

**Minutes of the Council meeting held at the Memorial Hall
on Tuesday 4th July 2017 at 7.30pm**

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

Also present: Clerk C Hellen (CH), County Councillor A Davies (AD), District Councillor I Jenkins (IJ).

1. **Apologies for absence:** G Sanderson, M Mooney.

2. **Disclosure of interests under the Council's Code of Conduct:** None.

3. **The minutes of the Council meeting held on 6th June 2017** were unanimously agreed subject to two amendments.

Q.1 There were no members of the public in attendance.

4. **District & County Councillor Reports** AD provided a written report which is attached to the minutes regarding the ESCC Scrutiny Committee review of Superfast Broadband.

IJ reported that small businesses in East Sussex need faster broadband speeds to improve business opportunities. He confirmed that RDC staff had received a 1.5% pay increase in their annual review above that of the 1% Government recommended pay rise cap. The inquest into the deaths of swimmers at Camber in August 2016 had recorded a verdict of death by misadventure. A consultation for Bexhill on developing their own Town Council was taking place. Rural members were not in favour of this proposal as it could impact on the cost of council tax in rural areas if Bexhill was removed from the Rother district. A Community-led Housing Project is proposed to secure more affordable housing. The Department of Communications and Local Government has some funding for this proposal. RDC's Community grants scheme is considering offering a simpler route for obtaining small grants of up to £500 with decisions made by email rather than Committee.

HP to send a copy of the Peasmarsh Periodical to AD and IJ in future.

5. **Review of Code of Conduct and to confirm the Register of Interests** The revised Code of Conduct was approved and signed. The outstanding Register of Interests forms were confirmed by Councillors and CH to inform RDC accordingly.

6. **Community Matters and Issues**

6.1 **VAS and traffic calming** CH reported that the 40mph VAS was repaired by ES Highways on 27th June 2017 and is now fully working.

Following consultation with Thermotor regarding the supply of a 30mph VAS sign it was recommended that a 450mm Solar powered sign including a recording data option and installation costs be purchased at a cost of £3885 + VAT. Battery life is 2-3 years and CH will check if there are any maintenance costs and the cost of battery replacement. MC proposed and RH seconded this proposal and it was unanimously agreed to go ahead with purchase and installation. CH to contact N Skelton (ESCC) to ensure sign is paid for from £6,000 contribution from CS Developments. Maintenance costs to be included in budget. DP proposed to send a letter to C Suggitt (CS Developments) asking if the excess funds from the £6,000 could be donated towards the Recreation Ground Play Space Fund and this was unanimously agreed. DW proposed that a letter be written to ES Highways regarding the high costs of purchasing a VAS from them and DP said he would mention the matter at the next RALC meeting.

6.2 **Village Sign** CP reported that she had seen the village sign which was now being assembled. The sign would be installed a few days before the unveiling and be covered. It would be unveiled on 15th July 2017 at 11.00am. The Head of Peasmarsh Primary School and the children who had contributed the winning designs and their parents had been invited to attend. Mr Whiteman and V Biddiss had also been invited to attend.

6.3 **Bus subsidy** CH reported that Beckley and Northiam PCs had agreed to subsidise the additional 313 bus service for a further six months but Northiam had agreed to review its commitment in six months time. It was agreed that obtaining complete passenger figures from Renown buses would provide evidence on use. IJ and AD advised to hold a meeting with Northiam and Beckley PCs to discuss a future strategy and demonstrate that the service is of benefit and will assist residents as a new housing development goes ahead in Northiam. It was also agreed to contact Rye Town Council to gain their support for the bus service to alleviate car parking problems in Rye. CH to

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contact Peasmarsh resident for up to date figures on bus use. It was suggested that lobbying material could be sent to Huw Merriman and Amber Rudd to support the case for rural bus services with ESCC.

6.4 The Maltings PL reported that construction work was developing quickly. Block A and bungalow works were to start on 11th July and site deliveries were expected to increase over the next few months as construction and interior works continued.

6.5 Recreation Ground DP reported that he had prepared a funding application to RDC's Community Fund for funding for the Recreation Ground Play Space. IJ advised that a supporting letter from Sam Richards, who had arranged local fundraising efforts, would assist the application. Letters of support would be submitted from Peasmarsh Primary School and J Als. A bingo evening was taking place on 7th July and a fashion evening was planned for September to raise funds. RH confirmed that he had now received three quotes for the Play Space and was expecting another three quotes. The costs ranged from £50,000 to £56,000 plus VAT and the Recreation Ground Committee were impressed with the Wicksteed bid, which offered good design and facilities. It was proposed to ask RDC's Community Fund for £15,000 towards the final cost with £30,000 already committed by the Parish Council and local fundraising efforts. The RDC application was unanimously approved and CH and IJ provided supporting statements and signed the application form. RDC officers to contact CH if they have any queries regarding the application. RH reported that an invoice for the electrical testing work had been received for £84.00 and suggested that the PC might pay this to reclaim the VAT and be reimbursed for £70.00 by the Recreation Ground Committee.

6.6 Youth Sports Provision It was confirmed that Bourne Sports Associates would provide two sports sessions for children in July and August at a cost of £30 each for four days, with the Parish Council subsidising these sessions by 50% for Peasmarsh children. IJ suggested that RDC might be able to cover the cost of these sessions and would ask Adrian Gayle at RDC to contact DP and RH about this matter. RH confirmed that Beckley Rangers U18 football team would be hiring the football ground again from September.

6.7 Development and Site Allocations Local Plan A decision is awaited in September.

6.8 Oast Cottage D Bevan (RDC) had confirmed that the owners of Oast Cottage had cleared up the overgrown site. Concern had been expressed by a resident regarding vehicles coming and going to The Mount at the top of School Lane and it appeared that this was due to power line workers. IJ to follow matter up with D Bevan.

7. Reports and other items

7.1 Speedwatch Report PL reported that owing to lack of volunteers it was not possible to maintain the Speedwatch Group. It was decided to advertise for volunteers in the Peasmarsh Periodical and on social media in September and if volunteers were forthcoming to reinstate the group and the Parish Council might consider purchasing its own speed tracking device. PL to email existing volunteers to gauge their interest in continuing the group. Thanks were given to the Speedwatch volunteers for the contribution they have made in reducing car speeds in the village.

7.2 Clerk's Report (Noted) and Clerk's Post It was agreed to hold interviews on Friday 14th July from 2.00-5.00pm to appoint a new Clerk. DP, RH, TH and CH would form the interview panel. The application forms were considered and CH to invite candidates selected to interview and inform other applicants of the PC's decision.

7.3 Memorial Hall HP reported that MC had joined the Memorial Hall Committee and they looked forward to having his input on the Committee.

7.4 Allotments and disposal of garden waste CH reported that F Warren had cleared plots 1 and 2 and plot 1 had been let to a new tenant, leaving plot 2 untenanted. It was agreed that overhanging branches and trees bordering plots 1 and 2 needed decrowning and cutting back. CH to contact a tree surgeon to arrange this.

7.5 Repairs and Maintenance Reports Nothing to report.

7.6 ESCC Highways Reports DW reported that vegetation was obscuring 40mph signs and MC reported that a drain hole cover had been smashed opposite Church Lane. CH to report to ES Highways.

7.7 Police Report Noted.

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7.8 Footpaths Report The Footpath Secretaries confirmed that they had reported the broken plank on the bridge on Footpath 22 to the Rights of Way Team and confirmed that the two stiles on Footpath 29 had been repaired. CH to send letter of thanks to Footpath Secretaries.

8. Financial Matters

8.1 Reports The monthly statement of receipts and payments, and budget comparison and bank reconciliation were received and unanimously approved, proposed HP, seconded CP, signed by PL.

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

8.2.1 Clerk's June pay and expenses: £421.30

8.2.2 Wealden Ad costs for Clerk Vacancy advert to D Pankhurst: £23.00

8.2.3 Donation to Recreation Ground Fund from Bourne Sports Associates: £50.00

8.2.4 Prepare balance of payment to J Walters for Village Sign: £3,176.25

8.2.5 Payment of electrical testing for Recreation Ground: £84.00

8.3 Receipts None

8.4 Annual Charitable Donations: DW proposed and HP seconded and it was unanimously agreed to make donations of £50.00 each to Rother Citizens Advice; Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance; and Sussex Victim Support.

9. Correspondence

9.1 ESCC Broadband update, 26/06/2017. Noted.

9.2 Mobile Outreach Hearing Testing at Jempson's, Peasmarsh on 13th July 2017. Noted.

9.3 Action in Rural Sussex had asked if the PC would like to rejoin as a member but it was unanimously agreed not to do so owing to limited support facilities.

10. Planning Matters

10.1 Applications

Reference	Location	Proposal	Closing date for comments
RR/2017/1209/P	Llangorse - land adj, Main Street, Peasmarsh TN31 6SU	Removal of existing garage and erection of new dwelling with new vehicular access for existing dwelling. The Parish Council noted this application.	14/07/17
RR/2017/1493/P	Blackwall Farmhouse, Wittersham Road, Peasmarsh TN31 6TD	Single storey side extension & porch. The Parish Council had no objection to this application.	25/07/17
RR/2017/1462/L	The Old Rectory, School Lane, Peasmarsh TN31 6UW	Modifications to larder, closing off 1970s' doorway and creating foyer between kitchen and utility room. The Parish Council agreed this application.	25/07/17

10.2 Decisions - Noted

Reference	Location	Proposal	Status
RR/2017/1102/MA	The Maltings, Peasmarsh TN31 6ST	Minor amendment to planning permission RR/2016/4/P to allow change to lift shaft.	MA APPROVED
RR/2017/1020/MA	Lyndhurst, Main Street, Peasmarsh TN31 6YA	Minor amendment to RR/2014/261/P to allow the removal/relocation of roof lights and change ground floor windows to doors.	COMPLETED

10.3 Appeals None.

11. Dates of forthcoming meetings

11.1 Council meeting 1st August 2017, Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. (The meeting closed at 9.30pm)

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