggested that alternatively, that Mr Haydon could offer another piece of land without trees.

Cllr Liston asked what the next steps would be. Cllr Rowing replied that the Allotment Committee would meet again and decide how to respond to the revised plans, and a further meeting with Seamans had already been arranged for 30th January. A positive outcome from the previous meeting was that the allotments could be designed and arranged without interference from Seamans, to maximise the space.

Cllr Pewsey corrected Cllr Rowing's misapprehension that East Suffolk Council had devolved responsibility for certain decisions to the Parish Council. The Management Plan had only gone to East Suffolk Council five days before this meeting and the Clerk undertook to update Cllr Burroughes with further information.

2023/10 Highways

- a) Parish Noticeboard. Cllr Horlock reported that a new noticeboard was now completed and that she would be collecting it. A signwriter will be needed. Permission needed to mount it.
- b) Rendham Hill/Road - Wayne Saunders of Suffolk Highways reported to the Clerk that our appeal against the verdict on the 30mph signage had been rebuffed, which Cllr Burroughes confirmed. Cllr Liston commented that Suffolk Highways has wrongly defined the type of road that the A1120 is and it should be marked as unsuitable for HGVs
- c) The Clerk reported that following a site visit to the Emmett's Corner junction Suffolk Highways have proposed replacing and relocating the existing Give Way Sign 75 yards further back and trimming back overhanging vegetation to improve visibility. Additionally, they will put a SLOW road marking beside the Give Way sign which Cllr Burroughes confirmed that the District Council will fund.
- d) The Street Improvement scheme. Nothing to report
- e) Speedwatch/SID – Cllr Horlock reported that the SID had malfunctioned and asked if it could be replaced. (Since the meeting it has been repaired). Cllr Burroughes said he could assist with Speedwatch funding if we wish to update equipment and train a new group
- f) The Clerk reported that a new grit bin has been installed on Bruisyard Road and grit has been ordered

2023/11 Positive Peasenhall

- a) The report from Positive Peasenhall Chair Mrs Carol Potter was noted, and the first Bingo session was a great success.

Positive Peasenhall will be helping to organise the Coronation celebration which will be held on May 6th at the Assembly Hall. The Parish council has allowed £500 for this in the budget

b) The Clerk reported that there has been no demand for a warm space in the village yet and people seem to be using the neighbouring libraries

2023/12 Correspondence

No correspondence had been received

2023/13 Meeting Dates

It was noted that the date of the next meeting would be **Wednesday 15th February 2023 at 7pm**

The meeting closed at 20:45hrs.

Lisa Eveleigh