

Peaslake Community Council

Meeting held on Monday 4th March 2024 in Peaslake Memorial Hall at 8.00pm
The meeting was chaired by Julie Barham and attended by 30 Peaslakers

Present: Julie Barham (Chair), Rhys Thomas (Minutes), Marc Anstey, Nicola Anstey, Shiona Bacon, Adrian Bell, Carole Brame, John Brame, Marsha Brame, Nick Bray, Sally Bray, Amanda Cobbett, Mark Cobbett, Nigel Downer, Tania Florent, Cyndie Gould, Anne Heyes, Jim Heyes, Ted Horton, Zoe Horton, Sam Mathewson, David Mercer, Tim Metson, Jonathan Monk, Martin Nicholson, Gerry Reffo, Deb Stevens, Martyn Warrell, Mark Weller, Nick Wells

Apologies: Andy Clayton, Jim Collin, Zoe Fowle, Adrienne Golightly, Janette Weller, Alice Williams, Jane Williams.

Welcome: Julie extended a warm welcome to everyone at the meeting and especially to Tania Florent, who is the new Parish Councillor for Peaslake ward. She was also pleased to welcome Rebecca (Becky) Bowden - CEO of the Community Foundation for Surrey (CFS), and Peter Rudkin – Guildford Philanthropy (GP), who would be speaking about the Community Fund.

There were No Matters Arising from the February minutes, and no change to the bank account.

Peaslake Community Fund

Peaslake Village Community Fund was set up in 2009 as a result of a bequest from a long-time Peaslake resident – Jean Brodie. It is managed by the Community Foundation for Surrey (CFS) and over the 15 years it has been in existence it has donated over £10,000 to projects and individuals in Peaslake – from repairs to the Church clock tower to a request for remote controlled blinds for a villager with MS.

Most recently the Fund has been asked for a grant towards the cost of putting in disabled access to the Old School Room, across the road from the Village Hall. In order to raise more money than would usually be available for such a project a proposal was put to the Community Council that the Peaslake Fund should be amalgamated into a similar but larger fund – Guildford Philanthropy (GP). If this were to happen Guildford Borough Council would provide 50% match funding – a figure of around £17,000. Peter spoke about GP's work.

Becky explained that in order to stay in existence Peaslake Fund needs to recruit new panel members, who will be active fundraisers to achieve a total fund of £100,000, which would then be able to award larger grants. Otherwise, it could be taken over by the CFS or merge with GP.

There was a good discussion on the proposal but, even though Peaslake villagers would become trustees of GP, there was concern that the village would gradually lose control of the fund. A vote was taken on the proposal and 26 out of 30 villagers voted for the structure of the fund to remain unchanged.

So the Peaslake Fund will stay as it is. David Mercer, the chair of the Peaslake Fund said that he welcomed volunteers to join the fund to help it achieve its aims. Three villagers came forward at the end of the meeting. He also agreed to organise a time to speak to the Community Council in more detail about the purpose of the Fund and its recent donations.

B4SH update

Progress during February has been constrained by the weather conditions - frost and rain make it very difficult when you are approaching properties underground. Crest Hill is fully mapped and take-up is well above 50%. Fulvens and East View Cottages are in the process of arranging road meetings. Project Peaslake is drawing to a close which makes this the last formal report from B4SH.

Peaslake Players

A reminder about the Young Peaslake Players production of the Wizard of Oz on 24th March.

Peaslake School

Plea for more gardens for Peaslake Open Gardens. This year it is on Sunday 9th June at the top end of the village from Hoe Lane out towards Jesses Lane. As some of previous gardens aren't available this year, the organisers would love to add a few more so if anyone has or knows of friends/neighbours who might be willing to open their garden, please get in touch with Andy Clayton aiclayton@hotmail.com.

Memorial Hall

Jim Collin was unable to be at the meeting but reported that the heating system has been repaired and the temporary floor will be replaced at the end of the week. The replacement of the collapsed foul/surface water both ends of the Hall has been put out for quotations.

Climate Café

Shiona Bacon reported: "We were delighted to welcome 33 people to the Climate cafe on Sunday 3rd March and enjoyed a fascinating talk, given by Katy Newnam from Wastebusters, on the topic of recycling and how to recycle more effectively. Our next Climate Cafe will take place on Sunday 7th April (always the first Sunday of the month) but at the earlier time of 2.15pm for a Community Litter Pick! Everyone is welcome to take part. Meet at the Old School Room at 2.15pm. Tea and cake afterwards at 4.15pm. We look forward to seeing you"

First Aid/Defibrillator Training

Many thanks were given to Adrian Bell for organizing this excellent event. There was a great turnout and it's hoped to organise similar events in the future.

Peaslake Fair

Alice Williams was unable to be at the meeting but is coordinating the organisation, mostly remotely as last year which worked very well. She reports "Our main need is for a volunteer for Sponsorship and Advertising as it will be difficult to fund Fair basics without someone in this role; advice available from those who have done this before. We have new volunteers for the school field, the street stalls, the book stall and I hope Amanda will do the social media. We have some new faces coming on board which is great.

Shere Parish Council Issues

Peaslake Farm Fields

Tim Metson updated residents on the main features of the proposed 25-year lease between Shere Parish Council and Coverwood Farm. More detail is available on the website including the Community Garden and wildlife and biodiversity plans.

Gerry Reffo highlighted two concerns: SPC's impromptu decisions at the February Council Meeting to

(1) institute a 15-year break clause in the 25-year lease and

(2) to retain a 10-metre wide strip of land for an undisclosed purpose.

Neither decision was flagged on the Council agenda; instead the agenda item was an 'update on the Heads of Terms'. A different map (showing retained land) was circulated to councillors before the meeting to the one voted on. In addition there was no consultation with the community even though the break clause broke previous commitments.

Residents unanimously rejected the 15-year break clause and the retention of 10 metres of land. They asked the Parish Councillors present to challenge the procedural irregularities at the next meeting. Gerry said she would consult more widely. She asked residents to attend the Council meeting when the lease is voted upon to put their views direct. Residents requested that the meeting is in Peaslake. The date is to be confirmed.

Flood Prevention: Martin Nicholson and Nick Bray kindly looked at the proposals in RPS Consulting's report on flood mitigation measures in the fields. Both highlighted serious deficiencies. Nick Bray proposed a shallower basin further south. More work is needed.

Speed Limits in Peaslake

In response to a SCC consultation, it was unanimously agreed to endorse 20mph speed limits for Walking Bottom and Peaslake Lane. Parish Councillors will ask for vehicle speed data from the VAS on Pursers Lane and report back. Gerry has requested SCC review increasing the speed limit on Lawbrook Lane from Peaslake House westwards to the junction with the Shere/Ewhurst Road from 20mph to 30mph.

AOB

Facebook

At last month's meeting the suggestion of the Community Council having a Facebook was greeted with enthusiasm as it will help spread the word to the wider community regarding village matters. Amanda Cobbett has very kindly offered to take this on, and after the March meeting sent this report:

- I am happy to set up the page, and any suggestions as to what you might like to call it, please let me know, otherwise it will be called Peaslake Peoples Page, Peaslake Community Page, or Peaslake Village Events.

- The Peaslake page will not be the same as the Facebook page *Shere and Surrounding Villages Community* which allows local businesses to advertise, and generally comment about things that may or may not be good in the villages and surrounding area; it will be there to offer information regarding events or group meets that might interest our village community.

- I can't run this page on my own, so would suggest that an admin from each group such as Peaslake Players, Peaslake Village Hall, Peaslake Community Fund, Peaslake School and Nursery, The Climate Café etc join me, this is not a definitive list. I'm happy to post on behalf of Peaslake Community Council if this would be appropriate? And any other group who would like to be included but aren't tech savvy. The Players and the Village Hall already have FB pages; however I don't think that there is any harm in cross posting events.

- As we discussed in the meeting **04/03/24** perhaps Peaslake Community Fund would like to offer information about fund raising and how those funds are processed, and who can and is benefitting from them. Tim Metson is looking for volunteers to plant a hedge, the Climate Café are looking for volunteers to litter pick, and Adrian Bell has suggested a full day event of first aid; this is the kind of information that needs to be available to the wider community who are unable to come to the PCC meetings and might want to be involved. Social media is an excellent platform to get this information out there.

- Please Contact me if you have any questions or can put yourself forward as an admin for your group at amanda.cobbett@btinternet.com or phone 07960 527499

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 15th April 2024, 8.00pm, in Peaslake Memorial Hall

RT/JB 13.3.24