

PEASENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Peasehall Parish Council meeting
held at Peasehall Assembly Hall on Wednesday 28th July 2021 at 7:00 pm.

2021/74 Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr. Steve Pewsey - Chair
Cllr. Frank Potter – Vice-Chair
Cllr. Roger Benstead
Cllr. Nick Levett-Scrivener
Cllr. Ric Earle
Cllr Zoe Horlock

Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Stephanie Liston

In attendance:

2 members of the public

2021/75 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Levett-Scrivener declared an interest in Agenda item 8a

2021/76 Public Forum

The District and County Councillors reports were noted. One member of the public wished to speak on Agenda Item 7, Environmental Issues. It was agreed that he would be able speak immediately prior to the item.

2021/77 Minutes

The Council approved as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on 30th June 2021 subject to some minor changes to minutes 2021/61, 66 and 68 proposed by Cllr. Earle and further amended by the Council.

2021/78 Matters Arising

Cllr Pewsey proposed that the date of the next meeting be changed to 22nd September 2021, with the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on 29th September 2021. This was unanimously agreed by the Council. It was proposed the main topic of discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting should be the proposed development of the old school site. Cllr Pewsey stated that he would contact the County Council to see if they could come and talk at the meeting.

2021/79 Co-option of Councillors

Vaughn Harber introduced himself to councillors and was unanimously co-opted onto the Council. Cllr. Pewsey formally welcomed him to the Council and explained that he would need to complete the acceptance forms and the register of interests.

2021/80 Vacancy for Parish Clerk

Cllr. Pewsey stated that there were 2 people interested in the vacancy for Parish Clerk. The interview panel would be convened shortly.

2021/81 Environmental Issues

a) Cllr Pewsey suspended the meeting to allow Laurence Moss to speak. He suggested that the Council should set up a working group to make recommendations for actions to mitigate the climate emergency. Many other councils at Parish, District and County level have done this. The group would review the resilience of the village to climate change, for example severe weather, and determine whether an emergency plan could be drawn up to help the vulnerable in the event of flooding or other severe weather in the village.

b) Cllr Pewsey reconvened the meeting. The Council were generally supportive of the proposal and suggested that there was potential for a joint group with Sibton. Cllr Potter proposed that a working group

should be set up and Cllr Horlock seconded the proposal. There were 5 votes in favour, none against and one abstention. Laurence Moss agreed to lead the group. The terms of reference for the working group were left open ended for a proposal to come back to the full Council in the future.

2021/82 Highways

- a) Cllr Pewsey reported that he and Cllr Levett-Scrivener had met with the County Council Highways department to discuss the street improvement project. The Highways Department need to agree the land ownership boundary before the project can proceed.
- b) There had been no progress on the other highways related issues being tracked by the Council.
- c) There was no update on Speedwatch.

2021/83 Planning

- a) Cllr. Pewsey provided an update on the potential development of the old school site, stating that he had passed the Parish Council's views on to the County Council, who were keen to hold further discussions on possible community gain from the proposals. Cllr Burroughes had offered to help the Parish Council. Cllr Earle stated that he had been asked by a member of the public whether the views of the Parish Council could be posted on the website. This was agreed and Cllr Pewsey pointed out that this would be a topic for discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting.
- b) The Council noted that planning application DC/21/1519 (new house opposite Oak View) has been approved.

2021/84 Finance

- a) Cllr Potter presented the latest financial position. He reported the current bank balances, on 25/07/21, as £8848.02 in the Community Account and £33,135.73 in the Business Premium Account.
- b) The council approved the following expenditure:
 - £60.00 to Peasenhall Assembly Hall for hire of the hall
 - £266.54 to the Suffolk Association of Local Councils for membership renewal
 - £484.47 to BHIB Ltd for the annual insurance premium
 - £114.49, £149.34, £89.60 and £144.36 to Opus People Solutions Ltd for the locum clerk
- c) Cllr Potter reported that the auditor had recommended that the Council's general reserves are too high and we should have a reserves policy to allocate most of our reserves to expenditure. He tabled a proposed reserves policy. After a detailed discussion the Council agreed to adopt the following as its reserves policy:
 - £8k General reserves
 - £5k Cemetery improvement fund
 - £4k Purchase of sign boards and notice boards
 - £4k The Street improvement project
 - £4k The Jubilee Festival in 2022
 - £4k Action on the old school site
 - £1k Media update
- d) Cllr Potter reported that the Auditor had picked up an error in the AGAR form, relating to a £25.00 cost for the Christmas tree electricity payment. This had been corrected in the revised AGAR form previously circulated. The Council unanimously agreed the revised AGAR form.

2021/85 Correspondence

Cllr. Pewsey reported that there had been no correspondence of note since the last meeting.

2021/86 Any Other Urgent Business

There was no other urgent business.

2021/87 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Wednesday 22nd September at 7:00 pm. The Council also confirmed that the Annual Parish Meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 29th September at 7:00 pm. Both meetings are to be held at Peasenhall Assembly Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm.