

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF PEAKIRK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023, IN THE VILLAGE HALL, STARTING AT 7:30PM**

Present: Councillors Henry Clark (Chair), Emma Crowson, David Fovargue, Sally Jackson, Kam Sisodia and Sarah Smith.

Also in attendance: Angela Hankins (Clerk)

64. Peg Torrance gave a presentation to members to promote knowledge of the Deepings & Glinton Patient Participation Group (GPPG) and its purpose. There is a new and very enthusiastic committee made up of volunteers who are patients of the practice. Meetings are usually attended by the practice manager and a doctor. The group aims to act as a conduit between the patients and the staff of the medical centre. This will include supporting the practice through raising understanding of patients' needs, identifying ways of improving how surgeries are run, lobbying to improve local health services, monitoring how changes to the NHS are impacting on patients and ensuring patients are aware of their rights. The practice produces a monthly newsletter which can be found at [www.deepingspractice.co.uk](http://www.deepingspractice.co.uk) and in the reception areas of both surgeries. There is also a Facebook page. Comments and suggestions can be passed to the PPG either via a hard copy form available from either surgery or via email. Information was also given about the voluntary car scheme run for the benefit of patients – more volunteers are needed. It was agreed that details will be displayed on the parish council noticeboard.  
Cllr Clark thanked the speaker and wished the committee well.
65. Public question time: no members of the public were present.
66. Apologies were received from Cllr Anne Tuley.
67. No declarations of interest were recorded.
68. The minutes of the previous meeting dated 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were approved and signed as a true record.
69. Correspondence:
- 69.1 Good Neighbours Rural Peterborough - members considered the offer of 2-year free Associate Membership and agreed to take up the offer.  
**Clerk to action.**
- 69.2 The Clerk advised that a Risk Assessment for the proposed Excavation of an Archaeological Test Pit on the Village Green from 23-27 October had been received but due to ill health of the Field Officer for FRAG (Fane Road Archaeology Group) the dig would not be proceeding. FRAG hope to undertake the dig in May.
- 69.2 Other correspondence: a request was received from a group of metal detectorists with an interest in local history to detect on parish council owned land. Permission was denied.
70. Planning:
- 70.1 Members noted the permission granted to 23/01169/CTR for removal of a cherry tree at 1 St Pegas Road.
- 70.2 Permission given to 23/00943/HHFUL for a vehicular crossover at 46 St Pegas Road was noted.
- 70.3 Consideration given to re-consultation application 23/00950/HHFUL, single storey extension to rear of dwelling and replacement doors and window to rear elevation at 5 Chestnut Close. Members had not objections.  
**Clerk to respond.**
- 70.4 Cllr Crowson reported on the progress of the application for ACV (Asset of Community Value) status for the Ruddy Duck Public House. As the pub has recently changed hands it was agreed that Cllr Crowson should speak with the new licensee to explain the process and implications of designation as an ACV.  
**Cllr Crowson to action.**

70.5 Members were reminded of the remaining amount of CIL (£2,375.58) to be used before 30.8.24. The possibility of a CCTV / surveillance camera was discussed to be used for traffic calming / flytipping.

**Decision to be taken before the end of the year.**

**Clerk to send fly-tipping contact details to Cllr Sisodia. Cllr Crowson or Fovargue to forward details of cameras to Cllr Sisodia. To be discussed at the next meeting.**

70.6 There were no other planning matters.

71. Finance:

71.1 Payment to R W Landscaping for grass cutting approved on receipt of invoice.

71.2 Approval given to payment of invoice from pcvs for salary service July-Sept in the sum of £30+VAT.

71.3 Members approved payment of salary and home working allowance to Mrs A Hankins for October.

71.4 Approval give for reimbursement to Cllr Fovargue in the sum of £38.98 for paints for sign refurbishment.

71.5 Members approved payment of a grant towards churchyard maintenance to St Pega's Parochial Church Council in the sum of £750.

72. Maintenance:

72.1 Litter, fly-tipping, needles and dog poo – issues and action to be decided:

Tree needles building up in the gutters – **Clerk to request action.**

Two new dog fouling signs have been put up by the stone wall mid-way along St Pegas Road. Cllr Jackson to place 2 additional dog fouling signs on Deeping Road.

Cllr Fovargue reported that he had recently undertaken a litter pick. Other councillors agreed to undertake litter picking when they can, notifying others of the area covered. A reminder was given for councillors to wear hi-vis jackets where possible.

**Clerk to provide replacement hi-vis jacket to Cllr Jackson.**

72.2 Cllr Clark advised that he had not yet completed the replacement of an oak bollard adjacent to 2 Chestnut Close.

**Cllr Clark to co-ordinate with Cllr Smith regarding collection of the required wood.**

72.3 The Clerk advised that the likely date for tree works to be undertaken on the Village Green was 1<sup>st</sup> November. A recent walkabout with the biodiversity officer had observed possible bat roosts in the Chestnut Tree to be cut back. Advice being sought by Cllr Jackson from bat expert, Anthony Mould. Contractor to be notified to take appropriate care.

72.4 Bollard key for access onto the Village Green – the Clerk advised that this key had not been returned by Mr Harding, the former grass contractor. Two keys remain – one with Cllr Clark and the other with the Clerk.

72.5 Asset Inspection – Cllr Fovargue provided a report and an updated copy of the inspection log to the Clerk. The pole on which the Best Kept Village Plaque is located is badly rotted and requires taking down. Top plate to be retained for refurbishment and display elsewhere, possibly on the Village Hall. Some repointing possibly required to the monument. **A separate report of the condition of bollards around the edge of the Village Green, some of which are loose, to be sent to Cllr Clark.**

72.6 Other items of maintenance or new items to be reported: Cllr Sisodia reported that the 30mph sign on the left-hand side of Meadow Road is missing.

**Cllr Sisodia to report to the City Council.**

Cllr Clark suggested that an audit of play equipment on the Village Green, as advertised at a CAPALC event could be considered.

**Cllr Clark to provide information details for the Clerk to make contact.**

73. Speed Watch / Road Safety:

73.1 Reports on Speed Watch and speed data – a further Speed Watch session is planned for a 3-4pm on St Pegas Road. Cllr Fovargue had contacted Bainton parish council again – a meeting of the parish council, MP and Police and Crime Commissioner was to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> October, but the outcome is not yet known. There is still an impediment to the police using the data recorded by the Bainton cameras – what is it?

- 73.2 Cllr Clark advised that he had not yet been in contact with Cllr Sis Smith in relation to Helpston PC traffic calming.
- 73.3 The date arranged for Lewis Banks from the City Council to meet with councillors was agreed as 24<sup>th</sup> October at 3.30pm. Speed signs to re-enforce speed reduction to be discussed along with possible message changes on the newest VAS.

***Clerk to confirm with Lewis Banks.***

74. Details of the grass-cutting specification for 2024/25 season for quotation purposes in readiness for budget drafting were agreed by members. All areas to be included as per the previous contract, 2 cuts per month from March – October with arisings uncollected.

***Clerk to seek quotations.***

75. Allotments: it was agreed that there would be no rent increases in 2024. Approval given for charging of proportionate rent for part-years. Cllr Jackson reported that the allotment plot had been scythed following a demonstration from Rowan Rumball.

***Cllr Clark to given consideration to numbers for ease of plot identification.***

76. Councillors' reports:

Cllr Jackson advised that grants for doubling nature were available from Natural Cambridgeshire, the next feasible deadline being 1<sup>st</sup> May. A JCCP Cluster Group Meeting is to be held on 27<sup>th</sup> October which may consider applying for a grant for linking wildlife corridors between villages. Concern was raised regarding potential future maintenance issues, but the parish council was supportive in principle.

Cllr Fovargue reported that the bramble hedge between Peakirk village and Foxcovert Road is overgrown with long barbs across the footpath and needs to be cut back.

***Clerk to report.***

77. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:38pm.