

PEBMARSH PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Of the meeting held 20th September 2024

Present: Cllr M Sharp, Cllr B Nott, Cllr L Darroux, Cllr J Rumsey,
Clerk – Mrs Shelley Boydell
District Councillors – Cllr G Courtauld, Cllr G Spray
County Councillor – none
Members of Public – 2

MINUTES

1.(20/09/2024) Apologies for Absence –Cllr P Schwier

2.(20/09/2024) Declarations of Interest – none

3.(20/09/2024) Minutes of previous Parish Council Meetings
The minutes were agreed by all and signed by the Chairman.

4.(20/09/2024) District / County Councillors Reports
Gabrielle Spray – report circulated and noted (attached)

George Courtauld – New Government are keen on devolution, Essex County Council and Braintree District Council appear to be pushing for this, which would change the role of district councils.

5.(20/09/2024) Clerk's Report – noted

6.(20/09/2024) Public Forum – no comments

7.(20/09/2024) Parish Upkeep & Village Matters

- a) Playground – a local group of youths have given ideas of what playground equipment they would like to see. Cllr Darroux will continue to obtain quotes and apply for funding. The fence is wobbly and could be unsafe, PC agreed to remove the fence ASAP. A new fence will be installed along with the new playground. Discussed potential wildlife corner / woodland walk.
- b) Application for 20mph limit – Highways responded to PC's application stating that as the speed limit is currently 30mph and there is ample signage for this, the next step would be to carry out speed surveys before determination if the village can be a 20mph speed limit, as criteria set out in the Speed Management Strategy need to be met, also suggested was a vehicle activated sign.

ACTION: Clerk to do report and investigate speed survey, also look into funding for VAS.

- c) No update on Haul Road
- d) Village Hall car park – The Village Hall Management Committee are looking to remedy the car park entrance. Discussions re car park entrance and quotes:
 - 1) 74m² plus 8 m² of slightly wider entrance £6,264.64 + £364 for slightly wider.
 - 2) 36m² £3,000 + VAT, car park 405 m² £21,000
 - 3) 36 m² £2,450 + VAT, curb from loose gravel to tarmac £415.
 - 4) PC quote for additional parking 405 m² £9,660 (inc VAT)
 - 5) School have agreed to pay £60 per year for use of car park, PC to invoice**ACTION: Clerk to draft application to Community Initiative Fund and Health and Wellbeing Fund for consideration by the council.**

- e) Cllr B Nott spoke to Guy Swan Ltd who will repair the village sign free of charge – the Parish Council would like to Guy Swan Ltd for this kind offer and accept.

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- f) PC has a quote for first aid training for £60 for up to 12 participants, a second quote was just a contribution to costs, a third quote was free of charge for up to 25 people. The Parish Council chose the third quote which was free of charge.

ACTION: Clerk to gain interest for this event using social media in the new year.

- g) Clerk to obtain quotes for the new skate park sign, this will then be agreed via email and Chairman will fit.

ACTION: Clerk to get quotes for the production of the new skate park sign with agreed wording.

8.(20/09/2024) Planning

- a) *Cllr Gabrielle covered the Consultation – Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of Braintree Local Plan: Scoping Report within her report.*

- b) Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area: T1 - Sycamore Tree to be pollard to 4m for safety as the tree is dying. T2 - Ash Tree to be felled to ground level as hollow at the bottom. T3 - Rowan Tree to be reduced by 3m to remove dead wood. T4 - Elm Tree, dead, to be felled to ground level.

Heritage House Mill Lane Pebmarsh Essex CO9 2NW

Ref. No: 24/01872/TPOCON

9.(20/09/2024) Finance

- a) *finance report noted. PC to chase NS&I and Natwest Savings to move all money to current account.*

ACTION: Clerk to contact NS&I & Natwest to move savings to current account

- b) *Councillor advanced training will be considered if budget allows, this would then take place after April 2025.*

- c) *Glebe Land – PC to put plans to look into purchasing land on hold whilst focussing on playground refurbishment.*

- d) *Discussed in 7d, will revisit discussing Village Hall Underlease Agreement.*

- e) *Councillors will work together rather than have individual roles.*

- f) *New policies approved: communication policy, grievance policy, equality and diversity policy & disciplinary policy.*

- g) *Review Emergency Plan via email* **ACTION: Clerk to update and circulate**

- h) *Privacy Policy agreed*

- i) *Governance Documents agreed: Code of Conduct, Data Protection Policy, Subject Access Request Policy, Internal Controls Policy, Retention of Documents Policy*

10.(20/09/2024) Items for Next Agenda

11.(20/09/2024) Dates of Next Meetings

4th December 2024 Parish Council Meeting

Meeting closed 19:30

Signed by Chairman Cllr Michael Sharp

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REPORT FOR PARISH COUNCILS – SEPTEMBER 2024

PLANNING

On Monday 16th September, the Local Plan sub Committee will consider Braintree Council's response to the Government's proposed National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) reforms. Some of the suggested changes are acceptable to the planning officers, we have issues with other recommendations and the Committee will be discussing and voting on our submission to Government. The Council's response will be available to view shortly

Also on the agenda for Monday's meeting is the revised timetable for the refresh of our Local Plan. In view of the extended date for submitting the Plan – December 2026 rather than June 2025 – the Council is able to extend the various consultations. The new timetable will be published following the meeting but I can confirm that, subject to Committee approval, the Call for Sites meetings will now start in early Spring and take place over 6-8 weeks. These are the meetings where specific sites will be discussed and the Local Plan sub Committee will decide which new sites should go into the Local Plan. All of this is, of course subject to further consultations and final examination by an Inspector.

Landscape Services

Recruitment to the Landscape team at BDC is ongoing. There is a national shortage of qualified Landscape Officers but the Council has 'borrowed' two Officers from Place Services at County Council and they have made considerable inroads to the backlog of TPO cases and Tree Surveys. The latter is particularly important with the approaching autumn/winter weather to ensure the health of trees and safety of the public.

Radio 4 Interview

On Friday 16th August I visited Spains Hall Estate, Finchingfield, where I met the Estate Manager, Archie Ruggles-Brice, and reporter Anna Hill to record an interview for Radio 4's Farming Today programme. The subject was a S106 agreement on Biodiversity Net Gain which was not possible to achieve on a site elsewhere in the District, so the developer is giving money to Spains Hall Estate to help continue the brilliant wildlife work they are already achieving. The programme went out on 3rd September at 5.45am with the interview about 5 minutes in. If anyone is interested, you can get it on BBC Sounds at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play>

And finally in major news, the colour of Planning Notices is changing from orange to yellow!! Seriously, it is worth bringing this to everyone's attention as the Notices have been orange for years and that is what residents expect to see stuck on lampposts, fences, gates etc. so might not, at first, realise that a yellow Notice indicates a planning application.