

PEASENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Report on the Annual Village Meeting
held at Peasehall Assembly Hall on Wednesday 17th May 2023 at 7.00
pm.

1. Vice-Chair Cllr Frank Potter welcomed the audience and explained the format of the meeting.
2. The report of the 2022 Annual Village Meeting was approved.
3. **Public Forum**
 - a) A member of the public asked what was being done to bring the number of Councillors up to the full ten following the uncontested poll. Cllr Potter explained that two people had expressed interest in being co-opted in the Annual Parish Meeting to follow. Had the vacancies been advertised? The Clerk replied that the vacancies were shown on the list of Councillors on the Parish Noticeboard and she had added a note saying please contact if interested in becoming a Councillor. The member of the public had reservations about the co-option process.
 - b) A question was asked about whether there were plans for a permanent bridge leading to the Mabel's Walk development. Cllr Potter replied that there were no plans for a permanent bridge since Suffolk Highways had rejected a Parish Council request.
 - c) Councillors were asked what they hoped to achieve in their 4-year term of office.
 - Cllr Potter stated that he wanted to progress the Council's adoption of the children's play area at Mabel's Walk, to improve the parking in The Street opposite the Post Office and to investigate improving mobile phone coverage by erecting a mast on the Church Tower
 - Cllr Rowing supported Cllr Potter's aims and would continue to work to progress the establishment of allotments.
 - Cllr Horlock's interests concern traffic-calming and speeding, potholes and signposts.
 - Cllr Collins said she was happy to listen to what villagers want from the Council, adding that she is passionate about the preservation and use of the Village Hall.

- d) The Council's £300 expenditure on wildflower seed for the land owned by the Church Lands Trust was questioned. Cllr Rowing said he would be talking about this in his report, and Cllr Potter said that the Council could not be blamed for the failure of the crop due to last year's drought.
- e) A member of the public asked who would be responsible for management of the play area, and Cllr Potter replied that it would be owned by the Parish Council
- f) A question was asked about the demand for allotments and Cllr Rowing replied that there was a great deal of interest.

4. Reports

- a) The Vice-Chairman noted the recent death of former Chairman Archie Poulter and expressed condolences. He also thanked Cllrs Steve Pewsey, Nick Levett-Scivener and Ric Earle for their service to the Parish Council.

He then presented a report on the activities of the Council in the previous year, mentioning the hugely successful Platinum Jubilee celebration, the lottery funding for Positive Peasenhall, the Coronation Celebration.

- b) Cllr Rowing presented a report from the Church Lands trust:
 - The wildflower meadow will be sprayed off and re-sown, courtesy of the Levett-Scivener family.
 - 1000 daffodil bulbs have been requested from the East Suffolk Bulb Planting scheme and if not successful in the application Cllr Rowing will fund the supply himself.
- c) Cllr Potter presented a report from Peasenhall Assembly Hall.
 - There are 7 Trustees, two of whom are on the Parish Council
 - The Hall would always welcome help with events
 - Regular bookings include, Tai Chi, private training and the Weaver's Divas
 - Community events include the Film Club and concerts.
 - A pop-up pub will be trialled this summer.
 - A summer party will be held on 19th August.
 - A long-term renovation plan is being worked on, including insulating the hall, which needs to be done from the outside.
- d) Mr Chris Norrington presented a report from Peasenhall United Charities
 - Main activity is assisting with energy costs and other requests.
 - The Christmas meal for the over 70s is well supported.
 - The income is £800 a year and current funds are £14,000.

e) Cllr Benstead as Tree Warden reported that of the trees in the cemetery one appeared to be dying but has revived. He commented on the success of the Positive Peasehall funded Queen's Green canopy.

f) The Clerk read a report from Peasehall and Sibton Tennis Club

- 2022/2023 saw an increase in membership.
- The courts continued to play well despite the drought and have fully recovered following autumn renovation work.
- Membership fees have not increased.

g) Mr Chris Norrington read a report from the 'Gent's Club

- The group meet on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month at 2.30pm in the Methodist Chapel. It is an informal gathering.
- There are 12-14 members, and all are welcome.

h) Mr Norrington read a report from the Peasehall & Sibton Bowls C Club

- The Bowls Club participated in three leagues in 2022/2023
- Maintenance of the green has resulted in it being voted the best in the area.
- New members are always welcome and Tuesday night is practice night.

i) Cllr Potter read a report from Positive Peasehall

- £2000 worth of fruit and flowering trees were planted locally.
- A photographic workshop, competition and Exhibition took place.
- 4 free bingo sessions proved very popular.
- There was a Community Art session in December.
- Tai Chi taster class a great success
- On 17th June there will be four free fitness classes in the Assembly Hall

j) Cllr Rowing reported on the Allotments

- Progress will be regularly reported on the website.
- The service charge has yet to be agreed.
- East Suffolk council will not sign off on the management plan without the Allotment sub-committee having sight of it.

Cllr Potter thanked everyone for their reports and commented that there is a good deal of vibrant activity in the village.

5. **Guest Speaker - District Councillor Julia Ewart**

Cllr Potter welcomed Cllr Ewart who gave a talk on her background and plans for the future.

- Is a former nurse turned businesswoman and is a Liberal Democrat.
- Her portfolio includes Planning, the Environment, Transport, and Enterprise
- Following the recent elections, the council officers are delighted to have a cross party team.
- The Planning Department, following a survey, are having a cultural makeover.
- Locally, she intends to focus on a few 'gentle wins' to start with and asks for contributions to her list by July; she suggested potholes, missing signs and broken fences.
- It was suggested that all Parish councils in the Kelsale & Yoxford ward might all meet together at The Hub in Huntingfield

Cllr Potter thanked Cllr Ewart for her presentation and invited any member of the public who wished to remain for the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Lisa Eveleigh
Parish Clerk