



# Pebmarsh Parish Council



Chairman: Cllr Harry Anderson

Clerk: Mrs P Potter, 20 Gore Lane, Rayne, CM77 6TU: 07790 598363; [pebmarshpc@hotmail.com](mailto:pebmarshpc@hotmail.com)

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly 23 May 2017

### Present:

Cllr Anderson  
Cllr Holder  
Cllr Crimmins  
Cllr Sharp  
Cllr Tufnell

Clerk: Philippa Potter  
Mr J Nott, Village Hall Committee  
11 members of the public

- 1. Apologies for absence**  
Apologies were received from District Cllr Spray and District Cllr Siddall.
- 2. Minutes of the Previous Annual Parish Assembly – held 25 May 2016, to be agreed and signed**  
It was Proposed Cllr Tufnell, Seconded Cllr Holder and unanimously agreed to accept the minutes as a true record and these were signed accordingly.
- 3. Report from County Councillor David Finch**  
Cllr Finch was not able to attend. His report, is available on the website and is appended to these minutes.
- 4. Reports from District Councillor Spray and District Councillor Siddall**  
Cllr Anderson paid tribute to both District Councillors for their work on behalf of the Parish and District over the past year and thanked them both for attending the majority of our Parish Council meetings and for their constant support. Both Councillors were absent from this meeting but their reports had been sent in advance and read to the meeting. The reports are appended to the Minutes and available on the website.
- 6. Chairman's and Parish Councillor Reports**  
The Chairman read his report and circulated it to those present. The report is appended to these minutes and available on the website.

**7. John Nott Charity Report**

The report was read to the meeting, available on the website and is appended to these minutes.

**8. Village Hall Report**

Mr Nott attended and presented the annual report and accounts to the meeting.

These will be appended to the minutes and available on the website.

Cllr Anderson thanked Mr Nott for the continued hard work of all of the Committee.

**9. Public Consultation: Funding for the King's Head Pub**

Cllr Anderson outlined the interests of four of the members of the Parish Council on this issue and explained they are all able to discuss this, with the exception of Cllr Crimmins. It was explained that as the Parish Council had given a grant to the Village Hall Committee, of £25,000 around 25 years ago, which finished at the end of last year, the Parish Council were looking at options around advancing a similar grant to the Kings Head Community Pub. This would primarily be for roof repairs over the next year or two, which will enable the pub to have more financial security. Details of the process for obtaining borrowing approval from the Public Works Loan Board will need to be looked at, as well as the terms for a loan and its affordability. Part of the negotiations will be around the repayment of the loan, should the venture not succeed. The floor was then opened up to the public, to ask questions and give their views, which can be summarised as follows:

- The possibility that there could be a small shop be opened at the pub has been heard about, which was confirmed as something that is being looked at, as well as other services which would serve the community.
- A member of the public agreed that he is very much in favour of the pub re-opening as it makes such a difference to the village. A pub is only a pub if it is open, otherwise it is an empty building. A grant towards the roof seems to be the right thing to do for the village.
- The current status of the purchase of the pub was queried. Currently, contracts have been exchanged, with completion expected at the end of June. The tenants are aiming to re-open the pub in August.
- Renovation work is being arranged, hopefully starting in early July, starting with the front of the building. Funding has now been confirmed to purchase the pub, from shares, a grant from the Plunkett Foundation, a loan from the Co-op and a private loan. If a grant is received from the Parish Council, this will go towards repairs, mainly on the roof.
- Another member of the public also concurred with the proposal to give a grant to the pub and asked if £25,000 was an absolute ceiling, or whether the Parish Council might consider a higher sum. It was confirmed that a final decision had not been made, as the matter needs to be thoroughly looked into before being brought before Council.
- A survey was undertaken with regard to the purchase of the pub on behalf of the community. The details and results of this were offered to the Parish Council, to help with providing evidence of the level of community support.

## **10. Public Questions**

Other questions from the public:

- Finger post signs – most of these have at least one ‘arm’ missing. It was queried whether there are plans to repair them. The Clerk confirmed that they have been reported to ECC and we will have to wait for the repairs to be carried out. It was also confirmed that any resident can report such issues, as well as potholes, on the Essex County Council website.
- The Parish Council was asked whether the old footpath map could be revived and made available. The Clerk said that this can be scanned and uploaded to the website for people to look at and that the Parish Council could look into printing these again to make them available, perhaps at the pub.