

PEASLAKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting held on Monday 9th January, 2023 in Peaslake Memorial Hall at 8.00pm

The meeting was chaired by Jim Collin and attended by 25 Peaslakers.

Welcome and introduction:

Present: Jim Collin (Chair), Adrienne Golightly (Minutes), Julie Barham, Nick Boisseau, Nick Bray, Sally Bray, Andrew Clayton, Mark Cobbett, Nigel Downer, Caroline Earle, Cyndie Gould, Anne Heyes, Jim Heyes, Ted Horton, Zoe Horton, Jeff Jones, Marion Jones, Julie Knight, Gerry Reffo, Deb Stevens, Kevin Stevens, Michael Urban, Nick Wells, Alice Williams, Jane Williams.

Apologies: Keir Shiltz, Marion Taylor-Cotter, Rhys Thomas, Janette Weller.

Treasurer's Report: Jane Williams reported that the balance in the account was £574.22. A payment associated with the website is outstanding.

Matters Arising from the Meeting on 5th December, 2022

Marion Taylor-Cotter had sent a letter of thanks for the gift presented at the December meeting.

Walking Routes round Peaslake: Five routes are now documented and a further two are planned. An idea being explored is to print copies and have them on sale to raise funds, possibly in aid of Peaslake School. The creation of an historical walk round Peaslake is to be discussed.

B4SH (Broadband for the Surrey Hills): The Christmas and New Year period is traditionally 'down time' for the community-based project. Progress has been focused on installations to properties on the west side of Ewhurst Road and mole ploughing ducting to Coverwood. The short days and adverse weather conditions make it more difficult to make rapid progress as tractors lose traction on wet ground and are unable to operate a mole plough.

Village Events:

Peaslake Players next event on 2nd, 3rd and 4th February is 'Carry on Peaslake'. The performance will be an evening of 'light comedy'.

Royal British Legion Women's Section are holding a Games Evening in the Old School Room on January 14th. The cost is £10 for the evening, including supper. It is hoped that there will be more participants for future events.

Distribution of the Parish Magazine: Ray and Elsbeth Moran are retiring as organisers of the magazine distribution in Peaslake. If anyone would like to take on this role, or just to find out more about it, please contact Elsbeth and Ray (01306 730671). For more details, see also Page 12 in the January Parish Magazine.

Proposed Extension of Village Hall:

Nick Boisseau gave a very comprehensive presentation (attached) of Peaslake Players' proposal to extend the space at the back of the Hall. Planning permission was granted three years ago for an extension to replace the existing changing rooms but since then, new proposals have evolved in conjunction with the Memorial Hall, to enable the extension to be used by the wider community. The estimated cost of this proposal is 200K. Grants are to be applied for and a campaign is to be launched to raise funds.

Parish Council Report by Gerry Reffo:

Peaslake Farm Housing Development: Greenoak Housing Association are merging with Stonewater HS which will give them more access to funding. The housing project has now been further delayed primarily due to higher building costs; Greenoak are applying for Government grants, seeking funding from Stonewater and looking again at the design to reduce costs. It may be necessary to obtain further planning approval if significant design changes are proposed as well as consultation with the village.

Peaslake Farm Fields: A Shere Parish Council meeting is to be held on 10th January in Peaslake to take a decision on leasing the land, considering bids from Surrey Wildlife Trust and Friends of the Hurtwood. However, residents were informed that SWT have withdrawn their original offer and are now interested in a

short-term lease. SPC's subcommittee on Peaslake Farm is recommending to the full Council to award the lease to Friends of the Hurtwood on a majority vote. The alternative proposal was to defer a decision for another year.

Flooding in the centre of Peaslake: A site meeting was held with landowners of the Green in Ewhurst Road to discuss SCC proposals for minimising flooding along the road leading to the village. A plan was agreed and the work should go ahead soon.

Road safety in Village centre: The Community Council idea of a 'shared space' in the village centre moved forwards with a site meeting held with Guildford Borough Council Road Safety Officer. He will provide some costed options for the CC to consider. The area is from the end of the Hall hedge to the War memorial. Concern was expressed about the number of large vans parked and restricting the road width, creating a hazardous situation. Mark Cobbett will speak to the Cycle Shop about alternative parking arrangements. It is hoped that the character of the Village will be considered if changes are to be made to the village centre.

Children's Log Play Area: A letter had been received from Suzanne Rogers, expressing thanks for the fabulous, wooden addition to Peaslake playground. She said the children love it! The sign directing people to the playground has been erected at the bottom of the steps.

Other Matters:

- The outstanding requests for Surrey CC to repaint the hatching on the corner of Pond Lane and Radnor/Ewhurst Road and to repaint the lines on the carriageway on the corner by the School Steps were raised again with Road Safety Officer who promised to investigate.
- Councillors: will request more SPC No Parking signs to run along the hedge opposite the pub car park to avoid accidents/damage to parked vehicles.
- Gardening Society Bench: Gerry apologised to Marion and Jeff Jones for the delay in getting the new bench installed.

Any Other Business

The Queen's Jubilee Tree looks to be in a sorry condition, and the plaque has rusted. It has been decided to leave the tree alone, in the hope that it will recover in the Spring. Gerry said the plaque was purchased from Royal British Legion Industries which felt appropriate for the Jubilee tree, and to support the British Legion.

Silt Trap: Michael Urban asked if Guildford BC were going to take any action to clear the silt trap in the Hall carpark. Gerry said this would be raised at the SPC meeting on 10th January

Village Christmas Tree, and Village lights:

- The tree had to be taken down early, just a few days after Christmas, as it had become unstable in its position outside the Hurtwood Inn. A more secure base will be required in future, or a return to its old position by the steps, left of the pub.
- Co-ordinator needed. For many years now the same people have been arranging the selection, collection and erection of the Christmas tree, and would now like some younger people to join them, most particularly someone to act as Co-ordinator. If you can help or want to find out more, please contact David Colebrook on 01306 730880.
- It was also commented that apart from the tree, there were few other lights/decorations in the village centre – comparisons being made to the excellent displays in Shere and Albury – and ideas and suggestions would be very welcome.

Date for your diary: June 24th – A Celebration of 100 years at the Hall – a fun evening is planned.

The meeting ended at 9.10pm.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 6th February 2023 in Peaslake Memorial Hall, 8.00pm

The Memorial Hall extension

Background

Three years ago Planning Permission was granted for an extension to be built at the back of the Memorial Hall, replacing the existing changing rooms. The plans also included upgrading and extending the ladies toilets. But then COVID intervened and progress on the extension stalled.

Originally seen as replacement changing rooms, which would mainly benefit Peaslake Players, recent discussions between the Memorial Hall and Peaslake Players have led to a radical rethink of the proposal. There is now a plan to create a much more flexible space at the back of the Hall and one that we believe would bring significant benefit to the wider community.

This new space would comprise a large well-heated room (4.5m x 9m) which could be used for a range of community activities, and, by using flexible sound-proofed partitioning, could also provide practice rooms, break-out rooms and also double as four separate changing rooms. This would mean adults and children could be accommodated in the same space and groups such as Peaslake Players and others with shows that involve children could comply with current safeguarding protocols.

How will it benefit the community?

The Peaslake Community Space will benefit the community in various ways. The space will provide an attractive smaller venue for activities that do not need to hire the main hall. Also, given the separate access it will have via the back of the Hall, it could be used while the main hall is in use.

In addition, over the next two years while we are in the fundraising phase, there will be a big push to bring lots of different events and activities to the Hall, both to show funding organisations and potential donors that the Hall is indeed a community hub attracting different kinds of audiences, and to raise funds.

The kind of things we have in mind are local celebrity Author talks, lectures on a broad range of topics, comedy nights, music, more drama groups like Guildford Shakespeare Company.

How much money do we need to raise and how will we be able to do it?

Overall, we will need to raise over £200,000 in order to fund the extension. This is a large sum and will require a huge effort by the community to achieve it. We hope we can raise a substantial amount from Community Grants, but we will also be taking every opportunity to encourage local people to donate, both big and small sums.

Peaslake Players and the Memorial Hall committee will be organising a series of fundraising events throughout 2023/4, which hopefully will both raise money and also entertain the local community with a programme of varied and interesting activities.

A fundraising launch will be held in early February at the forthcoming CARRY ON PEASLAKE review and we will be promoting the fundraising campaign to the local community in the months ahead.