

Peasemore Parish Council

Peasemore Annual Parish Meeting

Held on Wednesday 19th May 2021 7pm in the Village Hall & Online

Present:

Cllr. R. West (Acting Chair)

Cllr. S. Homewood

Cllr. L. Prest (on Zoom)

Cllr. A Foster

Cllr. D. Brady

S Youldon – Clerk

Cllr. C. Hooker (Downlands Ward)

12 Parishioners (4 on Zoom)

	Action
Matters Arising	
<p>Chairman's Report: R West welcomed everyone to the Parish Meeting and gave the following summary of the last year:</p> <p>A busy year, 5 Teams/Zoom meetings, good to get back to real as opposed to virtual meetings. After 15 years combining role of Chairman & Clerk Alex Cameron quite understandably decided he'd had enough. And another stalwart, Gill Palmer, retired after 20 years' service. We are very grateful for their contribution over such a long period.</p> <p>We are delighted that Deborah Brady and Suzanne Homewood volunteered to take their places. Advertised for volunteer within the village to take over as clerk. As no one came forward appointed Sarah Youldon from Brightwalton Holt as professional clerk for estimated 3 hours per week. PCC is now benefitting from her experience and expertise gained from being Clerk to Brightwalton, Boxford and Leckhampstead. Making good progress in ensuring that PPC is compliant with the ever-increasing regulations governing PC process and accounting. Also pro-active in following up and completing actions arising from meetings and general village activity.</p> <p>The clerk has also been busy establishing the extent of Parish land ownerships around the D and making progress with SSE over the easement across the cricket pitch and the (former) cherry tress at Palmer Close. Financial: lockdown significant reduction in income. Down to £5,823 against expenditure of £7,419 But Adrian sourced Covid Business support grant through West Berkshire Council, at the end of the year the PC received a total of £10,808 for the closure of the village hall, which will replenish savings used through the pandemic and provide for future capital projects, eg village hall.</p> <p>2021/22 expenditure forecast to rise by around £2,000 to £9,442. After 10 years with just one minimal increase precept increase from £3,500 to £5,500. Still well below neighbouring villages at £7,100 and £8,000. Results in increase of £13 for band D property.</p> <p>Thanks to resident H&S guru Adrian Foster for his expert navigation of the Covid rules for the playground, village hall and pavilion. We now look forward to the return to normality and are encouraged by the early bookings. Thank you to David Pinckney and Lydia Hiscock that kindly continue to manage the village hall and pavilion books.</p> <p>Grass cutting at the cricket pitch remains a hot topic. New contract with Scofell agreed (holding 2020 price) Also thanks to various volunteers including notably James and Matthew Chapman, Alex Cameron, Oscar Bean and Guy Prest.</p> <p>Planning: 25 Applications in the parish last 12 months. Although some of these are duplicate applications for the same properties. Most frequently being for new garage blocks.</p> <p>The most contentious case was the April 2020 application for three new dwellings at Mead Bungalow. Following 23 objections, plus one from the PC, this was rejected. A subsequently scaled back application for two dwellings remains undecided.</p> <p>Peasemore Committee Report: D Brady provided the following update:</p> <p>Activities normally undertaken by the Peasemore Committee, those being social and fundraising activities have been restricted for the last year due to the pandemic and associated restrictions. The planned VE day celebrations were cancelled due to the imposed restrictions and other events considered during December were considered too risky to undertake apart from decorating the outside of the village hall. In the meantime the committee members have contributed to the running of the prescription service and</p>	

Peasemore Parish Council

keeping in touch with identified households to offer support. We have also continued to do the flowers outside the village hall and have planted a clematis and climbing rose to grow above the door of the village hall.

We have started to plan again, now that lockdown is easing and our initial plan is contact existing a potential new members of the committee to determine their interest level prior to an AGM which we hope to hold in early June. We have initial thoughts to host a Peasemore picnic on the cricket field in mid July with potentially live music and a bar, which will allow people to get together at a Peasemore event for the first time on over a year, more to follow on this after the AGM. In terms of finances, we have not been able to raise any money directly in the past year but did receive a generous £1,000 towards the village hall refurbishment fund from Lauren and Phil at the Fox. Our bank balance is currently £2920.54 and we have no current liabilities. If anyone is interested in being part of Peasemore committee please get in touch with the Parish Council Clerk Sarah who can pass on your details – peasemorepc@gmail.com or 07811 322994

Neighbourhood Watch Report: J Maskell stated that other than the well-publicised increase in dog thefts there was nothing more local to report at this time. The NHW are currently running a campaign of awareness on dog thefts, poster to be placed on board.

Peasemore Cricket Club: The Parish Council welcomed Ian Seatree in new position as secretary to the Cricket Club. Ian provided the following update from the AGM held on the 19th May

Fixtures:

- Last year we were able to play from July with 8 games played
- This year there are 15 fixtures planned starting in May
- 7 will be at home including 2 Friday night 20 over home fixtures - village support appreciated!
- Full details on the PVCC Facebook page

Protocols

- Continue to be required to follow ECB Covid playing protocols
- Relaxing of the rules allows the use of changing rooms and teas from 17th May
- The small Pavilion make it challenging to meet social distancing rules so for the time just the toilets will be used with a one-way system
- Provision of teas will be reviewed in approx. 1 months' time

Squad

- Some new players have joined this year which makes it easier to field a team although this may change as restrictions further lifted
- New players always welcome

Pitch

- Lot of hard work on the square over the winter and it's in good shape despite the best efforts of the local wildlife
- New mower purchased with much appreciated help of the Fox Pub Virtual Pint initiative which raised £360
- The outfield is much improved with new mower cutting level from the company providing the service. The boundary southern edge growth by the road has been cut back. Many thanks to the Parish Council for their support
- Thanks also to James and Matthew Chapman for repairing and clearing the nets and other outfield areas

Fundraising

- We do need to raise funds to cover all the operating costs
- Villagers can support as non-playing members at £10
- Aim to do fundraising activities when restrictions fully lifted to cover running costs and potentially invest in moveable nets and sight screens if funds allow.

The passing of Ray Smith in May this year was also noted, Ray had been part of the Cricket Club for many years. He had also run the British Legion in the village and generally been very involved in the village over the years. Thoughts were with his family.

Peasemore Parish Council

Open Session:

Parking: Resident raised concerned about not enough parking in the village and vehicles continually being left in the centre of the village rather than on the owners own land. It was noted that the PC had already started conversations with Sovereign in increasing provision for vehicles at Palmer Close, and asked them to look at options for Hatt Close. PC agreed it was an ongoing issue with no easy solution. One thought had been to look at an option for the D, although concerns that this wasn't in keeping with the open space and the protection of the trees were raised. Clerk to add to July agenda. PC welcomed ideas from parishioners.

Noticeboard Refurbishment: Parishioner asked the PC to refurbish the rather tired looking noticeboards in the village. Agreed and added to the July agenda.

Speeding: Parishioner had submitted comment that without pavements and street lighting in the village walking could be hazardous in the village. They requested that a 20mph speed limited be considered or speed bumps. It was agreed that an application to reduce to 20mph would not be successful. But was reported that several villages had previously attended the SID training – which was a mobile device that could be placed to tell drivers their speed. Clerk to check if training would still stand and add to the July agenda for further consideration.

West Berkshire Council – Update from Councillor Clive Hooker

Cllr Hooker thanked the PC for the invitation, the Peasemore meetings often clashed but he hoped to be able to attend more in the future. Cllr Hooker shared details of the two important WBC consultation currently in progress – Rights of Way and the Resource Provision for Secondary Schooling. Both are open to all and details can be found on the WBC website. PC thanked Cllr Hooker for the monthly updates and agreed to look at how best to share these further with parishioners. It was noted that the PC had responded with No Comments on the Settlement Boundary Review, which only included minor changes to the boundaries in the parish. Cllr Hooker referenced the above conversation on speeding, adding that new educational cameras were available which could be purchased for ongoing use by Parish Councils at a cost of around £2,500. He also reported involvement in the current motorbike speed awareness campaign and that the B4494 had now been included in this following his request.

There were no further comments from Parishioners, R West thanked everyone for their input and closed the meeting.

July
Agenda

July
Agenda

July
Agenda

Meeting Closed at 7.59pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday 21st July 2021

Signed: *S Youldon* – Clerk, 20th May 2021