

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF PEAKIRK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2025 IN THE VILLAGE HALL, STARTING AT 7:30PM

Present: Councillors Henry Clark (Chair), Emma Crowson, Sally Jackson, Kam Sisodia, Sarah Smith, Anne Tuley and Tony Weaver.

Also in attendance: Angela Hankins (Clerk) and one member of the public.

78. Public question time – no questions were raised.
79. There were no apologies, all members being present.
80. There were no declarations of interest.
81. The minutes of the previous meeting of 20th October 2025 were approved and signed as a true record.
82. Members approved and adopted a policy on Apologies for Meetings.
83. Members reaffirmed the existing Communication Policy and approved and adopted an IT Policy.
84. The current Freedom of Information Publication Scheme was reviewed and reaffirmed there being no changes.
85. Correspondence:
 - 85.1 Clerks & Councils Direct – November Edition taken by Cllr Crowson for onward circulation to Cllrs Tuley and Weaver.
 - 85.2 Members considered an invitation from the Good Neighbours Scheme to renew membership and decided against.
Cllr Smith to invite the coordinator of the Deep In Kindness Scheme to speak for a maximum of 10 minutes at a future meeting, advising the clerk of the date agreed.
 - 85.3 Other correspondence: the National Allotment Magazine was taken by Cllr Clark.
86. Planning matters:
 - 86.1 Planning application 25/0110/CTR for various itemised tree works at The Chestnuts, 7 Chestnut Close was noted along with the response of “No objections” from the parish council.
 - 86.2 Further information / update regarding Planning appeal ref: APP/J0540/W/25/3370685, Land South of Peakirk Road (24/00483/OUT – Gladman development) – Cllrs Clark and Weaver are to attend the hearing with Cllr Jackson attending on behalf of CPRE. The response of Anglian Water to requests for information about sewage capacity in Peakirk has been very unhelpful. Great concern was expressed about the effect on Peakirk, the unsustainability of the proposed development on environmental, social and economic grounds, the incursion into Peakirk Parish and the disproportionate scale on a small village.
 - 86.3 It was agreed to submit comment on site ref 7001 (205 indicative dwellings on land at Helpston Road, Glington) added to the Peterborough Local Plan following the Local Plan Review.
Planning group to produce a consolidated response for the clerk to submit before 19th December. Cllrs to submit comments to Cllr Crowson.
 - 86.4 Current position on Asset of Community Value (Ruddy Duck Public House) application - Cllr Crowson advised that the application has been submitted to the City Council.
 - 86.5 Members received an update from Cllr Weaver on a Planning Enforcement Case concerning the investigation, report and decision regarding the new build development of Unit 3 Oak Drive without formal planning consent. Peterborough City Council planning enforcement decided that it was not expedient to take enforcement action, effectively giving the developer permission to continue. It was noted that a complaint to the City Council had been made regarding discrepancies in the planning enforcement officer’s report. Action to raise the matter with the Local Government Ombudsman is being considered. Councillors voiced disappointment at the lack of willingness to take action demonstrated by the City Council.

- 86.6 Other planning matters: the clerk advised that the adoption of the Village Green onto the Local List of Heritage Assets in Peterborough was no complete.
87. Commemorative bench – the Clerk advised that following a discussion with a resident who had offered a donation towards costs, the preferred position for the bench is in Firdale Close.
Position to be clarified and clerk to seek relevant permission as appropriate.
88. Finance:
- 88.1 Approval given for payment of Home Working Allowance and salary payment to Mrs A Hankins for November.
- 88.2 Members authorised payment of grass-cutting costs to Mr R Harding in the sum of £250.
- 88.3 Approval given for payment to Mr R Harding in the sum of £250 for trimming of the Yew Hedge on the Village Green.
- 88.4 Cllr Clark advised that authorisation for the purchase of 2 further oak bollards in the sum of £30 each from Honeypot Sawmill, Colsterworth was no longer needed.
- 88.5 Members authorised payment of invoice in the sum of £84 (£70 +VAT) for the renewal of the Annual National Allotment Society Subscription.
- 88.6 Approval given to payment of invoice for renewal of Annual Subscription to the Society of Local Council Clerks in the sum of £150.
- 88.7 A first draft for the 2026/27 budget was circulated. The proposed budget would increase the precept on a Band D property by approximately 18%. No additional requests for expenditure were received from councillors.
Cllr Sisodia to check price and feasibility of a robot mower for grass cutting.
Cllr Clark to re-run figures reducing the budget for project expenditure to £1,000.
- 88.8 There were no other financial matters.
89. Maintenance:
- 89.1 It was noted that 2 oak bollards had been generously donated.
- 89.2 Update on maintenance items agreed at the last meeting:
Cllr Clark advised that the VAS sign was now repaired.
Cllrs Tuley and Crowson to continue cleaning of Village Gateway on St Pega's Road.
Cllrs Sisodia and Weaver to clean the Village Gateway on Thorney Road.
Cllr Clark has the lime mortar to repoint the gaps on the Village Monument.
- 89.3 Grass-cutting 2026/27– it was confirmed that the specification should remain as it is.
Clerk to seek quotes.
- 89.4 Other items of maintenance: the clerk reported that the dog waste bin at the entrance to the village on St Pega's Road was due for replacement by the City Council before the next meeting.
- Cllr Sisodia left the meeting at this point.
90. Allotment report – members noted the income and expenditure for the year to date. It was agreed that stones for identification of allotment plot numbers would be useful.
Cllr Smith to bring flints to the next meeting.
Cllr Tuley to obtain prices for large pebbles.
91. Speed Watch / VAS data: the data has been downloaded and Cllr Clark will circulate the resulting spread sheet. Data for Thorney Road showed 629,000 vehicles in the last 12 months with the highest speed leaving the village 110mph and the fastest speed entering the village 83mph. On St Pega's Road the number of vehicles was 241,000, the highest recorded speed being 88mph leaving the village and 87mph entering the village. Cllr Crowson advised that a Speed Watch Session was imminent but there are few volunteers.
92. Engagement Survey –Cllr Jackson reported that there was no progress to date. It was suggested that Facebook would be the best medium for a survey and that it might be helpful to contact the producers of the engagement questionnaire.

Item to be deferred to April meeting.

93. Remembrance – Thanks to Cllr Jackson for putting out the poppy wreaths on the village monument. Comments had been received regarding the loss of small wooden crosses on the surrounding area. Members were keen to agree a suggestion that knitted poppies could be displayed on the monument.
Cllr Crowson to price up poppies for lamp posts.
94. Christmas Lights – ***Cllr Clark to put up the lights on the Village Monument 2 weeks before Christmas.***
95. Councillor's reports: Cllrs Crowson and Tuley have now received thermal imaging training to enable them to identify heat escape spots in properties within the village. Cllr Clark has a hand-held thermal imaging camera available for them to use.
Service to village residents to be promoted in The Tribune.
96. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 15th December.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:35pm.