

Peaslake Community Council

Meeting held on Monday 5th June in Peaslake Memorial Hall at 8pm

The meeting was chaired by Nigel Downer and attended by 23 Peaslakers

Welcome and introduction

Present : Nigel Downer (Chair), Martyn Warrell (Minutes), Lesley Perry, Nick Wells, Ted Horton, Zoe Horton, Jim Collin, Jane Williams, Anne Heyes, Jim Heyes, Susan Milne, Kevin Stevens, Deb Stevens, Tania Florent, Sarah Small, Rosi Millar, Keir Schiltz, Shiona Bacon, Gerry Reffo, Andy Clayton, Julie Barham, Alice Williams, Jenny Janse.

Apologies : Adrienne Golightly, Sally and Nick Bray, Julie Knight, Sam McCormick, Janette Weller.

Minutes of Last meeting : No matters arising.

Treasurers Report

Jane Williams reported a current account balance of £261.97 which was after Hall fees and insurance had been paid, although costs related to the website were still awaited. There is a concern that the PCC have no current income from any designated sources and possibly this needs to be addressed. Some discussion took place as to whether a small amount from the Peaslake Fair profit could be designated for this purpose after liaising with the Fair Committee and with the nominated beneficiaries; the consensus at the meeting agreed with this.

B4SH report

Nick Wells reported that all recent activity has been focused on North Peaslake, also known as Wonham Way and Rad Lane. The second cabinet has arrived and is awaiting installation in Wonham Way. Routing is well advanced with residents, and ducting is being laid. The next step will be to begin the connection process. Elsewhere, St Mark's Church, the Old School Room and Friends of the Hurtwood office have been connected to the network.

Village Events

Memorial Hall Centenary Party – Saturday 24th June.

Ted Horton gave details of the planned celebration, based on a Roaring Twenties theme – period dress optional! It will be from 6pm till late – and everyone's invited. There will be music, dancing, drinks, food and fun! Tickets are available via the Hall website www.peaslakevillagehall.com and cost £12 – this includes drinks under a marquee outside the Hall, substantial canapes, a free drink, a quartet and a disco.

Peaslake Open Gardens – Sunday 11th June

Rosi Millar reported that Peaslake Open Gardens would be based at the Memorial Hall this year where tickets could be purchased on the day. In addition to the nine beautiful village gardens that were very kindly opening up for the event, there would be BBQ, refreshments, children's activities, and a plant sale.

Tickets - Tickets would be available one week in advance from Peaslake Village Stores, and on the day at the school and at some participating gardens. Several favourable comments were made regarding the colourful local advertising displays.

Peaslake Fair – Monday 28th August

Alice Williams reported that the Fair is operating well as a community cooperative. The goal remains to raise funds for the three main beneficiaries and funding support for all local groups involved. In 2022 the

total was approximately £10,000 and is a community effort to ensure financial viability for our small local organisations and for the amenities of the Hall, School and Hurtwood. The theme this year is 'Community' to reflect the 100 years of our village Hall and our thriving inclusive village life.

A new community member, Stuart Pearson, has taken on the raising of necessary sponsorship for Fair expenses, and is currently liaising with the Riders Hub who have kindly agreed to sponsor the entertainment at the Fair this year. Further sponsorship and advertising is being sought from other businesses and individuals. Street volunteers were also canvassed for at the Coronation Lunch, and there is now a list of local folk to assist on the day with street marshalling.

There is a need to keep expanding local involvement and increase the contact list of helpers. If anyone is able to spare an hour on the day for street duty or car park duty, please do get in touch with Alice Williams – alice.k.williams@gmail.com or phone 07812 491397

Reports from Local Organisations

Peaslake Memorial Hall - Community Hub

Ted Horton reported on the activity and fund raising with regard to the creation of a Community Hub based at the Hall. This Hub would provide an amenity aimed to be fit for the next 100 years with a versatile space with something for everyone.

The current configuration of the hall has meant that new safeguarding regulations have excluded children from many activities. It also limits the ability to host events where a smaller space is needed, or performances where additional space is required. Planning Permission has been granted for a new flexible space at the rear of the Hall that can be used for a wide range of activities. It will have disabled access, sound proofing, and can be configured as one or two rooms, or up to four separate dressing rooms for safeguarding children. Anyone It would also benefit anyone needing a smaller accessed space for specialised activities.

Funding - The project cost would be £200,000 and it is hoped to access £100,000 of this from local and national grant organisations, and the remainder from the local community including fund raising events. In the meantime pledges have been secured from local sources totalling £35,000. Pledges can also be made to buy bricks on the basis of £50 per brick.

Memorial Hall Report

Jim Collin confirmed that the Hall had now undergone a professional Spring Clean in readiness for its summer and autumn use. He also confirmed that Planning Permission was still awaited for the storage shed at the rear of the building.

St Marks Church

Biodiversity Survey of Peaslake Cemetery held on 4th June 2023

This event was organised by Shiona Bacon and Jenny Janse as part of St Mark's Eco-Church work, which is working hard to reduce its carbon footprint, as well as care for the world around us, and hopes to involve the local community as much as possible. The survey was part of the national "Love your Burial Ground Week" and was the first time St. Mark's has taken part. Burial grounds are often very special sites for recording biodiversity as they are undisturbed, natural sites and are a good indicator of the natural health of an area. 28 adults and 5 children took part, accompanied and greatly helped by Dr. June Chatfield, an expert in most things "natural history".

It was a lovely sunny day and everyone who came thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon, learned far more than they expected and are very keen to do it again.

Incomplete Cemetery Records - Jim Collin said that that it had come to light that some cemetery records were incomplete and that there was a void of unmarked graves. It was felt that an appeal for any relevant

information should go out to local residents who may have descendants buried there in the hope that some details can be added to the records.

Arts Week – St James’ Church Shere, 19th to 25th June

Jenny Janse gave details of the forthcoming event running from Monday 19th to Sunday 25th June, but excluding Saturday 24th June. It is a week celebrating the interaction of words, art, music and faith. All events are free, although voluntary donations are welcome, and entry is on the door; however it may be advisable to book in advance for some of the events. There will be a Festival Café (10am to noon, daily) and an Art Exhibition (10am to 5pm daily). Jenny handed out programmes, but these details can be found online at www.parishofshere.com. Otherwise contact artsweek@parishofshere.com or phone 07874 918960

Shere Parish Council Report – Gerry Reffo’s report is attached

Any Other Business

One resident expressed concern at the increased traffic and frequent tendency for ‘crowding’ around the centre of the village which often spilled onto the road, including the area by the Cycle Shop. This was often compounded by poor and inconsiderate parking of vehicles, and there was concern of possible accident risk as a result. Views were put forward that sometimes persuasive dialogue might help especially in respect of inconsiderate parking, but that was not always the case. The owner of the shop has apparently tried persuasion on some extreme occasions but there is only so much he can do.

A concern was also raised by a resident regarding the Gazebo/marquees erected in the shop garden but as these are temporary structures apparently planning permission is not applicable.

The meeting closed at 10.20pm.

Date of next meeting: Monday 3rd July 2023

MW/JB/June 2023

Shere Parish Council

Peaslake Farm Development

Following requests for significant rent increases and waiving the land fee reported at the last Community Council, Gerry Reffo (Parish Councillor) reported that Shere Parish Council agreed in May to negotiate further with Stonewater/Greenoak Housing Association to build affordable housing, get a good outcome for potential residents and an appropriate fee for the land lease.

Peaslake Farm Fields

At the May meeting, the Parish Council Chair reiterated the Council’s intention to protect the fields from development for the long term. This was very welcome.

The idea of a community led proposal to take on the lease and land management and use the fields for purposes such as allotments, community orchard/garden, protect wildlife and enhance biodiversity had been made. The Council proposed that a more detailed scheme should be put forward for their July meeting.

At the Community Council meeting, several villagers volunteered to take the community scheme forward. It was agreed to quickly seek views from Peaslake residents to make sure that future proposals take account

of their preferences. Tania Florent agreed to assist in coordinating in this in conjunction with Rosi Millar, Keir Schiltz and Sarah Small.

Other options under consideration are:

- Shere Parish Council revisiting Surrey Wildlife Trust on their initial wetland proposal that they withdrew;
- Coverwood Farm taking over the lease for agricultural use which had many advantages.

A couple of villagers made the point that in their view a Peaslake community led venture providing a community legacy would offer stronger long-term protection for the fields than a single leaseholder commercial alternative.

A productive meeting had been held between Shere Parish Council, Surrey County Council and the AONB about developing shallow basins to slow water flowing down to the fields and from there to Ewhurst Road. More detail should be available for the July Council meeting. Given the potential for surface water to increase by up to 40% in coming years, this measure may help future proof Peaslake against flood risk from Ewhurst Road.

At the Community Council Meeting some residents expressed the view that whatever option might be considered for the fields it was important that it should also address and incorporate 'anti flooding' measures, and that the consultation of Peaslake Residents was important.

Childrens Playground Playtower

Gerry Reffo also reported that the existing playtower was no longer deemed safe to use. A proposal for a new playtower approved by local mothers was recommended by the General Purposes Committee to go before the full Council (8th June) for final approval. The new playtower would be made of wood in keeping with the setting and would provide good quality play. It will cost £14,000 to decommission the old playtower and install the new one. Guildford Borough Council are providing a grant of just under £6,000 towards the cost, whilst Shere Parish Council would pay the balance.

Old School Room Handrail

The General Purposes Committee has recommended to the full council that the extension of the handrail and the contractor's quote is approved.

Glorious Gravel Challenge

Gerry also notified the meeting that there will be a cycle event starting and finishing at Coverwood on 17th June, so the roads around Peaslake would be likely to be extra busy. The organisers say that it will be a fun social event and riders have been briefed to follow the Highway Code. The Community Council asked that the organisers ensure that the signs are taken down after the event.