

# PEBMARSH PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES

Of the meeting held

17<sup>th</sup> July 2019

In Pebmarsh Village Hall, Pebmarsh CO9

**Present:** Cllr P Crimmins (Chair), Cllr D Ballard, Cllr M Sharp, Cllr J Tufnell  
Cllr Spray visiting from BDC  
Sue Gibson visiting from RCCE  
Twelve members of the public

- 1. Apologies for Absence** - Cllr L Bradley-Flack gives apologies for not attending. Cllr G Courtauld give apologies for not attending
- 2. Declarations of Interest** - None raised
- 3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019** - All agreed with minutes and Cllr Bradley-Flack had earlier emailed her confirmation. The minutes approval was proposed by Cllr Ballard and seconded by Cllr Sharp
- 4. District and County Items** - ECC issues – Cllr D Finch not in attendance to discuss so no Essex County Council issues were reported.

BDC issues - Cllr G Spray is in attendance a few months since last visiting, apologies from other political half George Courtauld but hopes to attend next time. The May elections saw new councillors, one being Cllr George Courtauld, who replaced Cllr Chris Siddle. Cllr Spray pleased to have been re elected, she is still on the BDC planning committee but no longer as vice chair as on cabinet for portfolio of planning and this would be a conflict of interest. Quite a lot going on, lots of training and inductions going on, always new things and processes to be learnt. Now getting back into cycle of regular meetings etc. Has a statement regarding planning (see separate paper for details which Cllr Spray read some points from). Talked about the current projects and funding.

- 5. Projects, Grants and Funding Initiatives – Presentation / Q&A by Sue Gibson – Village Hall & Community Buildings Adviser – RCCE** - Sue Gibson from Rural Community Council of Essex thanks Parish for inviting her to today.  
The business started in 1929 assisting the establishment of village halls and halls etc. and is one of 38 rural community councils across the UK and comes under the umbrella of AKA at government level. After the war, communities were looking to establish village halls to help bring communities together, this establishment helped the communities to get registered as a charity, get money to build etc. to also enable preservation of rural skills and helping the elderly. The establishment has evolved into present day work, which is show in more detail in their magazine (copies supplied) but also includes parish plans, design statements and affordable housing schemes in various areas. Village hall work still continues with the help of community agents, our local agent is Jane Raykin (surname spelling guessed); Jane is someone in the local area that helps people to stay in their own home if elderly / disabled etc. Community led planning, neighbourhood planning etc.

Sue's organisation the Rural Community Council of Essex supports Essex, fire and rescue etc, ensuring they rural proof policies and strategies. Recently completing European funding to support rural businesses and also holds an Essex village of the year competition and best-kept churchyard.

Sue's speciality is village hall work – with village halls paying membership they currently have approx. 240 halls across Essex. The organisation helps village halls become a charity, helps to get registered etc. and advises on employment, health and safety, etc.

Some local funders:

- Local Funders – Tom Amos Charity – he used to be a baker for most of his life and invested his money into stocks and shares and made a fortune in the 1980s. He started a charity to help others before he died.
- Essex Community Foundation
- Fowler Smith & Jones – supportive of local projects, village hall, scouts, churches, WI etc
- Enover – old quarry landfill community fund – need to be within 10 miles from quarry in Stanway to qualify for funding.
- Church work – organisation called Wolfson Foundation and National Churches Trust – there are three levels of funding, the highest at £50,000 and down to £500.
- Energy saving and energy efficiency – energy redress scheme (by energy saving trust) takes money from energy company fines and distributes to projects to help energy efficiency
- Insulation projects, LED lighting, informing people locally about improving personal energy efficiency.
- ACRE and the RCCs have national village hall improvement grant. Campaigning for 15 years for VAT refund scheme, has now set aside £15m for village hall and community projects

Paula Hele representing Pebmarsh Community Pub Limited contributed that PCPL wants to establish wheelchair access and baby changing – advised to apply to Essex County Council's Community Initiative Fund – recently changed the scheme from £25,000 to £10,000. Has closed this year but worth looking out next year. Promote community aspect of pub rather than commercial side of it. Also suggested trying to contact Fowler Smith & Jones and Enover.

**6. Public Forum** - No issues that are not already in the agenda

7. **Pebmarsh Playing Field** - Travellers recently moved on from Halstead and it was a concern they may visit the village, so villagers got together and made a barrier including a gate to prevent the travellers relocating in the village, ensuring the recycling area is still accessible. Cllr Crimmins advised that the Parish may “beautify” it a little over time, possibly a hedge and a height barrier.

A member of public asked if the same prevention will be extended to the village hall, it was replied by PPC that it will be considered.

It was suggested that PPC contact Essex Police to help to prevent access.

8. **Linkswood Stud** - This week Cllr Sharp, Cllr Tufnell & Cllr Crimmins visited and viewed where the barn with small flat would go. This project will help 100s of horses (and a goat!) that have been left on the side of the road and nursing them back to good health. The operation is RSPCA checked. All councillors visiting were impressed by the good work being carried out by the staff at Linkswood Stud.

9. **Pebmarsh Street Signs and Road Markings works** - Recently new road signs and street marking have been erected although some are happy and some are not. Cllr Tufnell discussed report sent by Pippa Potter (see report) regarding the request for signs and some of the rather inappropriate comments on social media that were made after the signs were erected and larger than expected.

Discussion between member of the public and Cllr Tufnell regarding how the signs impact the view of the church and some of the listed buildings. Also, photographs were shown of evidence of accidents / skidding since the signs have been erected, as there is no clear sign to give priority to traffic in either direction. The meeting consensus is that something needs to be done to rectify not having the priority signs as it is now not safe. Cllr Ballard informed the Parish that he has tried to speak to Cllr Finch regarding this on a number of occasions but has not been able to speak to him – he has noted that traffic appears to be ignoring the new larger sign, possibly because it is too high for a regular car to see in their line of vision, so then the drivers do not realise there is a “pinch point” in the road until it is too late, which may have caused accidents / skidding and the greater concern is that they will cause more accidents in the future. Cllr Ballard suggested that the relevant sign is moved further up the road away from the church. Also, it was felt that the road signs are sited inappropriately when coming down the hill towards the narrow part of the road as there is no priority given. It is suggested that these issues are reported back to Essex Highways / BDC for review and a solution. The consensus is that speeding through the village needs to be stopped as traffic comes through up to 50-60 miles an hour which is an accident waiting to happen.

Suggestions to resolve the issues include:

- Use of light up speed limit sign
- Speed bumps
- Another 30 mile limit sign on new entry gates at of start / end of village.
- Police and fire crime commissioner office – road safety / speed watch?
- Cllr Crimmins suggested that Pebmarsh Parish Council write to write to Cllr D Finch / Essex Highways / BDC with concerns and ask to consider a change / adapt signage in the village to be

safer. Cllr Crimmins expressed thanks on behalf of Pebmarsh Parish Council for the works and support from Cllr Finch of Essex County Council to date on this matter.

- 10. Mobile Phone Mast** - Cllr Ballard – talked about large telecoms companies wishing to put up a 5G mast in Pebmarsh in Oak Farm Road. It seems that there is no legislation to stop the telecom companies or their agents entering private land to assess the site. Then they apply for planning to put up a mast without permission of the owner of the land. There are no statistics or evidence to show the damage caused to people through mobile masts although it is advised that small children do not have a mobile phone on medical grounds. The visiting telecom company agents have been given 11 alternative options of sites for the mast but rejected them all as they still want to erect the mast at the Oak Farm Road site. A suggestion is to site the proposed installation approximately 200 metres away but the company says it would cost too much money. Pebmarsh Parish Council is still suggesting more locations to the agents for their consideration. Historically the law was that the owner of the land that a mast was erected got minimum £5k per year, but now it is just a one off payment of £50.

The issues of a mast include a potential danger for children climbing, possible harm from radio signal (although not proven), would reduce value of homes in vicinity (although this is not deemed as a reason to refuse planning). There are also ecological, wildlife and vegetation impacts of the proposed site made by the agent.

PPC agreed to look at how to approach the situation and those affected – suggesting going to the press to raise awareness and gather comment as well as talking to BDC. The village will need to lodge any objections asap as if not the mast installation would go ahead with no objections. To date no planning application had been made to BDC to site a mast in Pebmarsh on the proposed site by the agents concerned.

Cllr Spray said that overall a mast / mobile phone signal in Pebmarsh is desirable. Any objections to a mast would only be refused on solid planning grounds and not fear of health issues or unsightly views. The planners would look at the impact of having the mast on a site, such as impact on landscape, ecological reasons - wildlife (on top of badger set / owl habitat – possibly call on a wildlife specialist to give evidence). Many other sites suggested are less obtrusive but the possible cost of laying more road / cable for vehicles to get to the new mast is unattractive to the agents / telecom companies. If Pebmarsh Parish Council and BDC local planning both object it could be refused. Masts can be disguised as trees, although the one that is being suggested is a metal structure much like a standard pylon. PPC agreed to get as much information from villagers in the next seven days to put to Essex County Council and BDC for review and comment.

- 11. Finance Report** -Taken info from Agenda
- 12. Date of Next Meeting** -Already planned / published to be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Cllr Crimmins thanked all for attending and contributing.

**Signed**



**Chairman**  
**Date 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019**