

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF PEAKIRK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 19TH JULY 2021, IN THE VILLAGE HALL, COMMENCING AT 7:30PM

Present: Councillors Henry Clark (Chair), Emma Crowson, David Fovargue, Sally Jackson, Greg Prior and Anne Tuley.

Also in attendance: Angela Hankins (Clerk)

39. Public question time: there were no members of the public present.
40. There were no apologies.
41. No declarations of interest were recorded.
42. The minutes of the previous meeting dated 21st June were approved and signed as a true record.
43. Correspondence:
- 43.1 Clerks and Councils Direct, July edition – to be circulated to Cllrs Crowson, Fovargue and Tuley.
- 43.2 Notification from PAST to excavate 2 test pits on the Village Green on the afternoons of 3 and 24 August to coincide with visits from Peterborough Civic Society and Peterborough U3A noted.
- 43.3 Request received from Ox-Cam Property Flood Resilience (PFR) Pathfinder Project to host their Flood Mobile in the village to raise awareness of flooding risk and advise on property flood resilience measures. Parish councillors willing to support the initiative.
Clerk to respond accordingly.
44. Cllr Jackson reported on the current position in relation to an amended tree policy. Cllr Jackson had been unable to find a tree plan on Parish Online. Risk section to include not only those trees owned by the Parish Council highlighted in surveys from John Wilcockson, but also the risk to trees from climate change. Cllr Jackson queried whether the City Council's Register of Landmark Trees is still in existence.
Clerk to check with PCC Tree Officer re Landmark Tree Register.
Cllr Clark to deal with Parish Online map and print off map to go with the survey undertaken by Poppy Revell.
Cllrs Jackson and Tuley to work together to produce most appropriate version of plan, policy and guidance to post onto the website.
45. Members noted the Boundary Commission Constituency Review proposals to include Peakirk within the Northwest Cambridgeshire Constituency, removing it from the Peterborough Constituency and supported this proposal.
Clerk to respond supporting the proposal, the village having a historical affinity with those parishes already within that constituency.
46. Planning:
- 46.1 Members noted approval of application 21/00691/HHFUL – 2-storey side and single storey rear extension at 10 Firdale Close.
- 46.2 Members noted approval of application 21/00370/FUL - demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 2 one and a half storey dwelling and rebuild of existing outbuilding at Ivy House, Bull Lane.
- 46.3 Cllr Tuley had attended the Local List Project seminar and is to meet with Avril Lumley-Prior to discuss local assets that should be nominated for inclusion on the List. It was noted that the current list includes the former Granary, water trough and village water pump.
Cllr Tuley to circulate proposed local assets for nomination to the list to members before submission. Nominations to be submitted before 31st August.
- 46.4 Consideration given to planning application 21/00797/HHFUL, rebuild gate pier/ garden wall and new garden wall with railings at 6A The Park. It was felt that this area forms an important view in the centre of the village, referenced in the Peakirk Conservation Area Appraisal. Members considered the proposals far too urban in nature and would prefer the use of stone.

Clerk to respond accordingly.

47. Village Gateways / Speed Watch –Cllr Fovargue provided an update. There has still been no response from the City Council to the chasers sent by either Cllr Fovargue or the Clerk in relation to the village gateways.

Clerk to chase again.

The latest Speed Watch held on 30th June from 14:30 – 15:30 near to The Sanderlings recorded 81 vehicles, 9 over 35mph and the fastest being 40mph. More events are planned.

Data from the VAS on St Pegas Road from 13/05/21 – 16/07/21 showed 51,010 vehicles entering the village with 34% travelling over 35mph. One vehicle recorded on 31/05 at 10:25 at 70mph. It was agreed that the sign should be reversed to monitor the speed of cars leaving the village.

Cllrs Clark and Fovargue to adjust software on VAS as appropriate.

48. Finance:

48.1 The budget review to 30 June was noted.

48.2 Approval given for payment of Home Working Allowance in the sum of £10 and salary payment to Mrs A Hankins for July.

48.3 Members approved payment to PCVS for payroll service Apr-June in the sum of £36.

48.4 Approval given for payment of invoice to Mr Harding for grass-cutting during June.

48.5 The Clerk advised that Unity Trust were requesting a copy of the council's business plan.

Cllr Clark to produce.

49. Maintenance:

49.1 To consider resolution proposed by Cllr Jackson, deferred from previous meeting, that "Peakirk Parish Council will require any operator or contractor engaged in using chemicals on behalf of the Council to ensure they are safe for the environment or if they are used as pesticides the Parish Council will have taken specific advice and given its authorisation to ensure no harm is inflicted on non-target areas or life and only when no other safe, biological, humane or mechanical process is available."

Cllr Jackson advised that since proposing this resolution she has written an amended version that may be more appropriate. Members felt that whilst laudable the original resolution might have unintended consequences but that any application of pesticide should be very topical, not indiscriminate.

Cllr Jackson to propose a new resolution for the September meeting.

49.2 Verge cutting –Cllr Jackson advised that she had been unable to update the Parish Online Grass-cutting Plan but had identified 3 areas that are duplicated.

Clerk and Cllr Jackson to liaise regarding up-to-date grass-cutting contract map and specification.

50. Climate Emergency Group / John Clare Countryside Project:

50.1. It was agreed to purchase 3 more A3 Chalkboards to be used on the Village Hall Car Park and Village Green at a total Cost £153.96

50.2 Cllr Jackson requested financial support to arrange a series of workshops, community events and talks to restart the Climate Emergency programme. This could include hall rental costs, speaker costs, refreshments etc, possibly to coincide with the Great Big Green Week (18th-26th September). Members were minded to be sympathetic to any claim for reimbursement of costs but could not approve expenditure as no figure had been included.

50.3 It was decided that a new specification for the grass-cutting maintenance contract for next season should be considered at the September meeting.

50.4 Cllr Jackson provided a background to the Bristol based CHEESE (Cold Homes Energy Efficiency Scheme) Project. Using a thermal camera app on a mobile phone areas for improving thermal efficiency can be found such as cracks, holes etc enabling simple repairs to be undertaken. PECT are looking into the possibility of taking on a franchise from the CHEESE project with a view to training local people to undertake the surveys.

50.5 The Beautiful Burial Grounds workshop had been held in the churchyard on 24th June with Cllr Jackson and the Clerk attending. Cllrs Jackson and Tuley had subsequently carried out a plant count in Firdale Close, recording 23 species of flowers and grasses.

51. Councillors Reports:

Cllr Clark reported on his involvement in a Communities Group as part of a Peer Challenge undertaken by the City Council from which a report will be produced.

Cllr Jackson wished to invite Rowan Rumball, the City Council's Wildlife Officer to an event, possibly as part of the Great Green Week. All agreed.

Cllr Prior advised of work to tidy the area around the Crab Apple trees on Thorney Road.

52. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 20th September.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:05pm.

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