

## **Peaslake Community Council**

**Meeting held on Monday 3rd June in Peaslake Memorial Hall at 8pm**

**The meeting was chaired by Nigel Downer and attended by 29 Peaslakers**

### **Welcome and introduction**

**Present** : Nigel Downer (Chair), Martyn Warrell (Minutes), Nick Bray, Sally Bray, Amanda Cobbett, Mark Cobbett, Kevin Stevens, Marion Jones, Shiona Bacon, Sarah Small, Rosi Millar, Jim Heyes, Ann Heyes, Colie O'Brien, Beryl Blake, Gillian O'Brien, Louise Collins, David Willams, Lesley Perry, Tania Florent, Adrienne Golightly, Nick Wells, , Pennie Wells, Janette Weller, Emma Heaton, Andrew Clayton, Zoe Fowle, Drew Nicholson, Gerry Reffo

**Apologies** : Jane Williams, Cyndie Gould, Jeff Jones, Julie Barham.

### **Report and Update from Police**

Freya Ingram attended with other officers and police representatives to update and report on advice and recommendations to achieve 'safer neighbourhoods' especially as there had been in the Parish village areas, a general increase in activities such as burglaries and opportunistic cold calling etc. Officer Damon Young confirmed that there had been reports of such incidences in Shere and Gomshall particularly, thefts usually from sheds, outbuildings and garages, including stealing of bicycles and tools etc. Several deterrent measures were advised including, ensuring to secure gates, putting adequate locks on doors and windows, as well as generally making access and external inspection (including to gardens) difficult for opportunist thieves. Exterior notices on buildings to warn that cameras or cctv were present (even if none existed) could also be a useful measure. Other recommendations included registering valuable items such as bicycles and tools etc on an official central register, so, if readily marked as such, would act as a deterrent. Apparently also, selective DNA based glue substances are available (obtainable from online sites) which could be applied to value items, again enabling some traceability in the event of theft.

Evidence of increased cold calling scams etc, including via telephone & online, and via personal callers, has occurred and Freya reiterated that it was important not to reveal any personal information, especially banking details etc, to such persons even if they purport to have official status of some kind.. All police officers carry ready verifiable identification (including a warrant card etc) and should be willing to show this for confirmation of identity. If in any doubt call the police service direct. It was reiterated that officers never asked for bank or financial details. In the event of suspecting suspicious activity this could be reported on the 101 telephone line, or via the Surrey Police Website where there is a drop down menu, or by using the a web chat facility. For urgent issues the 999 number should be contacted. This should also be used to report Rural crime including poaching, and livestock attacks etc. For scams, including that of suspected activity, then Action Fraud should be contacted.

It was acknowledged that in some areas locally, such as in the Surrey Hills, mobile phone signals are very poor or even non existent, presenting difficulty for contact in the event of an incident or accident. It was mentioned that some phones might have a facility enabling emergency use even in a low signal area, and advised that individual phones might be checked to ascertain if they carry this feature.

There has also been incidence of car theft etc particularly that of keyless cars or with remote function. Thieves have managed to use cloning systems to open and activate vehicles via a signal from existing key fobs whilst these are kept indoors and close enough to windows and doors for the signal to be intercepted. It was advised that Key fobs etc should be retained in a safe place indoors where hacking is harder, and utilising adequate protection measures such as a suitable pouch, container or similar in an endeavour to try blocking of possible signals.

The value of Neighbourhood Watch schemes was mentioned and though some specific areas in Peaslake still have these (such as Wonham Way etc), the main Peaslake one covering the village centre, Pond Lane and Ewhurst Road area etc which functioned in the 1990s, now seems to have been disbanded for some years. It was suggested that this be considered for reinstatement again and to be discussed at a future PCC meeting.

Before they departed Freya and her officers were thanked for taking the time for coming to visit and address Peaslake Community Council and for their valued update, advice and recommendations. The Meeting then resumed as the Agenda below.

**Minutes of Last meeting :** No matters arising.

### **Treasurers Report**

Jane Williams wrote to report a current account balance of £261.97.

### **Reports from Local Organisations**

**Peaslake School** - - Andy Clayton reported that Peaslake Open Gardens is being held on Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> June, from 12pm to 4.30pm with the weather looking fine! This year at the northern end of the village, with refreshments, plant sale and live music at at Wayside, Sweet Lane. With thanks to Margaret Jones for hosting and to all those supporting this event for the School, especially to those who are generously opening their gardens and for all their hard work making this event possible.

Parking will be signposted nearby (no parking available on Sweet Lane)

Tickets can be bought in advance online (<https://www.peaslakefreeschool.com/events/peaslake-open-gardens-2024>) or at the village Shop, or on the day at Wayside.

**Climate Café** – Shiona Bacon reported that the Biodiversity Survey organised on 2<sup>nd</sup> June had been a success and well supported with 20 attendees. The next event, an environmental film and discussion will be at 7 pm on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July and all are welcome.

**Proposed Community Garden and Orchard on Peaslake Farm Fields** - Rosi Millar explained that the plan is for Peaslake Community Garden will take a sub lease from Coverwood Farm who are entering into a lease with Shere Parish Council. The area will encompass an orchard and food growing space in a defined and enclosed area that wraps around Peaslake Farm. The area will be deer fenced and planted with native hedging and trees to provide wildlife corridors and screening.

The Community Orchard and Garden will have managed access for residents via a pedestrian gate on Ewhurst Road. There will be vehicle access for land management only from the Farm Fields. Plans and a short presentation was distributed at the meeting.

Rosi has put in much hard work for the project including the documentation and design for the scheme and this is all very much appreciated by the Community.

### **Shere Parish Council Report**

Gerry and Tania confirmed that the next full council meeting will be held **at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June in the Peaslake Village Hall - (Memorial Hall)**. Ahead of this meeting, SPC will publish a note summarising its proposals for the Peaslake Farm fields. Councillors will be available at the meeting to answer questions and listen to views. Anyone interested in the fields is encouraged to come along.

The note will be published on the SPC website and on Social media. Hard copies will also be available in the village shop.

In a nutshell, the plan is to lease the fields to Coverwood Farm for agricultural use, and for Coverwood to licence part of the fields (adjacent to the farmyard) for the establishment of the community garden or

orchard – subject always to the “retained land”. Gerry and Tania handed over to Rosi Millar, who had prepared drawings of what the community garden or orchard might look like. Rosi will be at the full council meeting next week.

## **Any Other Business**

### **Suggested Working Group**

A suggestion was put forward of the possibility of setting up a small local working group to address the problem of large visitor numbers, who frequently congregate and overspill onto the roads in the village centre, especially at week ends, causing a hazard; difficulty for through traffic; and an ever increasing scenario for accident and injury etc to occur. With such a working group hopefully ideas could be considered that might be viable and practical so that relevant problems might be eased. Nick Bray was willing to head this initiative up, and will discuss with others, and progress could be reported at the next PCC meeting.

### **Difficulties caused by Redundant Road Closure Notices left Insitu**

It was mentioned that especially in view of the many road closures for various utility works that are experienced in the local area, there sometimes seems to be a possible negligent attitude towards the use of some signage by some companies involved. On several occasions road closure notices have been left insitu and not removed after the works have been completed, often for a significant period. This can be misleading and cause undue inconvenience. Also there seems at times to be minimal/no coordination when road closures are implemented, affecting several local roads at the same time, making it difficult to achieve a viable route to certain destinations. It was queried whether there might be any overall authority that could be approached for clarification of such matters and reduce such incidences. Possibly a Councillor query?

**Date of next meeting:** Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July