

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF PEAKIRK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2025 IN THE VILLAGE HALL, STARTING AT 7:30PM

Present: Councillors Henry Clark (Chair), Sally Jackson, Emma Crowson, Anne Tuley and Tony Weaver.
Also in attendance: Angela Hankins (Clerk), 2 residents (1 leaving after item 102)

97. Public question time: a resident made suggestions in regard to a memorial bench being considered for land adjacent to the entrance to Firdale Close and hoped for more involvement in selection of the design of bench. Doubt was expressed as to whether the bench originally selected by councillors was sufficiently robust and an increased donation was made. Cllrs Crowson and Clark to get more photos of benches that could be considered whilst being mindful of public expenditure. Cllr Clark advised that an editorial piece will appear in The Tribune suggesting that other residents may wish to contribute to the purchase of the bench.
98. Apologies: were received from Cllrs Smith and Sisodia.
99. No declarations of interest were recorded.
100. The minutes of the meeting of 17th November 2025 were approved as a true record and signed accordingly.
101. Correspondence:
 - 101.1 An update had been received from the Deeping Patient Participation Group to advise that a request for an Urgent Treatment Centre, which had been supported by the parish council, had been refused by South Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board. In subsequent correspondence with Sam Carling, the MP for North West Cambridgeshire an offer had been made for him to meet with the Parish Council. Councillors were eager to take up the invitation.
Clerk to arrange with Sam Carling, MP.
 - 101.2 Other correspondence: following the decision of the parish council not to subscribe to membership, the Good Neighbours Rural Scheme wished to know whether the decision would be different if funding was secured to substantially subsidise or provide free membership. Councillors requested more information on how many referrals have been received for Peakirk residents and over what period. Cost was the main issue along with doubt concerning the need for the scheme in Peakirk. If membership was free the council would join.
Clerk to respond accordingly.
102. Planning matters:
 - 102.1 Members noted planning application 25/01500/CTR for tree works (crown reduction of yew tree and removal of branches from 3 silver birch trees interfering with telephone lines) at The Grange, 18 St Pega's Road and the response of "No objections" from the parish council.
 - 102.2 Members noted planning application 25/01474/LBC for replacement of existing windows and doors at Butterfly Barn, 8A St Pegas Road and the response of "No objections" from the parish council.
 - 102.3 A report was received from Cllrs Clark and Weaver regarding their attendance at the Planning appeal ref: APP/J0540/W/25/3370685 for Land South of Peakirk Road (24/00483/OUT) by Gladman Development. It was the largest turnout ever in Peterborough for a Planning Appeal. The Planning Inspector was unaware that part of the development was in Peakirk Parish nor had he been made aware of the Councillors speaking. The statements had not been submitted properly but were allowed, following discussion, due to poor advice given by the City Council. The City Council representatives at the hearing were poorly prepared and did not seem to want to be there. Good presentations were made by Glinton Parish Council and other individuals. Gladman Development would not comment on the noise and air pollution data submitted by Cllr Weaver and the expert on the second day of the hearing presented figures based on an incorrect calculation. Overload or lack of doctors or schools was not regarded as a material consideration.

Members remained suspicious that the initial development application took 1 year to refuse and then appeared in the Local Plan. Extreme disappointment with the City Council was expressed.

- 102.4 The Clerk confirmed the attendance of Phil Moore, Head of Planning Services at the January meeting. It was agreed that a list of questions should be sent to Mr Moore prior to the meeting. Topics suggested included CIL, Council Tax, enforcement, process and policy and training. It was agreed that up to 30 minutes would be allowed at the start of the meeting, to include Q&A.

Questions to be sent to Cllr Crowson for collation and circulation. Clerk to submit.

- 102.5 To consider any other planning matters.

103. Commemorative bench – further to Minute 97 **Cllrs Clark and Crowson to select other benches to be considered and shared with the resident.**

104. Carbon Literacy Training: Cllr Jackson referred to training that was still showing on the City Council website as being available to parish councils free of charge, involving 8 hours of learning broken down into manageable slots either on-line or in person and which can be undertaken individually or as a group. Members expressed a preference of in-person training.
Cllr Tuley to check availability of training and cost, if any.

105. Finance:

- 105.1 Approval given to payment of Home Working Allowance and salary payment to Mrs A Hankins for December.
- 105.2 Members authorised payment to HMRC for PAYE and Employers NI for the period Oct-Dec.
- 105.3 Authorisation given to payment of invoice in the sum of £95 to the Village Tribune Ltd for editorial contributions to 6 issues during 2026.
- 105.4 Members approved payment of expenses to Cllr Clark in the sum of £26.98 relating to the Planning Appeal.
- 105.5 An amended budget for 2026/27 reducing the amount allocated for expenditure on projects but incorporating an amount for grant income was circulated and agreed. The amount agreed for the total precept to be charged was £15,413.
- 105.6 There were no other financial matters.

106. Allotments – flints and pebbles were to be considered for plot numbering but no flints were available in Cllr Smith's absence. Cllr Tuley advised that pebbles of the required size would cost approximately £8 each. Cllr Weaver offered treated, but unused, 10cm round fence posts that could be cut to size with Cllr Tuley offering to paint the numbers.

Cllrs Clark, Jackson and Tuley to meet on site to consider size required, location and appearance.

A photo to be provided to the clerk for circulation to allotment tenants advising of the parish council's intentions.

107. Maintenance:

- 107.1 In Cllr Sisodia's absence there was no feasibility report on a robot mower.
- 107.2 Grass-cutting 2026/27– to note any quotes received: the clerk advised that Mr Harding had offered to continue with the grass-cutting contract and an alternative contractor quote was still awaited.
Members confirmed that they were happy to continue with Mr Harding for the 2026/7 season.
- 107.3 Other items of maintenance: Cllr Jackson offered to trim the access into the Village Green adjacent to the bus shelter which members gratefully accepted. Cllr Weaver confirmed that he will attempt to get the dirt off the village gateways on Thorney Road. Cllr Clark advised that the last missing bollard had been replaced.

108. Speed Watch – Cllr Crowson reported that no activity had taken place since the last meeting and that no new volunteers had as yet come forward.

109. There were no councillor's reports.

110. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 19th January 2026.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:55pm.

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