

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF PEAKIRK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2023, IN THE VILLAGE HALL, COMMENCING AT 7:30PM

Present: Councillors Henry Clark (Chair), Sarah Smith, Sally Jackson, David Fovargue and Kam Sisodia.
Also in attendance: Angela Hankins (Clerk). Cllr Andy Cole for item 50 only.

50. Peterborough City Council: Cllr Andy Cole, City Council Cabinet Member for finance and IT showcased the Budget Simulator. After providing the national context he advised that for the last 18 months the City Council has had to concentrate on core services only. Currently £5.3million in the red, including £4million attributable to children's services. Anticipated that this may rise to 6.1million next year and £10.5million the year after. More income is expected from business rates. 73% of the budget is spent on Social Services. The City Council has very little in the way of reserves and is in the process of developing the 2024/25 budget. Very few people commented on the budget last year, hoping to increase comments by using the Budget Simulator. Simulator to go live on 19th September and will be advertised widely on social media for taxpayers to give their comments as to where the City Council's priorities should lie. It will run until 31st October. A 4.9% increase in Council Tax has already been agreed for next year. Any increase of more than 5% must go to a referendum (at a cost of £250,000). The final budget will be agreed by the City Council on 21st February.
51. Public question time – there were no members of the public present.
52. Apologies were received and noted from Councillors Emma Crowson and Anne Tuley.
53. Council Jackson declared an interest in item 56.1.
54. The minutes of the previous meetings dated 17th July 2023 and 15th August 2023 were agreed and signed as true records.
55. Correspondence:
- 55.1 Clerks & Councils Direct, September edition – taken by Cllr Fovargue.
- 55.2 Deepings & Glinton Patient Participation Group – members noted that a speaker from the group will attend the next meeting on 16th October.
- 55.3 A request from Karma Corner Yoga to display a promotional banner by the noticeboard during yoga classes was considered and approved.
- 55.4 Allotment Magazine – taken by Cllr Clark.
- 55.5 Other correspondence received – an offer to speak from Orange House Renewables was passed to Cllr Jackson for consideration by the Climate Emergency Group.
56. Planning:
- 56.1 Consideration given to application 23/01169/CTR for removal of a cherry tree at 1 St Pegas Road. Members had no objections.
Clerk to confirm.
- 56.2 Consideration given to application 23/01155/HHFUL for single storey rear extension at 33 St Pegas Road. Members had no objections.
Clerk to confirm.
- 56.3 Members noted the "No objections" comment submitted for application 23/00950/HHFUL, single storey extension to rear of dwelling and replacement doors and window to rear elevation at 5 Chestnut Close.
- 56.4 Members noted permission granted for 23/00262/LBC replacement windows and doors at 1 Chestnut Close.
- 56.5 Members noted the comments submitted for application 23/00943/HHFUL, new vehicular crossover at 46 St Pegas Road relating to reinstatement of the grass verge.

- 56.6 Members noted permission granted for application 23/00549/HHFUL, proposed demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension and external alterations at 41 St Pegas Road.
- 56.7 Councillor Jackson reported on progress in relation to a response to Peterborough City Council Local Plan, Issues and Options Consultation Document. The 75 questions contained within this document had been pinned down to 4 relevant questions posted on the Village Facebook and publicised with posters including a QR link for residents to respond to. The 4 areas covered included Village Boundaries, Local Space Provision, Future Energy Use and Better Connections to Services. Members were requested to complete the consultation on an individual basis. Cllr Jackson advised that she has liaised with Dr Lumley Prior regarding responses to the Historic Environment questions.
Cllr Jackson to collate responses, circulate to members for agreement and submit to the City Council.
- 56.8 Application for ACV – Cllr Clark advised he had provided Cllr Crowson with relevant information for the application.
57. Finance:
- 57.1 Approval given for payment of invoice from R W Landscaping for grass cutting.
- 57.2 Approval given for payment of invoice from R W Landscaping for trimming of the Yew Hedge on the Village Green.
- 57.3 Members noted payment of an invoice from RGS Arboricultural Consultants in the sum of £375 +VAT for tree decay detection survey and assessment.
- 57.4 To approve payment of salary and home working allowance to Mrs A Hankins for August and September.
- 57.5 The budget review to 31 August 2023 was noted.
- 57.6 Due to the current review of NALC Model Financial Regulations, 2019 members agreed to delay replacement of the existing financial regulations.
- 57.7 Approval given for payment of PAYE to HMRC for the period July-September.
- 57.8 Members approved payment of the Clerk's SLCC annual membership in the sum of £112.
58. Defibrillator training event to be held on 7th October – Cllrs Clark, Jackson, Sisodia and Fovargue registered their interest. Event to be advertised on the noticeboard and website. Village Hall committee and Church Council to be notified.
Clerk to produce poster and Cllr Jackson to post to Facebook.
59. Maintenance:
- 59.1 Grass cutting – the Clerk advised that some residents were not happy with the grass cuttings not being collected. Members were reminded that this is a temporary contract until the end of the season.
- 59.2 Cllr Clark provided an update in relation to replacement of an oak bollard adjacent to 2 Chestnut Close. The anticipated costs are £50-£70+ delivery charge for an oak bollard and a likely cost of £100 if fitted by volunteers. Cllr Sisodia to check price of 900mm long, pyramid top posts.
Cllr Clark authorised to spend up to £100.
- 59.3 The Clerk reported on advice received from Stephen Chesney-Beales, tree officer at the City Council concerning the horse chestnut tree on the Village Green, opposite Rookwood, which requires work, minimum of reduction in height of 4.5 metres and lateral spread to the south by 3 metres, as recommended by RGS Arboricultural Consultants. As an alternative to the reduction works a pollard could be created, retaining small lower growth as risers with growth potential of a tree in the future. If the pollarding fails, the trunk could be retained as a monolith for habitat value or felled. A Notice to Fell, valid for 2 years, can be given to the City Council and lesser works carried out – all acceptable to the City Council because of the condition of the tree. Members considered 3 quotations received for the tree works on the Village Green to the Yew and the Horse Chestnut. It was agreed to proceed with the reduction in height and spread of the Horse Chestnut and crown raising of the Yew, accepting the quotation from Woodcraft Tree Services Ltd.

Clerk to submit application for tree works in a conservation area to the City Council and notify Woodcraft Tree Services Ltd.

- 59.4 Updates received regarding the following:
- Shrubbery adjacent to the substation site by the bus shelter – this is work in progress. Cllrs Jackson and Sisodia to liaise regarding removal of the shrub.
 - Repair to village monument step – Cllr Clark to re-inspect and possibly redo the repair.
 - Best Kept Village Sign – Cllr Clark to investigate possibility of removing the plate.
 - Folly Bridge repainting – the Clerk advised that nothing further had been received from the City Council.
 - Verge encroachment, 46 St Pegas Road – no change.
 - Duck sign at the Glinton end of St Pega’s Road very faded - Cllr Fovargue to inspect.
- 59.5 Other items of maintenance: it was noted that Cllrs Tuley and Crowson had completed the painting of the bus shelter. Thanks expressed.
60. Speed Watch / Road Safety:
- 60.1 Speed Watch Report – the most recent session was held between 2-3pm on St Pega’s Road, monitoring traffic coming into the village. It was quieter than usual due to the school holidays – just 40 vehicles were recorded with 2 exceeding the 30mph speed limit by travelling at 40 and 42mph.
Speed data – 43,314 vehicles were recorded on St Pega’s Road, heading towards Glinton between 06/07/23 and 20/09/23, where the speed limit is 30mph. 42,335 vehicles were travelling at less than 40mph but 82 vehicles were travelling in excess of 50mph, with 3 vehicles in excess of 70mph.
Cllr Fovargue maintaining contact with Bainton Parish Council in relation to their speed signs. He also suggested the use of signs along the road “Please do not speed in our village”.
- 60.2 The police engagement event of 29th July was felt to have been worthwhile. The police are making more of a presence and have committed to try and get the monthly crime report reinstated.
- 60.3 No date has yet been arranged for Lewis Banks from the City Council to meet with councillors.
Clerk to chase.
61. Climate Emergency Group:
- 61.1 Cllr Jackson reported that only 3 people were actively involved, but the group was soldering on.
- 61.2 The 26th of September was agreed as the best date for Rowan Rumball from the City Council to attend to give bio-diversity advice, meeting at 11.00am outside the Village Hall.
Clerk to confirm to Rowan Rumball.
62. Councillors reports: Cllr Clark reported on the CAPALC conference that he had recently attended. Issues of interest included website accessibility, biodiversity duty, robotic grass cutting and the MP Shailesh Vara working with Helpston Parish Council about the main road through the village.
Cllr Clerk to contact Sid Smith at Helpston PC for more information.
63. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 16th October

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:46pm.