

PEASLAKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting held on Monday 6th October 2025 in Peaslake Memorial Hall at 8.00pm The meeting was chaired by Zoe Fowle and attended by 21 Peaslakers

Welcome & Introduction

Present: Nick Wells, Jim & Anne Heyes, Nick Bray, Marion & Jeff Jones, Zoe Horton, Gerry Reffo, Tania Florent, Amanda Cobbett, Lesley Perry, Martyn Warrell, Andrew Clayton, Sam MacCormack, David Mercer, Drew Nicholson, Penny Tompkins, Arthur Webster, Alison Wilson, Alan Hilton, Nicola Anstey, Jane Walters & Janette Weller

Apologies: Julie Barham, Adrienne Golightly, Jane Williams, Deb Stevens, Keir Schiltz, Rhys Thomas, Sally Bray, Ted Horton, Alice Williams & Julie Knight

Actions from Last Minutes:

Bins in Pond Lane car-park – see Parish Council Report.
Anything else is covered by discussions at this meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Jane Williams was unable to attend the meeting but she sent a report via Zoe. The Community Council bank balance currently stands at £112.62.

Guest Speaker – Penny Tompkins, Chair of Shere Parish Council

Following the unsuccessful campaign to form an independent Parish Council for Peaslake, Penny was invited to the meeting to explain her vision for the future relationship between the village and the Parish Council. She explained that she is from a local family, has been on the Parish Council for 3 years and was elected Chair in May this year. She brings no baggage to the role and is keen to move forward in a spirit of collaboration. The need for the Parish Council to listen to and respect the views of Peaslake residents was stressed by those at the meeting. Funding for local projects is available and Penny would like the villagers to draw up a wish-list of projects of all sizes and potential costs, and submit it to the Parish Council. Everyone is invited to put forward their ideas for the wishlist. Please email pcc@peaslake.org.

When asked about clearing the derelict buildings on Peaslake Farmyard, Penny explained that the Council hoped a future housing developer would cover the cost of clearance. If ERH decided not to proceed with a housing development, SPC would need to explore alternative options.

In response to a question about the potential risk of increased flooding to downstream properties in Peaslake as a result of building on the farmyard, Penny stated that any housing development would not be permitted to increase flood risk. She added that there are engineering solutions available to address such issues, including the loss of permeable land. Penny also noted that she was not persuaded by the advice from Owen Lee (SCC Flood Team), as she did not consider him to be an expert in construction.

Penny also contributed to discussions around some of the items in the Parish Council report below before leaving the meeting. She was thanked for coming and will be invited again at a future date.

Shere Parish Council

1. Peaslake Farmyard

- SPC is still waiting to hear whether the board of English Rural Housing will allocate funds to carry out a new assessment of the site.
- Tania attended a site meeting with Mike Keeble, Tim Metson and Catherine Russell (the new Assistant Clerk) to consider the recommendations for flood mitigation made by the Flood Team at Surrey County Council (SCC) in April 2025. Tim (who is also a surveyor) noted that permission would need to be obtained to dig on the farmyard because of the contamination. It was decided instead that:

- Tim would dig out the ditch which separates the Farmyard from the Field to look like the ditch he dug in the Field.
- Catherine would seek quotes from hydrobrake companies, who could also advise on funding. ○
We would then run the proposals past the Flood Team at SCC to sense check them, and ask them if they had any further advice re funding.

At the PCC meeting, Penny Tomkins recommended contacting SCC sooner rather than later, as the move to a unitary authority was likely to cause some disruption. Tania agreed to write to them now.

2. Pond Lane car park

At the General Purposes Committee it was agreed that:

- Graham Rapley would cut back the hedges and repair the broken fence,
- the two bins would be replaced with a 84l GBC approved bin (to be collected twice weekly for a two month trial period to ensure that collection frequency is appropriate), and
- SPC would obtain quotes for the car park to be resurfaced.

At the PCC meeting, Penny Tomkins explained that SPC has a fund, made up of the parking fine money, which can only be used on car parks, and that there is therefore money available to resurface Pond Lane car park. She invited Peaslakers to indicate what kind of surface we would like in the car park. Tarmac is less environmentally friendly but is more hard wearing and durable. Soft surfaces require more maintenance. But it was entirely up to us to choose.

Update provided later in the meeting:

- Bob Hughes said at the last meeting that the Burchetts Hollow resurfacing had been delayed but that it would go ahead. There is no start date yet.
- In Shere, the overflow car park which is for residents only is being used by the public. SPC will order and put up new signs which will be visible even when the gate is open, but all residents are asked to close the gate please whenever they enter or exit the car park.
- The next SPC Full Council Meeting is taking place in Peaslake Village Hall on Thursday 9 October - please see the agenda here: [Shere Parish Council](#) Please note in particular the following three items:
 - Stiles are being replaced with pedestrian or kissing gates across the Surrey Hills. There is a proposal to replace the stile on footpath 171 in Peaslake
 - There is a proposal to install charge points for vehicles within the parish, e.g. Shere car park and HMS Village hall car park. Although this is not being proposed, at the PCC meeting the consensus was that this was not suitable in Pond Lane car park.
 - Surrey Police Cadets are looking for suitable locations where they can make environmental improvements, making areas more inviting to the community. At the PCC meeting the consensus was that the Skudges would be a perfect location for this.

Peaslake Fair Update

Gross takings were £12,003.25 (£13,556.22 last year). The profit of £6,556 will be distributed as follows - £300 to the Community Council, £625 to the Community Fund (10%) and the remaining 90% split evenly between the three main beneficiaries: Peaslake School, Friends of the Hurtwood and The Memorial Hall will all receive £1,877 each.

Winter Warmer – Saturday 22nd November 2025

Gerry is organising a Christmas-themed event to raise funds towards improving the ladies' toilets in the Village Hall. There will be a few stalls (Bric-a brac, home produce, a few gift stalls) refreshments, homemade cakes and a raffle will be available. Please get in touch with Gerry if you would like to run a stall, contribute home-produce or offer to help in any way. pcc@peaslake.org

Cemetery Fence Update & Mega Quiz – Monday 20th October 2025

As part of the fundraising for the cemetery fence appeal, Richard Sherlock is kindly running a quiz in the Hurtwood Inn. Entry is £10 per person and teams of up to six are invited to book a table. Don't worry if you don't have a team, just come along on the night, spaces will be available. There will also be a raffle. Please contact Kate Denny if you would like to donate a prize. warden-peaslake@parishofshere.com

The appeal has already raised in the region of £20,000 including £3,000 from the Parish Council. David Mercer reminded Gerry that the Community Fund is prepared to donate £2,000, which will be gratefully received. A consultation to decide on the type of fencing is currently under way, please email your views to pcc@peaslake.org or to get further information. Fencing options are set out in the October Parish Magazine and on PCC website (www.peaslake.org). The results of this consultation will be discussed at the November meeting. The fencing around St Mark's was also mentioned. This could be repaired using wood salvaged when the cemetery fence is replaced.

Peaslake School

Andy Clayton advised that the Ofsted inspection in July found the School to be *Good* in all areas with effective Safeguarding procedures. The Governors and staff are delighted with this result.

The AGM of Peaslake Schools Trust will take place at School at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 12th November. Everyone is warmly invited to attend to hear what the School and Nursery have been doing during the year.

Friends of the Hurtwood

The travellers on Shere Heath have moved on. They are eco-travellers, so left no mess. Nothing further to report.

Village Hall

Gerry has taken on the role of Chair with immediate effect. Thanks was expressed to Michael Urban for all his hard work during his tenure.

A.O.B.

Community Orchard – a question was asked about the progress of this project. Various things are in hand and Gerry will speak to Rosi about gates. The Community Orchard committee will be asked to provide an update for the November meeting.

More wooden reinforcing is needed on the banks in the lower part of Walking Bottom as the unprotected parts are now being eroded by bikers.

The AONB signpost in the centre of the village needs some attention.

A tree opposite Copper Beech in Walking Bottom has fallen over. It is entwined in phone wires and is leaning on the telegraph pole. Zoe will ask the Hurtwood Ranger to have a look.

Date of next meeting: 3rd November 2025

JW 08.10.2025