

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF PEAKIRK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2021 IN THE VILLAGE HALL, STARTING AT 7:30PM

Present: Councillors Sally Jackson (Vice-Chair), Emma Crowson, Anne Tuley and David Fovargue.

82. Public question time: no members of the public were present.
83. Apologies were received from Cllr Greg Prior. Cllr Clark to join the meeting later.
84. Declarations of interest: none recorded.
85. The minutes of the previous meeting of 18th October were approved as a true record and signed accordingly.
86. Correspondence: Clerks & Councils Direct – circulation to Cllrs Crowson, Tuley and Fovargue.
87. Planning:
87.1 Consideration given to application 21/01729/LBC to remove front door and frame and replace with same on a like for like basis at 8 St Pegas Road – no objections.
87.2 Members noted the approval given to application 21/00797/HHFUL to rebuild gate pier / garden wall, new driveway gates and new garden wall with railings at 6A The Park.
87.3 There were no other planning matters.
88. Village Gateways / Speed Watch:
88.1 Members noted that the Clerk had made contact with Charlotte Palmer at the City Council but no further progress had yet been made in relation to the Village Gateways.
88.2 Speed Watch report: a further Speed Watch is to take place this week on St Pegas Road. Cllr Fovargue had provided information to the constabulary Speed Watch team but not in the required format. A template to enable this is being sought.
88.3 Vehicle activated signs – Cllr Fovargue advised that the VAS on St Pega's Road is now registering the speed of vehicles leaving the village. As the speed is displayed to traffic entering the village it is a little confusing, but necessary for the capture of this data.
89. Allotments – it was noted that information about current tenants is still awaited. Members approved membership of the National Allotment Society at a reduced subscription for the first year of £50 + VAT.
90. Finance:
90.1 The budget review to 31st October was noted.
90.2 Approval given for payment of Home Working Allowance in the sum of £10 and salary payment to Mrs A Hankins for November.
90.3 The reduction in the interest rate on the Cambridge & Counties Bank Notice Account from 0.9% to 0.75% was noted.
91. Maintenance:
91.1 Members agreed standard pressure treated timber to be used on the Deeping Road boundary fence of the Village Green and accepted the quote from J Bradley Fencing in the sum of £220 + VAT.
Clerk to instruct contractor accordingly.
91.2 Members approved works to replace 2x oak bollards on the Village Green in the sum of £165 +VAT.
Clerk to instruct contractor.
91.3 The clerk advised that the insurance claim for a damaged bollard opposite Rookwood was almost complete. Work to refix this bollard to be included in the contract with J Bradley Fencing.

- 91.4 Footpaths – the Clerk advised that the City Council’s road sweeper had attended and cleared the footpath in front of Peakirk House. The next sweep will take place in December.
- 91.5 Repainting of the bus shelter: Cllrs Crowson and Tuley had re-painted most of the exterior of the shelter. Few remaining areas to be completed by Steve Ward.
Cllr Tuley to provide receipt for preservative and tools to the Clerk. Clerk to request draft licence from the City Council for use/repair of the bus shelter for members consideration.
- 91.6 The updated asset inspection log including actions required / taken was received and noted. Thanks were given to Cllr Fovargue.
- 91.7 The clerk advised that no quotes had yet been received for tree works on the village green recommended by Cllr Prior.
- 91.8 Members noted the meeting set for 17th November at 11.00am with James Collingridge from Aragon to discuss the Parish Council Herbicide Policy, to be held at 1 St Pegas Road. Cllr Clark joined the meeting at this point.
- 91.9 There were no other maintenance matters
92. Members considered options available to the Parish Council from the City Council (circulated electronically prior to the meeting) for minor maintenance and enhancement works on highway verges. It was agreed to continue to maintain the areas currently cut within the village.
Following discussion the following grass-cutting regime was agreed for the 2022/23 season:
Village Green – the central area used for ball games and around the play equipment to be cut twice a month from March through to October, with the arisings removed.
Medium length grass will be allowed along the Chestnut Close edge (width of 10 metres) of the green and under the trees, cut to 10cm and the arisings removed 4 times per year (April, June, August and October).
Firdale Close area – the area around the outside of the trees (Spring flower area) to be left uncut until the end of May and then cut short twice a month from June to October. The central grass area to have an early cut in March and then be left uncut to the end of May. Short cuts to be undertaken twice a month from the beginning of June to October with the arisings removed.
93. Cllr Clark agreed to put up the Christmas lights on the monument by 1st December.
94. Climate Emergency Group / John Clare Countryside Project report:
- 94.1 PCEG Action Day planned for 12th December – posters to be displayed in the noticeboard. Leaflets to be distributed around the village by the end of November.
Work on the allotment to take off the turf and create a dead hedge planned, with refreshments after in the Village Hall.
Cllr Tuley to source refreshments, Cllr Jackson to calculate how many timber stakes required for the dead hedge. Cllr Jackson to provide A5 version of the poster to the Clerk for printing and distribution to councillors for delivering.
- 94.2 Date for visit from Rowan Rumball – the Clerk was requested to liaise with Rowan with regard to a date for a daytime walk around the village with members, ideally before Christmas.
Clerk to arrange.
- 94.3 Liftshare – it was agreed that details of this national scheme should be publicised by being added to the village website.
Cllr Jackson to send the clerk the appropriate link for uploading to the website.
95. Budget – members considered the first draft of a proposed budget for 2022/23, circulated prior to the meeting. The proposed budget would increase the precept by 3% for the next 2 years and with anticipated expenditure the reserves will be reduced. Agreement given in principle.
Budget ratification to be included on the agenda of the December meeting.
96. Northern Footpath Forum – the forum is in abeyance but the Welland Footbridge Project is on the list of John Clare Countryside Projects. Cllr Jackson advised that she is in discussion with Deeping St James Parish Council and both Mike Horne of PECT and the Welland Rivers Trust are supportive of the project. It is hoped to have a site meeting on 27th November.

97. Councillors Reports: Cllr Clark had attended a meeting of the Good Neighbours Scheme and reported that funding sources, other than subscriptions (which prove expensive to small parish councils) are being investigated. Cllr Clark has completed training on allotments.
Cllr Tuley reported that the handrail by the steps from the South Drain into Betty's Wood is wobbly.
Cllr Jackson to notify Lee Moore at the City Council accordingly.
98. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 20th December for which Cllr Crowson gave her apologies.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10:12pm.

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