

**Minutes of the Council meeting held at the Memorial Hall
on Tuesday 7th February 2017 at 7.30pm**

Present: Councillors: D Pankhurst (Chairman) (DP), H Pankhurst (HP), P Lamont (PL), C Pollington (CP), T Hogan (TH), M Coleman (MC), R Hollman (RH), G Sanderson (GS), D Watts (DW)

Also present: C Hellen (Clerk) and 30 members of the public.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** County Councillor: A Davies, District Councillors: I Jenkins, M Mooney
- 2. Disclosure of interests under the Council's Code of Conduct:** None.
- 3. The minutes of the Council meeting held on 3rd January 2017** were unanimously agreed.

Q1. Members of the Public in Attendance wished to raise concerns under **Agenda item 5.8** and this item was taken next.

Members of the public expressed concerns that RDC's Preferred Site Allocation in Peasmarsch had not been made as a result of a coherent plan but in reaction to circumstances such as those willing to sell their land for development. Whilst accepting the need for new housing, residents expressed the view that Peasmarsch does not have the facilities or infrastructure to support new communities - eg: lack of employment opportunities, poor public transport, primary school at near capacity, utility issues - drainage and sewage problems in particular and the lack of a doctor's surgery. The Preferred Site is badly drained and road access and road visibility is extremely poor. Drainage problems cause the garden of the lowest level property in this vicinity to flood on a regular basis and this situation will worsen with further housing development. Vehicular access to the Preferred Site is restricted by the limited width of the entrance point for vehicles and East Sussex Highways have expressed doubts about developing this site as a result. There is not enough room for vehicles, service vehicles or footpath provision. BT have also said that their entrance at the top of the hill is too dangerous and an accident danger spot. One resident informed the meeting that a similar development scheme had been proposed 40 years ago in this area but was unsuccessful and the developer went into liquidation and the houses in Main Street gained the land and access rights which will need to be maintained in any development. HP provided an email from Richard Wilson at RDC, dated 2014, in which he stated that the only feasible sites for development in Peasmarsch were near to Jempsons, although these had since been rejected by RDC in the Site Allocations Local Plan. She also pointed out the potential danger of the pond proposed to be part of the Preferred Site development.

Residents were disappointed that District Councillors were unable to attend this meeting and asked for a meeting to be called with members of RDC's Planning Committee before 20th February consultation deadline - CH to arrange.

The Parish Council had drafted a response to the consultation, opposing RDC's preferred site and suggesting that the sites at Jempsons were more suitable for development. The Parish Council will make their response available to residents, along with Robin Dent's response and CH to coordinate enquiries from residents regarding the consultation. The Parish Council encouraged all residents to respond to the consultation by the deadline of 20th February 2017 at 5.00pm. Details are available in the Peasmarsch Periodical, the Parish Council website and Facebook page and via the Parish Clerk.

4. District & County Councillor Reports None.

5. Community Matters and Issues

5.1 VAS and traffic calming DP had received an unsatisfactory response from ESCC's Corporate Complaints regarding his letter concerning the delays to the installation of the 30mph VAS and there was no indication given of when the VAS would be installed. DP had drafted a reply to Brian Banks (ESCC) expressing the Parish Council's dissatisfaction and it was agreed to add that the Parish Council was prepared to arrange the installation of the VAS with an independent contractor if no satisfactory answer was received from ESCC. MC pointed out that some white lining to roads in Peasmarsch had been carried out by ESCC in September 2016 as promised.

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- 5.2 The Maltings PL** provided a letter from Westridge Construction which had been sent to residents of the Maltings stating that demolition at the Maltings was on target to be completed by 20th March 2017. The contractors had managed the disruption effectively and kept to their hours of work and were now planning to reposition the site entrance to minimise further disruption to residents and to assist safety.
- 5.3 Bus Services and Bus Bill DP** had drafted a letter to Neil Maguire (ESCC) regarding the County Council's response to the Bus Bill. This was unanimously agreed and signed. It was agreed that a review of use of the 313 bus service should be considered at the next meeting ahead of any renewed parish funding from 23rd May 2017.
- 5.4 Village Sign CP** reported that two winners were chosen from the exhibition of designs by pupils at Peasmarsh Primary School and a composite of their designs will form the village sign design. Certificates and prizes were distributed at the School to the winners and runners up on 3rd February 2017. CP had the details of three blacksmiths (Black Forge, Michael Hart and JHW) who might produce the sign and it was agreed that CP, HP and PL would visit these in the first instance and report back at the next meeting. It was noted that it was important to quantify the gauge of steel to be used and CP asked for any queries for the blacksmiths to be emailed to her.
- 5.5 Flooding on Main Street (Tanyard Field) MC** reported that the flooding in Main Street was still occurring and East Sussex Highways drain repair work had not taken place at the end of January as promised. CH to follow up with ES Highways.
- 5.6 Recreation Ground RH** reported that an enquiry about the use of the recreation ground by a football team for next season had been received but the enquirer had not replied to RH's response. RH will ask J Als to advertise the recreation ground facilities in the next edition of the Peasmarsh Periodical. GS reported that Sport England is launching a New Community Asset Fund to encourage healthy activity for all, which might be suitable for recreation ground funding. A bi-monthly bingo night will be held at the Cock Inn from 3rd March 2017 to raise funds for the recreation ground and plans also include a fundraising coffee morning.
- 5.7 Youth Sports Provision Subsidy** Football coaching by Bourne Sports Association will be provided during the February half-term, which the Parish Council has agreed to subsidise for Peasmarsh children.
- 5.8 Development and Site Allocations Local Plan – PC Response DP** had written a draft response on behalf of the Parish Council which was discussed. MC requested that the Tanyard Field site be excluded from the Parish Council's choice of alternative sites for development because of its AONB status. It was agreed that the Parish Council's preferred sites for development would be PS5 and PS6 near to Jempson's. MC and TH agreed to look at the draft response in conjunction with DP and councillors were encouraged to add their comments to the draft. CH to email the final draft for approval prior to submission to RDC.
- 5.9 Oast Cottage Planning Decision DP** had drafted a letter to RDC's Planning Committee to ask what RDC intends to do to enforce the owner to renovate Oast Cottage, Main Street now that a further planning appeal by the developer has been turned down. The letter was unanimously agreed and signed.
- 5.10 Dog Waste bins and signs CH** reported that RDC cannot provide further dog waste bins because the dog waste contract does not allow for additional bin collections. However, RDC's advice is that dog owners can deposit waste in any public bin or dispose of it at home and they have produced signs to this effect. It was agreed to order 6 signs and MC agreed to erect the signs – CH to order.
- 5.11 Layby extension at Brickfields CH** reported that Ewhurst Parish Council had recently commissioned a feasibility study from James Hore, a traffic consultant, for the construction of a new layby. Councillors were impressed with the thorough report produced by Mr Hore and DW proposed and PL seconded that Mr Hore should be approached with regard to producing a feasibility study for the Brickfields layby extension. This was unanimously agreed. CH to do.
- 6. Confirmation of Budget 2017-18** This was proposed by HP and seconded by DW and unanimously agreed.
- 7. Reports and other items**
- 7.1 Confirmation of Environmental Policy** The revised Environmental Policy was proposed by HP and seconded by CP and was unanimously agreed and signed. The Financial Regulations to be reviewed at the March meeting.
- 7.2 Speedwatch Report** Nothing to report.

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7.3 Clerk's Report Noted.

7.4 Phone & Internet problems CH reported that BT had confirmed that the problems at the exchange at Rye were resolved at the end of 2016 and the exchange and network were now fully up to standard. If residents were experiencing any further problems with their phone or internet connections they were advised to contact their service provider.

7.5 Memorial Hall HP reported that Rye Area Children's community choir had booked the hall for four sessions in February; Sussex Coast College catering students were providing an afternoon tea for residents and a Murder Mystery evening was planned for 25th February.

7.6 Allotments Councillors expressed concern that a tractor was parked on allotment plot 3 and at the loss of the boundary fence between plots 1 and 2 and 3. CH to contact tenant.

7.7 Repairs and Maintenance Reports Care Signs had completed the re-lettering of the Parish Council Noticeboard.

7.8 ESCC Highways Reports RH reported that the 40mph VAS was still not working and he had filed a separate complaint with ES Highways. CH reported that Highways had asked their sub-contractor to carry out a site visit and a decision will then be made as to whether repairs or a replacement is possible. CH reported that a hedge cutting notice had been issued to Cherry Tree Cottage to request pruning of the hedge on the School Lane side of the property.

7.9 Police Report Noted. GS reported that she had experienced several aggressive bogus callers at her door and warnings are to be given in the Peasmarsh Periodical and Facebook page – CH to do.

7.10 Footpaths Report CH reported that the Footpath Secretaries were continuing to check footpaths and file reports with the ES Rights of Way Team. Paths 8a and 4 had been blocked by electric fences at New House Farm, a stile had been dismantled and a fingerpost missing at path 27b and the missing fingerpost at path 22 had been reported.

8. Financial Matters

8.1 Reports The monthly statement of receipts and payments, and budget comparison and bank reconciliation were unanimously agreed: proposed by CP and seconded TH.

8.2 Payments The following payments were unanimously approved, proposed HP; seconded TH

8.2.1 Clerk's January pay and expenses: £404.39

8.2.2 Confirm Clerk's December pay and expenses: £477.15 (Already paid)

8.2.3 D Pankhurst - Expenses attending RALC meeting 11th January 2017: £11.70

8.2.4 C Pollington - Waterstones vouchers for village sign winners: £45.00

8.2.5 Parish Noticeboard - Care Signs: £69.00 plus VAT (£13.80) = £82.80

8.2.6 Printing of Peasmarsh Periodical: £50.00 (Sept 2016-Jan 2017)

8.2.7 ESCC invoice for 313 bus service (May 2016-May 2017): £1,265.00

8.2.8 Amicus Horizon grit bin supply late autumn/winter 2016: £169.52

8.3 Receipts None.

9. Correspondence

9.1 East Sussex Highways proposal to plant bulbs and wild flowers, dated 30/1/2017 was passed to the Memorial Hall Committee which has expressed an interest in the scheme.

10. Planning Matters

10.1 Applications: The following applications were considered:

Reference	Location	Proposal	Closing date for comments
RR/2017/80/P	Field View, School Lane, Peasmarsh TN31 6UT	Front extension to provide an additional bedroom, enlarged hall entrance porch. The Parish Council had no comment to make on this application	08/02/2017
RR/2017/20/L	The Old Rectory, School Lane, Peasmarsh TN31 6UW	Various remedial works to 16th C frame. The Parish Council approved this application.	08/02/2017
RR/2016/3203/P	Cornerways Bungalow, School Hill, Peasmarsh TN31 6UT	Improvement, repair & refurbishment of an existing bungalow. The Parish Council had no comment to make on this application	08/02/2017

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RR/2017/205/P	Little Lobs, Barnets Hill, Peasmarsh TN31 6YJ	Proposed garage. The Parish Council objected to this application owing to concerns about the siting of the garage and the over-development of a small site that this garage will cause.	21/02/2017
RR/2017/270/P	Oast Cottage, Barnets Hill, Peasmarsh TN31 6YJ	Erection of annexe and glazed link. The Parish Council had no comment to make on this application	28/02/2017

10.2 Decisions: None**10.3 Planning Appeals: The following appeal decisions were noted.**

Appeal	Application	Location	Proposal	Status
2417	RR/2016/1041/P	Garden House, Tillingham Lane	Creation of a tennis court and erection of surrounding fence.	APPEAL DISMISSED
2398	RR/2015/2445/P	Oast Cottage, Main Street, Peasmarsh	Demolition of one detached dwelling and the erection of two, three bed semi-detached	APPEAL DISMISSED

11. Dates of forthcoming meetings: 7th March 2017, Parish Council Meeting, Memorial Hall from 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

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