

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF PEAKIRK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 20TH JULY 2026, IN THE VILLAGE HALL, STARTING AT 7:30PM

Present: Councillors Henry Clark (Chair), Emma Crowson, Sally Jackson, Anne Tuley and Tony Weaver.
Also in attendance: Angela Hankins (Clerk)

39. Public Question Time: there were no members of the public present.
40. No apologies received, all councillors being in attendance.
41. No declarations of interest were recorded.
42. The minutes of the meeting of 15th June 2026 were approved and signed as a true record..
43. Correspondence:
 - 43.1 A date of 6th November was noted as agreed for the Older Driver's Workshop to be delivered by Pc Boddington in the Village Hall.
 - 43.2 Clerks and Council's Direct July Edition taken by EC to forward to Cllrs Weaver and Tuley.
 - 43.3 Other correspondence: the clerk advised that the City Council had felled a tree leaning across the permissive footpath opposite Fox Covert Road and that Anglian Water had replaced the cover to the inspection chamber on the permissive footpath adjacent to the Old Rectory.
44. Planning matters:
 - 44.1 Members considered planning application 26/002521/HHFUL for proposed alterations at 7 Firdale Close to demolish garage and rebuild with covered entrance porch with hall and storage and build two storey extension at the rear and agree comments to be submitted.
Clerk to respond "No comments".
 - 44.2 Cllr Weaver provided an update on planning enforcement and referral to the planning ombudsman in relation to alleged unauthorised development at Follybridge Kennels with no remedial action. The case assessment by the ombudsman is due to start by 6th August.
 - 44.3 Additional planning matters- Cllr Weaver confirmed that a detailed response had been received from the City Council 's Planning Information Officer advising that there was still outstanding configuration work required on the new planning portal. The main issues are in relation to the search functions and there is no current time-line for the necessary adjustments to be completed.
45. Finance:
 - 45.1 Approval given for payment of salary and Home Working allowance to the clerk for July and August 2026.
 - 45.2 Members authorised payment of invoice from PCVS for salary service April-June in the sum of £36.
 - 45.3 Authorisation given for payment of invoices from Mr R Harding for grass-cutting in line with the contractual terms.
 - 45.4 Authorisation given for reimbursement to Cllr Crowson in the sum of £50.17 for preservative for the wooden benches.
 - 45.5 Members considered the subscription cost for membership of PCVS and decided against at present. Further consideration to be given to including in the budget for 2027/28.
 - 45.6 The budget review to 30th June, circulated prior to the meeting, was noted.

- 45.7 There were no other financial matters.
46. Maintenance:
- 46.1 Cllr Crowson presented the updated asset inspection log and actions agreed.
***Cllr Clark to inspect the St Pega Village Sign for flaking paint and any action required.
Cllr Clark to continue responsibility for the monument, written records to be kept of inspections and included with the Asset Inspection Log, and check re-pointing required.***
- 46.2 ***Cllrs Crowson and Tuley to give wooden benches further coats of preservative.***
- 46.3 Members confirmed that a Village Walkabout should be arranged, with Lee Moore, the Highway Inspector invited. Councillors Crowson, Jackson, Tuley and Weaver wished to be involved.
Clerk to arrange a date.
- 46.4 Folly Bridge repainting – a risk assessment had been completed by Cllr Clark identifying hazards including traffic, paint, grazes and water contamination. Slips, trips, falls and tetanus identified as areas to be included. A method statement covered pre-works, preparation, painting and clean-down.
- 46.5 Cllr Weaver was appointed as the lead councillor to co-ordinate and oversee the painting of the Folly Bridge. Saturday 22nd August was agreed as the date for the re-painting, with a 10.00am start, with Sunday 23rd August if a second day is required - both dates, weather permitting.
Brambles to be cut back beforehand by Cllr Weaver.
- 46.6 Cllr Clark agreed to carry out some grass trimming around the trees at the Millennium Copse.
- 46.7 Other items of maintenance: the clerk reported that she had requested gravel re-filling for the steps giving access to the South Drain from the City Council.
47. Allotments:
- 47.1 Plot numbering – Cllr Clark has the numbers. Installation of posts to wait until the ground is softer.
- 47.2 Community Orchard – Cllr Clark agreed to cut the grass in the Orchard Plot.
- 47.3 Cllr Clark advised that the owner of the allotment site is happy to agree an extension of the lease.
***Clerk to provide Cllr Clark with a copy of the current lease and check advice available from the National Allotment Society.
Cllr Clark to raise tentative query regarding the possibility of an extension of land for additional plots with the land owner.***
48. Digital and Data Compliance – item to be held over to September.
49. Review of policies – item to be held over to September.
50. Speeding / Road Safety : Cllr Crowson reported that a recent speed Watch session had been undertaken on Thorney Road from 16:15-17:15. 152 vehicles were counted of which 5 were exceeding the speed limit.
Further sessions are planned – one in August (undisclosed) and one in September (St Pega's Road).
51. Village Action Plan: Ten people had attended the first meeting. Minutes of the meeting were taken by Cllr Crowson.

To be circulated to those attending by the Clerk.

52. Councillor's reports:

Carbon Literacy Course – date arranged by Cllr Tuley of 12th August, 9-5 at Fletton Quays.

National Emergency Briefing Film - Cllr Clark to view the film on 21st July. Date arranged for showing the film for residents and neighbouring villagers in the Village Hall on Friday 25th September at 7:30pm

Cllrs Crowson and Tuley to organise refreshments.

John Clare Countryside Event - 24th August at Sacrewell Farm, for an informed catchup of what is going on across John Clare country.

Cllr Clark to attend. Cllr Clark requested to raise the possibility of reinstatement of the information board adjacent to the bridge over the South Drain on North Fen road which has a John Clare connection at the meeting.

53. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 21st September.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:08pm.