

PEASENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

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

2023/101 Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr. Frank Potter – Vice Chair
Cllr. Barry Rowing
Cllr. Jane Collins
Cllr. Zoe Horlock
Cllr. Sam Seddon
Cllr. Roger Benstead

Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Gary Greenwood
Cllr. Stephanie Liston

In attendance:

District Cllr. Julia Ewart
Carol Hume - Parish Clerk
2 members of the public

Cllr. Potter acted as Chair of the meeting.

2023/102 Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations

Item 10b – Cllrs. Potter, Collins and Horlock are Trustees of the Assembly Hall but as there are enough councillors to take a vote, the item will remain for discussion.

2023/103 Public Forum

- a) Laurence Moss said that uptake to the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership Thermographic Camera Project has been poor with only a little interest. He wondered if the survey could be extended to the church.
- b) The District Councillor's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. District Cllr. Ewart also spoke about school coats recycling and the upcoming EDF/Sizewell C presentation at the next PPC meeting in November which would be a short outline of prospective opportunities for jobs and for local companies. She also mentioned the temporary speed cameras on the A12 while construction traffic is high; possibility of doing the 20's Plenty campaign with Yoxford and perhaps using CIL money; the cost-of-living crisis, important opportunities are available for people to apply for; new well-being centre at Leiston which could potentially integrate with the Coffee Caravan. District Cllr Ewart also spoke well of Sam Bryant who has shown interest in becoming a councillor on PPC. Cllr Seddon asked if there are any plans for a cycle route along the B1120 which she said she would look into. It would be very expensive but it is the way forward.

2023/104 Minutes

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on 20th September were approved as an accurate record and signed by Cllr. Potter.
- b) There were no matters arising.

2023/105 Finance and Governance

- a) Cllr. Potter reported on the current financial situation:
Community Account: £32,938.17 – receipts were £97.24 Interest and £6108.86 Precept receipt
Savings Account: £36,388.03
- b) The Q2 Bank Reconciliation was reviewed and accepted
- c) A budget-v-actuals schedule was presented and after some discussion about CIL receipts (which are received twice a year) and the inclusion of further expenditure on street improvements the figures were accepted. There will be a new budget prepared in January with the possible addition of extra categories.

- d) Positive Peasenhall will soon be coming to an end and as the VAT reclaim will not be done until February 2024 it would be appreciated if PPC could pay them the VAT amount now. After some discussion this proposal was agreed.
- e) Cllr Rowing had circulated a proposal to “ring fence” amounts allocated for the allotments prior to the meeting and after some discussion relating to some as yet unanswered requests made to the developers and about how the allotments are going to look when finished, a proposal to match the £5k for the above item and “ring fence” that amount was agreed unanimously.
- f) It was agreed that SALC are appointed as auditors for the current financial year.
- g) The payments as listed on the agenda were approved for payment. Cllr Rowing will provide an invoice for repair work he has done on the cemetery sign and posts.

2023/106 Planning

DC/23/3656/FUL Viewlands, Mill Road. There were no comments. The clerk will submit this response to ESC.

DC/23/0185/FUL Whincops Garage, The Street. Cllr Seddon had seen today on site that the plans have already been approved. It appears the chance to comment on this application were missed in January. District Cllr Ewart will clarify the situation and report to Cllr Potter.

DC/23/2765/LBC Swan Gallop, The Street. There were no comments on this application.

2023/107 Mabel’s Walk/Allotments/Play Area

- a) There has been no response from Mr Haydon regarding the management plan yet so without a reply it is not possible to make any further comments. District Cllr Ewart asked for clarification and there was discussion regarding PPC moving the whole issue forward so that they can purchase the land and progress the plans. Cllrs Seddon and Greenwood had investigated quotes for creating the play area which came to between £5k and £20k depending on the selected equipment. PPC would need proof of ownership and planning permission.
- b) The clerk will contact Birketts Solicitors to ask for their conveyancing service charges.

2023/108 Highways

Cllr. Horlock said that the Speedwatch traffic officer said only 3 people signed up and 3 more were needed before a date could be arranged for training. Waynes Saunders had agreed to collecting traffic data on Heveningham Long Lane. Heveningham PC asked to share the cost of the traffic data collection, PPC agreed to this, and Heveningham PC confirm approval for the cost at their PC meeting on 15th November. Sibton PC were asked if they wanted to join the speedwatch group, not the data collection, and they said no. The speed gun has been found and will need calibration as it expired in 2021. The speed camera will be moved closer to the entrance of the village.

2023/109 Village Issues

- a) Cllr Rowing has drawn up a new specification for the grass-cutting contract requirements and when this has been finalised by Cllr Benstead, he will contact 3 or 4 contractors for their quotes. This was agreed by PPC unanimously.
- b) Cllr Collins outlined the plans for the Assembly Hall improvements and asked if PPC would consider a request from Peasenhall Village Hall for a grant of £2400 towards the improvements. This request was agreed by Cllrs Rowing, Benstead and Seddon.
- c) Cllr Rowing intends to source a Christmas tree locally. On the agenda for the next meeting will be an item to discuss details of the Christmas Tree Lights Switch-on arrangements.

d) The defibrillator needs new pads and should be checked regularly. EAAA were waiting to hear from PPC with an update. The council agreed to support whatever is needed. There was some discussion about first responders in the village, but they will be contacted by the ambulance service directly.

2023/110 Correspondence

a) Cllr Horlock had attended a "Faith in Partnership" meeting on 10th October at the council offices. Her report from the event is as follows:

About 50 people attended the event, with participants from Parish councils, charity groups, faith groups, Community Action Suffolk, Citizens Advice Bureau, and Connect.

There were various talks with speakers such as the CEO from citizens advice, Louise Hardwick from the Suffolk and North Essex integrated care system, and the Archdeacon for rural mission, - diocese of Ipswich and St Edmundsbury.

There were workshops on VCFSE (voluntary, community, faith & social enterprises), foodbanks, rural community needs, winter planning, funding and grant applications.

It was a really interesting day. There are some very positive things happening in Suffolk particularly for young people. There are quite a lot of grants available and help is also available to source them and fill in applications. There are volunteers in the communities doing great things but it was hi-lighted at the event that there are a real shortage of volunteers particularly since the pandemic and this is putting more and more strain on existing volunteers who can't step aside when there are no replacements!

Rural villages have a lot of challenges, particularly with the cost of living crisis and the isolation of elderly and single people. It was stressed how important it is that members of the community alongside faith groups, keep informed of people in need who might not necessarily ask for help.

b) Cllrs Seddon and Horlock attended the AEPA meeting on the 4th October to learn about proposed future energy projects and their possible impact on Peasenhall. Proposed cable trenching is located to the east of the A12 and the current plans will not directly impact Peasenhall. There could however be an increase in HGV traffic through the village during any possible future construction phase. There was a presentation on the feasibility of a modular offshore grid, which could mitigate any impact on east Suffolk and would help to avoid any future disruption to the area.

There was some discussion regarding the resignation of Cllr Potter and the urgent need for the election of a new Chairman asap. The clerk will contact SALC for advice and inform councillors.

2023/111 Date of the next meeting - The date of the next meeting will be **Wednesday 15th November at 7 pm** in the Assembly Hall

The meeting closed at 21.15 hours

Carol Hume

Parish Clerk/RFO

Minutes signed as correct:

Date:

