

PEBMARSH PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Of the meeting held 15th January 2020 In Pebmarsh Village Hall, Pebmarsh CO9

Present: Cllr P Crimmins (Chair), Cllr D Ballard, Cllr M Sharp,
Clerk – Shelley Boydell
County Cllr D Finch
District Cllr G Courtauld
Members of the public x 2

1. Apologies for Absence – Cllr J Tufnell & Cllr Spray

2. Declarations of Interest – none

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held 13th November 2019

All agreed and signed. PC noted that a decision on planning noted in September 2019 minutes was not quorate due to a declaration of interest not being logged. BDC will be notified of this correction. The PC also notes that in the November 2019 minutes regarding a planning application for building by the sports field the word “object” should have been used and not “not-support” to remain consistent. BDC will also be notified of this correction.

4. District and County Items –

Cllr Finch:

Essex is in the top 10 most efficient County Council even though we are the largest in the top 10 at 1.5 million residents when others are only half that size. ECC is working on innovation, value engineering and value for money. ECC has an outstanding childrens service and has 90% of schools with a rating of good or outstanding. There is an increase of 3000 pupils per year in schools. There is a 10yr view / plan with schools and this will take into consideration rural schools with which numbers frequently expand and contract.

£318 million secured in highways infrastructure fund - £218 million towards linking trains from Chelmsford Station to Liverpool Street Station. £100 million towards rapid transit system for Colchester where the A131/A133 join the A12. £820 million has been saved this year so far and a further £80 is needed to be saved. Council Tax increase of 1.99%. Social care precept ringfenced. Climate Action Commission begins March 2020 comprising of councillors, academics, commerce, industry and civil servants – allocation of half a million £ to help with research and action and £5 million set aside for investigation into influencing climate change. Electric cars have 24 new charging points in Braintree which is the largest charging base in Europe, this creates both revenue and supports energy efficiency. Highways investigating innovations regarding road maintenance e.g. using warm instead of hot tarmac, lowering the CO2 emissions and saving the equivalent of 30 million car journeys per year.

£1 million planting 375,000 trees (PC contact Pebmarsh in Bloom to log interest)

Cllr Finch followed up on traffic concerns and suggested a meeting without him to enable a faster solution, also he requested the PC write to him regarding the damaged bridge and suggests a possible reduction in the weight limit to 7.5 tonnes due the bridge size.

Cllr Finch suggests a cluster group meeting to bring up the subject of large vehicles on rural roads and also confirms that there is a legal obligation for any damage caused to roads by sewerage plant traffic to be repaired.

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Cllr Courtauld:

PC gave Cllr Coutauld an application for a grant for Pebmarsh in Bloom, which is set up with a steering group, Facebook Page and fundraising, he agreed he will read through and get back to the PC. Regarding matters such as planting trees, environmental matters etc Cllr Courtauld is pushing for smaller parishes to be included and not just the larger ones, he also suggests looking at more uses for parish football pitches and sports grounds and introducing more off road bicycle lanes.

5. Clerk's Report

Clerk updated on work carried out over the past month:

- Open Spaces comments compiled to submit
- Sign made to help prevent dog fouling in the village
- Wrote to Cllr Finch regarding Sewerage Plant Traffic, road damage and road safety
- Updated the website with information regarding registering interest for Pearson Close
- Notified BDC of councillor vacancy and began the process of finding a new councillor
- Chased Highways regarding traffic concerns
- Posted planning comments to BDC
- Investigating playground maintenance

6. BDC's Corporate Strategy

All in agreement with the strategy and therefore no views to submit.

7. Public Forum

Discussions regarding developing Pebmarsh and various ideas. PC decided to make this a future agenda item for further discussion.

- 8.1 -** Clerk to write to Cllr Finch with road traffic concerns
- 8.2 -** PC still in negotiations regarding grass cutting contract
- 8.3 -** Scaffold going up ready for the Church repair tomorrow (16th January 2020) with view to repairs beginning on Monday 20th January 2020 and taking two weeks with the footpaths being restricted for this time.
- 8.4 -** The grant funding for the bus stop should be in the Parish Council bank account and will be checked when the next bank statement is received.
- 8.5 -** The safety issues in the playground need to be addressed, Clerk to find out the issues and discuss a plan with the PC to get them resolved.

9. Proposed Phone Mast Site Update

No update to report.

10. Open Spaces Action Plan

Comments agreed by PC to be entered onto correct form and submitted.

11. County Broadband Limited Update

No update – clerk to contact representative regarding attending next parish meeting. Chairman suggests considering Gigaclear as a possible alternative but currently their plans fall just clear of Pebmarsh, although they would consider extending if there was enough interest. Chairman explains County Broadband work on a pre-sell basis whereas Gigaclear set up their network and then sell their services. PC to consider inviting Gigaclear to a Parish Council meeting.

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12. Glebe Land Update

PC had a very positive meeting with the agents of the church and are now waiting to hear back.

13. BDC Planning

13.1 19/02238/FUL: Catley Cross Veterinary Clinic, Catley Cross, Wickham St Paul
The PC unanimously support this application and the clerk will post this comment.

14. Councillor's Lead Roles

This item has been moved to be discussed at the next parish council meeting.

15. Finance

15.1 Cheques signed.

15.2 Payments between meetings listed.

15.3 Monies received noted.

15.4 (not noted on agenda in error)

15.5 All in agreement to look into BACS payments – Chairman to speak to bank.

All agreed an authorised spending limit of £250 with agreement of clerk and Chairman.

15.6 Clerk's three-month probation completed and permanent position confirmed.

Clerk to carry on claiming overtime and noting hours, to be discussed at a later date.

Meeting adjourned at 9.30pm as reached 2 hours, all in agreement to carry on to discuss precept.

15.7 PC discussions regarding budget and precept, all agreed and final precept applied for at £11,982.

16. Date of Next Meeting

25th March 2020. Cllr Crimmins thanked all for attending and contributing.

Signed by Chairman Cllr Perry Crimmins