

PEASLAKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting held on Monday 2nd March 2026 in Peaslake Memorial Hall at 8.00pm

The meeting was chaired by Zoe Fowle and attended by 18 Peaslakers

Welcome & Introduction

Present: Nick Wells, Jim & Anne Heyes, Nick & Sally Bray, Marion & Jeff Jones, Lesley Perry, Andrew Clayton, David Williams, Alan Hilton, Amanda Cobbett, Shiona Bacon, Julie Barham, Julie Knight, Janette Weller (Minutes), Tim Heaney, Adrienne Golightly & Gerry Reffo.

Apologies: Penny Wells, Deb & Kevin Stevens, Ted & Zoe Horton, Tania Florent, Kate Dennie, Martyn Warrell, Sam MacCormack, Drew Nicholson & Jane Williams

Actions from Last Meeting

Dealt with under agenda items.

Treasurer's Report

Jane Williams was unable to attend the meeting but sent a report saying the balance in the CC bank account stands at £391.37. She is still trying to find a bank which will operate the account free of charge.

Peaslake Cemetery Fence

Gerry ran through the 3 options which have been under discussion, the estimated costs and lifespans suggested by local contractors:

1. Estate Rail Fencing - £29,750 – lifespan 50 years
2. All Oak Post and Pale Fencing - £37,350 – lifespan 20-25 years
3. Oak & Softwood Pale Fencing - £29,953 – lifespan 15 years

None of these prices includes clearance of the site, all include VAT.

A show of hands of those present indicated 15 in favour of option 1, 2 for option 2 and none for option 3. (There were 2 abstentions). Previous Peaslake Community Council (PCC) polls and the community consultation had all favoured the option of estate metal fencing. In response, the Rector, Tim Heaney, said that the Parochial Church Council favoured a like-for-like replacement and have obtained a quote of £34,000. This quote is for locally sourced oak which will be treated before installation which should extend its life-span. He agreed to report the PCC preference for metal estate fencing on behalf of Peaslake to the Church Council. He thought observers could attend the Church Council meeting if they were registered with the Church.

Tim Heaney advised that in excess of £30,000 has now been raised towards the Cemetery fence, more than a third of which is grant funding obtained by the Parochial Church Council or donations from outside Peaslake.

The Parochial Church Council is responsible for the maintenance of the Church and cemetery fences, Tim said that the Church would continue to maintain Peaslake cemetery. Residents noted that apart from grass cutting the fencing was not maintained, nor is the perimeter or the paths. One possibility would be for the Church Council to apply for a larger grant from Shere Parish Council to fund other essential maintenance.

Tim was asked about the replacement of the fencing round St Mark's. He was unaware of the PCC suggestion to use the better fencing panels from the cemetery to fill in some of the gaps where fencing has fallen down. Another suggestion was to remove all fencing and cutback overgrown vegetation. Volunteers could help with this. Tim said a new palisade fence was intended but couldn't confirm dates.

Peaslake Fair

A meeting of representatives from all the beneficiaries has been arranged for Monday 9th March. Gerry will report the outcome at the next CC meeting.

Village Organisations

Peaslake School – Andy Clayton thanked all those who had sent objections to the proposal to remove the Year 3 intake at Surrey Hills School. We heard last week that our objections had been unsuccessful and their new

Admissions Policy will be brought into effect from September 2027. Year 3 places at other schools are available for children moving on from Peaslake School but this has reduced the options.

Friends of the Hurtwood – No report available.

Community Garden – Shiona reported a good turnout from the community at the recent tree-planting of the orchard area: 20 fruit trees and some hedging.

Peaslake Players – Young Peaslake Players' production of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* will be in the Village Hall on Sunday 22nd March.

Community Fund – A First Aid course will be held from 10 am on Saturday, 30th March. Places are still available please contact Sam MacCormick samjmcc@yahoo.co.uk to book a place. The Community Fund will subsidise the cost for Peaslake residents, reducing it from £30 to £15. If this course is oversubscribed, another may be run in the Autumn.

Shere Parish Council Matters

The next meeting of Shere Parish Council will take place on 5 March at 7.30pm in Peaslake Village Hall. Notable agenda items include the resurfacing of Pond Lane Car Park and the Shere Car Park charging regime.

Parish Councillor Vacancy: There is a vacancy for a Peaslake Parish Councillor on Shere Parish Council. Residents expressed support for holding an election should more than one candidate come forward.

Pursers Lane Flooding: Nick Bray reported that he had been contacted by one of the Conservative Party candidates in the forthcoming unitary council election regarding the flooding. Gerry Reffo confirmed that, as agreed at the previous meeting, she had written to Jeremy Hunt MP on behalf of the PCC. He responded to advise that Surrey County Council prefers residents to use its formal reporting procedures rather than raise matters via their MP, although he offered to intervene further if necessary.

Subsequently, with support from Bob Hughes, Surrey County Councillor, Surrey Highways attended and drained the flood water. Mr Hughes then confirmed that Surrey Highways continues to categorise Pursers Lane as "medium risk" and has not confirmed its inclusion in the capital projects programme. This reflects the same position Peaslake has faced for the past ten years. Without inclusion in the capital programme, no long-term improvements can be undertaken. **(Update: Mr Hughes advised the Parish Clerk after the PCC meeting that Pursers Lane is now on the Capital Programme. More information to follow.)**

Drainage and Ditch Maintenance: Several residents commended the excellent work undertaken by the Shere Parish Council contractor in clearing the ditch behind Pond Lane Car Park. Gerry reported that Surrey Highways has agreed to jet the drainage system running from Walking Bottom, beneath the Village Hall car park, through to Pond Lane. Shere Parish Council has fitted grates to the gullies in Walking Bottom to prevent leaves and other debris from entering the drainage system. Local residents Sam Matthewson, Kevin Stevens and the Cobbetts have volunteered to monitor and clear the gullies as required.

Christmas Tree Collection: Nick Wells reported that 8–10 Christmas trees continue to await collection by Guildford Borough Council. He reported this several weeks ago, with no response received to date. He will follow this up again during the coming week.

Plaws Hill Barriers: Adrienne Golightly enquired about the barriers at Plaws Hill. Gerry confirmed that the damaged lower barrier was reported to Shere Parish Council several weeks ago. Adrienne asked that the top barrier is strengthened at the same time.

A.O.B.

Christmas Tree Collection & Plaws Hill Barriers – mentioned in SPC matters.

Date of Next Meeting – Monday 13th April 2026 at 8.00pm.

JW 05.03.2026