

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF PEAKIRK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 17 JUNE 2024, IN THE VILLAGE HALL, STARTING AT 7.30 PM**

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

24. Public question time – there were no members of the public present.

25. Apologies were received from Angela Hankins (Clerk).

26. Attendance by Cllr Neil Boyce, Ward Councillor. Cllr Boyce stated that he wanted to get to know all the parish councils for whom he is Ward Councillor.

He talked about community grants under the Community Leadership Fund of up to £3,000 that are available for items such as open spaces, playgrounds, community projects, etc.

Cllr Jackson spoke about the project that the PCEG are planning which is to plant a hedge down Mile Drove and he said this could be considered. Cllr Clark asked if we, as a village, are a poor relation but Cllr Boyce stated that many Peterborough City Councillors are rural councillors and understand rural communities.

He stated that he has been given a list of contacts as at present, PCC have stated that member services have to be contacted first but Cllr Boyce is trying to change this system and will distribute the list of contacts.

He spoke about the proposed Gladman development in Peakirk/Glinton and stated that he and Peter Hillier had made their objections. Housing targets for PCC may be met by inner city development without the need for rural development. Peterborough is the second largest growing city in the country but is fairly low on the scale when it comes to economic growth.

27. Cllr Jackson declared an interest in item 30.1.

28. The minutes of the previous meeting dated 20 May 2024 were approved and signed as a true copy.

29. Correspondence. No items of correspondence for discussion.

30. Planning.

30.1 No objections were noted to application 24/00732/CTR.

30.2 No other planning matters were raised.

31. Maintenance;

31.1 On-going grass cutting issues. Cllr Clark has taken photographs of the poor-quality work by the contractor and will send them and a report to the clerk to contact him. Cllr Sisodia stated that this acquaintance does have the necessary insurance and he will obtain a quote from him for grass cutting should we require a change of contractor.

31.2 Asset Maintenance Log. Nothing has been heard from David Fovargue regarding the template so Cllr Crowson will contact him to see if he can send it on. She will then undertake the inspection with the assistance of Cllr Tuley if required.

31.3 Repainting of Folly Bridge. Ben Harris has written to the parish council to see if we have decided on a colour. The councillors present did not really have a preference for colours, and it was decided that the clerk will contact Mr Harris to see what colour he would like to paint the bridge.

31.4 Repair required on the Village Monument. Cllr Clark will buy some lime and will make the repair.

31.5 Other items of maintenance. Cllr Clark has cut the long grass in the community orchard. The Best Kept Village sign post has been repainted.

32. Finance.

32.1 Payment of salary and home working allowance for Mrs A Hankins for June approved.

32.2 Payment of invoice to CPALC in the sum of £45 for Planning Webinar approved.

32.3 Payment of the cost of CAPLC training event for £45 approved – Cllr Jackson stated that she was due to pay this but did not.

32.4 Payment of PAYE to HMRC for the period April – June in the sum of £248.80 approved.

32.5 Invoice for grass cutting considered for May in the sum of £550. It was agreed to withhold payment at present and the clerk is to contact the contractor to express concerns about the quality of the grass cutting and possible reduction in fees. Cllr Clark to provide the evidence as set out in item 31.1.

32.6 All documents to satisfy transparency requirements and audit regulations have been published.

33. Green Projects. Cllr Jackson spoke of the projects that PCEG are currently planning to undertake. The group are considering the planting of a hedge on Mile Drove although this falls in Glinton parish. Mr D Hankins has calculated the approximate cost and the PCEG now need to talk to the landowner and/or the Council if they are responsible for the verges where the hedge will be planted to add to biodiversity. Cllr Boyce said he will talk to Tony Cook at PECT. He also suggested contacting Anglian Water who apparently have working parties to help with such projects. It was stated that PCEG need to create rotas for what needs doing and when, so projects are maintained correctly. The Book Stop is being treated as part of PCEG as a success and the noticeboard is being used to publish information. More engagement is required with the village by the issue of flyers and posts on the village website and recycling options are being considered such as members of the PCEG collecting items for recycling from the village on a regular basis. Cllr Boyce said he is trying to reinstate the bulky waste collection service. On 17 July between 2 -5 pm there is the John Clare Countryside Conference at a venue yet to be decided. It was noted that Peakirk has more carbon emissions than Peterborough City itself, possibly due to older housing and lack of public transport.

34. Road Safety/Speed Watch. A Speedwatch session was planned but had to be cancelled due to rain throughout the day. There is another session at the end of the month and Cllrs Crowson and Tuley will also be liaising with David Fovargue on how to download the speed data. Cllr Clark will take down the old speed sign on Deeping Road and replace it with a new one.

35. Councillors' reports. The D- Day flag was taken by Cllr Jackson to put with the Lest We Forget flag. Cllr Sisodia reported that there have been yet again more fires and burning down Meadow Road at the site where previous issues have arisen. This has been reported to Pollution Control. Cllr Boyce will email himself if the issue is not resolved. Cllr Clark reported on the Combined Authority meeting he attended. He reported that additional rural buses have been funded in order to connect rural communities which is positive. Only 4 parish councils attended the meeting. Cllr Tuley has been cleared to approve payments for Unity Bank in addition to Cllrs Clark and Crowson.

36. The date of the next meeting was noted as Monday 15 July when there will be a review of the Financial Regulations. There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.39pm.

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