

PEASEMORE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

23rd May 2018

PEASEMORE PAVILION

8pm

MINUTES

(draft)

Present: AC, AF, GP, RW, Adrian Cubitt, Andrew Palmer, Davina Palmer, Jenny Maskell, Clive Hooker

1. Apologies for absence – LP and Deborah Brady
2. Declaration of interests - None
3. Minutes of last meeting - Approved
4. Matters arising - None
5. Chairman's report – Appendix 1
6. Ward Councillor's report – Appendix 2
 - AC to email PC Minutes to CH
 - People to contact re drains = "Highways"
7. Parochial Church Council Report – no written report
 - Annual stipend = £9,000
 - Some events planned
 - Quotes obtained to move font and install loo
 - Mike Head has resigned as church warden
 - Gratitude to 'Friends' and graveyard gardeners
8. Neighbourhood Watch report – no written report
 - Farm building break ins at Chapel Farm and Woolley Park
 - All such incidents must be reported – police require data
9. Cricket club report – no written report
 - Club survives
 - New fixture organisation process helps
 - Unlikely to be able to make full contribution of £600 to mowing
10. Peasemore Committee report – Appendix 3
11. Speed Awareness Group report – no report
12. Annual Accounts 2017/18 – Appendices 4 and 5

13. A.O.B. – Susan Clarke email to be circulated more widely

Peasemore Parish Council
Annual Parish Meeting
Wednesday 23rd May 2018

Chairman's Report

1. The Parish Council has met five times since the last Annual Parish Meeting this time last year. There have been no changes of personnel on the Council itself although we should like to record our great gratitude to Lydia Hiscock and David Pinckney who, without being parish councillors, handle the bookings for the pavilion and the village hall respectively. We should like to record our gratitude also to Jenny Maskell, Dave Mullender and Deborah Brady for their regular input into Parish Council meetings re Neighbourhood Watch and the Peasemore Committee respectively and to Dave Mullender again for posting appropriate material on to the Peasemore website.
2. For my part I should also like to thank all my fellow Parish Councillors for their hard work over the year, but particularly Adrian Foster, who continues valiantly to hold the ever-arduous Treasurer's brief.
3. Planning: there have been a number of planning applications but none which have merited any more than a line or two of comment, if any, by the Parish Council.
4. Village Hall: bookings and revenue have remained strong with regular slots for yoga, pilates, circuits and whist. Pilates is, rather remarkably, available every day of the week except Mondays (when yoga is available). So the village should, if nothing else, be very supple! There is also, for the moment at any rate, free gigaclear wifi available in the hall.
5. Village Pavilion and Sports' Ground: Happily, Mark Twain-like, the reports of the death of the Peasemore Village Cricket Club turned out to be exaggerated and the club has four 'Home' and three 'Away' matches this season. So the area will remain used in that way throughout the summer. The Pavilion only hire was down a bit this year but remains a used and useful space over and above the cricket.

6. The Peasemore Committee continues to raise money for the new play equipment which is to be erected at the north end of the Sports' Ground. At the same time the swings, which had, according to the Inspection Report, become potentially hazardous have been removed. The Peasefest, which is part of that fund-raising, takes place on the weekend of 9th June and the Parish Council wishes that project very well.
7. The hiring conditions for both facilities have been tightened during the course of the year.
8. The upkeep of the churchyard was a matter of debate at the last Annual Parish Meeting, and I am sure will be so again in the future, but at the moment, via an informal and friendly coalition of folk, the southern end of the village is managing to support Mike Head's sterling work in this regard.
9. The village pond has long been a source of debate. The Parish Council has been working on a solution and has now appointed a contractor, who has been approved by the West Berkshire Council Environmental Department, to do the necessary work, which involves the removal of a lot of weed. This cannot sadly happen until November, however, as we need to await the hibernation of the Greater Crested Newt.
10. The last Parish Council meeting (in April) was attended by Garry Poulsen who gave a very informative presentation about a number of volunteering schemes, which touched on social isolation, flexiteering, shop mobility and village agents. Garry left a number of leaflets giving information, which have been made available at various locations in the village (the hall, the pub, the church etc).
11. I will let the Treasurer deal with the finances but suffice it to say we were again able to keep the precept at the previous year's rate and we will be able to carry out the necessary repairs to the buildings and spaces for which we are responsible.

Alexander Cameron
Chairman

21.v.18

App. 2

Address to Peasemore Parish Council Assembly – May 2018 – Clive Hooker

Thank you for inviting me to address your Parish Assembly to report on the activities and achievements of West Berkshire Council. If there are any questions you have, I will do my best to answer them. I am happy to take any comments and observations you have.

Highlights.

The government continues to concentrate on reducing the country's debt. In order to help achieve this, Councils, the Fire Service and Police have had funding reductions. Whilst there is no doubt that there was quite a lot of room for economies, there is really little or no scope for further economies without impacting the services received.

So finance has again been a severe problem with the further reduction by the Government of the Revenue Support Grant to near zero and the cap on any increase in the Council Tax. Social services and in particular the needs of an increasing elderly population are straining resources.

Educational achievements are improving.

There have been extensions to schools and new schools planned to cope with the rising number of children.

The local plan is being rolled forward together with a transport plan to take them up to 2036.

The roads are in good shape although the recent snow and ice has caused some damage

Finance.

In line with government policy the reduction in the Revenue Support Grant continued with a reduction from £34M in 2013/14 to £3.7M this year. Next year, 2018/19, it will effectively be zero. With the increasing pressure on social services caused by the increase in longevity of the population, the health services keeping us alive and the population increase, pressure on expenditure has increased. There has also been pressure from inflation and pay increases. However, new housing has increased the revenue from the Council Tax. Thus the reductions in expenditure and seeking new sources of income have continued. The changes have included staff reductions, reductions in grants to local charities and good causes, finding cheaper ways of providing services, sharing services with other councils (for example trading standards) and investing in property. The reduction in staff has led to some non-essential services being severely stretched – for example planning enforcement. A council can borrow money very cheaply, so in common with many other councils, West Berkshire is borrowing to buy commercial properties as a way of generating income. This should yield about £500K per year.

To balance the books the Council raised the Council Tax in 2017 – 18 by 4.99%. 3% of this was dedicated to social services. This year, 2018 - 19 it raised it by 5.99% again with 3% for social services. From time to time the government has come up with grants for special purposes, recently one for road maintenance.

The Council has joined a government scheme for the retention of the business rate. This in reality is the forthcoming increase in the business rate. 70% of this will go to the Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership to fund large infrastructure projects across the county and 30% will come to the Council and this is estimated to be £1.6M. This is most welcome and led to the increase of the grant to the Citizens Advice Bureau from £40K to £80K and that together with a grant from the Greenham Trust

of £80k has preserved this vital service. CAB will therefore now receive a total of £160,000, which is a considerable increase from the £40,000 available following the budget review.

Communities

With the restrictions on funding the Council is concentrating on helping communities to help themselves by devolution. Much of this work has been with parish and town councils.

An example of this is the transfer of the Hungerford library building to the town council, where in addition to providing a library, it is used by the local community led by the Friends of Hungerford Library. In Thatcham the play areas are being transferred to the town council.

Incidentally all the libraries apart from Wash Common are open. In many cases the local communities have put in a lot of voluntary effort and grants from parish councils. A group has been set up to try and reopen the Wash Common Library which shows some sign of success.

The numbers of volunteers at libraries, Shaw House, Newbury Town Museum, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Program and other areas has risen from about 200 to over 500. As a by-product, many people get a lot of enjoyment and fulfilment from volunteering.

The Civil Contingencies Team now have a Vulnerable People Plan to help identify vulnerable people if there is a major incident.

Locally the 'kitchen garden' at Shaw House is being developed to allow and encourage local residents to enjoy healthy eating.

Social services

The Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults has been simplified with a single telephone number for help. There was an encouraging Ofsted inspection that there had been a lot of progress in working with partner organisations to improve the safeguarding of children. The priority is to ensure a quick and appropriate response.

A previous Care Quality Commission inspection had found the Willows Edge adult social care home as 'inadequate' a recent inspection now shows it to be 'good'.

There has been a problem with recruiting and retaining social workers with 50% vacancies. This caused a lot of expense in employing agency staff. This has now improved to a 10% vacancy rate.

Education

The Council's priority is to improve educational attainment.

Currently, the schools judged by Ofsted to be at least 'good' has risen to 95%. The remaining four schools are improving. Some of the schools are Academies and therefore not under the Council's control. Further capacity has been and will be needed to meet the growing population.

There has been a good improvement in attainment of learning of disadvantaged pupils and this is an area of priority for the Council.

£4.8M has been spent on school improvements. At Fir Tree Primary School additional places for Autistic children have been provided. At Speenhamland School there are 60 new places for

reception children. A new primary school will be built at Highwood Copse and next year there is hope that the Theale primary school will be replaced. Also a new school is expected as part of the North Newbury development.

Roads

About £6M has been spent on the District's roads with a further £6M next year. About 100 roads were resurfaced. The roads are in good condition although the recent snow caused quite a lot of damage that is taking time to repair.

A new road from the A339 into the London Road Estate had been built in preparation for the Estate's redevelopment. Next year a link should be provided from the A339 into the expected Sandleford development. These were financed from the Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership.

17 more flood alleviation schemes have been completed with the remaining work being of a more minor nature.

95% of Berkshire now enjoys super-fast broadband with 99% still being the target.

Waste Collection

WBC will charge an annual subscription of around £50 per household for the collection of garden waste from July 2018. This works out at less than £2 per collection.

Residents will be able to opt in to the subscription service. Subscribers will continue to use the green bin and will receive a bin sticker to show that the service has been paid for. The green bin can be put out with recycling every fortnight.

Subscribers will still be able to put food in the green bin for recycling.

Non-subscribers will stop receiving a garden waste collection, however, if desired, WBC will still collect food for recycling and will provide a kerbside food caddy on request. Caddies can be put out with recycling every fortnight.

The existing extra chargeable green waste collection service will stop. Residents will be able to request additional bins as part of this subscription service and additional charges will apply.

There will be no service concessions.

It is estimate this proposal will create an income of up to £600,000 this year and £900,000 every year thereafter. This additional income will assist in paying for the rubbish and recycling collection service.

Planning

The Council believes in being a plan led according to the Council's Development Plan Document. To this end, the plan takes us up to 2026 and defines where development should take place and what polices are required to control that development. Several developers have tried to claim in appeals with Her Majesty's Inspectors that we do not have a 5 year land supply for housing but, in all but one case, the Council has won the appeal. There is a rule that 30% of dwellings on a brown field site and 40% on a greenfield site should be affordable. Regretfully government decided that if developers could claim that proving the affordable housing would make a development unviable they could omit it. There is now an industry exploiting this loop hole and therefore the provision of affordable housing is disappointing. The expected delivery was 1000 units by 2020 that now looks more like 685. As an aside, government edicts are littered with "unintended consequences" with

viability being one, and the conversion of offices to housing without the need for permission another.

Disappointingly the Sandleford development still does not have planning permission following two refused planning applications due to disagreements between the two developers and the Council insisting that it should be done according to the local plan. A third planning application has recently been submitted, which will be considered by Officers shortly. Should the disagreement continue after the third application has been submitted, the Council will seriously consider a compulsory purchase of the site.

It was a pleasure to see a start being made on the Stirling Cables site. It is heavily contaminated and it will take some time to clear this prior to development.

Plans for the redevelopment of the site between Market Street and the railway station are in place and the first visible sign of this will be the move of the bus station to the Wharf later this year.

There is now a proposal for a very large development at Grazley on the West Berkshire Wokingham border. This straddles the two districts. If this goes ahead, it will take a lot of the development pressure in the future.

All the Berkshire councils are rolling forward their local plans and transport plans to 2036. The policies have just completed consultation. There has been a call for sites that has ended and the results are being analysed and will go out to consultation in a few months, after which a decision will be taken as to where development will take place. It is understood that the Christmas Tree Field and land north of Vodafone are being put forward.

During the past year my Council responsibilities have included:-

Chairman for the Western Area Planning Committee
Deputy Portfolio Holder for Planning
Member of the District Planning Committee
Member of the Planning Advisory Group
Member of the Development Industry Forum

Outside duties include:-

Saunders Wynn and Coventry Trust at Chaddleworth

I have attended most of the West Ilsley, East Ilsley, Beedon, Brightwalton, Chaddleworth, Leckhampstead Parish Council meetings and the Farnborough Parish assemblies.

Clive Hooker
District Councillor for Downlands Ward
May 2018

App. 3

Peasemore committee report for the Parish Council AGM

23rd May 2018

The committee has been very active over the last 12 months, organising a number of events to raise funds towards the replacement children's play equipment. Since May 2017 we have hosted the following:

Sunday 11th June - We hosted a very well attended Fete, accompanied this year by a very popular dog show lead by Nicola Walters and of course the PUG's providing Ukulele singalongs for us.

The 27th October brought another Children's event – this time a Halloween party in the village hall organised by Pauline Beattie and appreciated by those who attended.

On the 28th October after much work sifting through hours of film footage by Adrian Cubitt, Tim Bean and Pete Waters we hosted a blast from the past evening compered by Tim and Pete. We dedicated this specific event to two sadly departed villagers who made a significant contribution to Peasemore during their lives– Stan Lewington and Geoff Jacobs. Throughout the evening we were reminded of the many events that we had put on in the village as well as some key milestones for example the raising of the refurbished church bells.

On the 17th November we hosted our first Artisan market, led by Louise Weston, with a strong team supporting her. This was incredibly well attended and raised significantly more money than we anticipated, a great success.

We hosted the Friends of Peasemore Christmas party on the 16th December where villagers were treated to a great meal and provided the opportunity to chat and catch up with their neighbours.

On the 24th February, we hosted another sell out gourmet curry evening, prepared by the Peasemore Curry Club chef's which as ever received very positive feedback.

This was followed a month later by "an evening at the races" another popular and profitable event for the village, hosted by Dave Mullender and Sarah Cornish

Latterly our efforts have been put towards organising Peasefest, which is taking the Peasemore festival up to a much higher level. We have sold over 200 tickets already and are hoping to have approx 300 people at the Saturday event followed by a smaller number on the Sunday. Credit must be given to Dave Mullender for the effort he has put in so far leading the Peasefest project team.

We have pledged £5000 to date for a matched funding grant which has been matched by West Berks council, which the Parish council are already aware of. We hope to have significantly more money available after the festival to allow us to apply for more matched funding from grants.

Deborah Brady

Peasemore Parish Council
Receipts and Payments Account
for the year to 31 March 2018

App. 4

	2017-18	2016-17
	£	£
Income		
Precept	3200	3200
Council Tax Support Grant		25
Donations (Peasemore Committee - Hall extractor fan)		400
(Peasemore viallge - defibrilator pads)		30
Saltbin insurance claim	260	
Insurance premium refund	66	
Hall Hire	4156	4124
Pavilion Hire	355	417
PVCC charges		600
Interest	4	1
Wayleave payments	53	1038
VAT recovered		3174
Total Income	8,094	13,009
Expenditure		
Rates - Hall	466	484
- Pavilion	0	0
Water rates - Hall	210	87
- Pavilion	45	31
Audit	120	0
Clerk	0	0
Cleaning	1027	410
Grass cutting	2246	2160
Insurance	737	754
Electricity - Hall	1145	1559
- Pavilion	105	97
General Parish Expenses	154	361
Subscriptions	82	75
Fire precautions (Village Hall/ Pavilion)		263
Hall repairs and maintenance	530	724
Pavilion repairs and maintenance		306
Parish running costs	6,867	7,311
Other expenditure		
Village hall extractor fan		480
Total other expenditure	0	480
Total expenditure for the year	6,867	7,791
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	1,227	5,218

App-5

Peasemore Parish Council
Statement of Funds
as at 31 March 2018

Funds	2018 £	2017 £
Funds at 1 April 2017	10,745	5,527
Surplus / (Deficit) for year	<u>1,227</u>	<u>5,218</u>
Funds at 31 March 2018	<u><u>11,972</u></u>	<u><u>10,745</u></u>

Represented by:-

Barclays Bank	11,489	10,088
Petty cash	<u>483</u>	<u>657</u>
	<u><u>11,972</u></u>	<u><u>10,745</u></u>

NOTES

Section 137 expenditure

- 1 The limit for spending under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 for this council in the year of account was £.... and the payments were:-

Payee	Nature of Payment	£
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- 2 At 31 March 2018 the Council had no loans or debts outstanding, no leases or tenancies were in operation, there was no expenditure on agency work or advertising and publicity and made no superannuation contributions.

3 Assets

Movements in the year:

a) During the year no assets were purchased;

b) During the year no assets were disposed of.

c) At 31 March 2018 the following assets were held;

Church Hall (insurance replacement value 2012)	127,257.08
Village Pavilion (insurance replacement value 2012)	35,222.94
Sports Field and other land owned adjoining Meads Close (nominal value)	1.00
Playground Equipment (historic cost, 2001, 2005 & 2008)	9,587.40
4 Noticeboards (historic cost 2005)	2,404.94
Cricket Nets (historic cost 2007)	5,279.00
Grit bins (historic cost 2010)	364.86
Scoreboard (historic cost 2011)	720.90
Dog Waste Bin (historic cost 2011)	393.71
Sports Field benches (historic cost 2014)	1,396.08
Cricket Nets Replacement Netting (historic cost 2015)	568.92
Hall microwave (historic cost 2015)	282.00