

Peaslake Community Council

Meeting held on Monday 2nd September 2024 in Peaslake Memorial Hall at 8pm

The meeting was chaired by Rhys Thomas and attended by 24 Peaslakers.

1. Welcome/Apologies

Present; Jane Williams (Treasurer), Tania Florent, Gerry Reffo, Alice Williams, Rob Hedgecock, Louise Collins, Adrienne Golightly, Nick Wells, Marion Jones, Julie Barham, Adrian Bell, Richard Sherlock, David Mercer, Julie Knight, Deb Stevens, Nicola Anstey, Jim Collins, Cyndie Gould, Zoe Horton, Janette Weller, Rhys Thomas, Brian Cohen, Keir Schiltz (minute taker).

Apologies: David Pickford, Nigel Downer, Martyn Warrell, Zoe Fowle, Amanda Cobbett, Drew Nicholson, Shiona Bacon, Ted Horton, Sam Mc Cormick, Rosi Miller, Kevin Stevens, Nick Bray, Sally Bray.

2. **AOB** brought forward.

Fundraising Quiz – 16 September to replace the Peaslake Defibrillator

Richard Sherlock gave a quick update around the the fundraising Quiz he has organised to support the replacement of the Defibrillator it is on the 16th September at the Hurtwood Inn and there are just a few tickets left (contact the Hurtwood Inn). The cost of the defibrillator is approx. £1800. Richard hopes the quiz will raise £1000 of that. Adrian has kindly donated a trophy. Peaslake Community Fund are also willing to help.

3. Actions Carried Forward - July

Jubilee Tree

Rosi was not present to confirm the repositioning of the tree. General agreement that it should be in the Community Garden. Defer further discussion until the Community Garden has made more progress.

Traffic Calming – Nick Wells asked for this item to move to October for discussion.

4. **Peaslake Fair**

Alice Williams was pleased to report that the fair was well attended and went very well. With only one serious incident and a couple of minor issues.

The **serious incident** was between a car and a pedestrian on the Ewhurst road. Luckily this was a slow bump and the pedestrian was a fit young man and unhurt if somewhat shaken and understandably concerned. It could have been much worse had it been someone more vulnerable. The incident has been logged and reported to the police.

It would be much safer if the Peaslake Farm site can be made sufficiently safe for pedestrian thoroughfare next year to avoid the need for pedestrians in the Ewhurst Road in future, as this is clearly not an ideal situation.

Minor incidents include a wasp sting that was dealt with by the first aiders on site, and some verbal aggravation from a minority of cyclists refusing to dismount through the busy pedestrian

area. Adrian from the Rider's Hub has kindly offered to improve signage at the cyclist's entrance points next time around.

Village vehicle clearance was mainly successful prior to the fair, with only 2 cars left causing issues. One car was left parked on the road where the book stall goes, which had to be incorporated into the book stall as no owner could be located. A second vehicle, a post office van, was left parked outside the shop and caused trouble with traffic flow along Peaslake Lane/Ewhurst Road all day, which needed to be managed by the street volunteers on the day.

Feedback post fair has been positive. The main suggestions arising around the need to **divert non-fair traffic away from the village.** With this in mind the fair coordinator is looking for someone to take on the role of "Traffic Tzar" next year. Details of the role are at Annex A. On the plus side there were no stall related concerns or incidents.

The Wi-Fi worked brilliantly! Provided by **B4SH** and implemented by the marvellous **Tom Brook and assisted by Sean Griffin.** We don't understand how they manage this wizardry but long may it continue!! All the stall holders now use Wi-Fi for electronic payment so it is much appreciated. The walking bottom car park still has issue with signal, and again Adrian from the Rider's Hub has stepped forwards to offer a "Star Link" for use next year. Apparently, this gizmo will talk to the satellites above and get signal to our secondary car-park, which would be a fantastic help.

The music was fantastic, with four excellent musicians appearing on the Peaslake Present stage organised by **David Mercer** and his team from the community fund. And a lovely jazz duo providing all the interlude sets at Jasmine Cottage lawn, many thanks to **Xav Riley and John Sandford.**

The history display celebrating 30 years of the school was fascinating. It was great to play spot your own child in the school photos! Many thanks to **Sandy Eve** for yet again coming up trumps on this aspect!

And our **ever-wonderful compere Brad Garrood** provided announcements assisted by **Matt Bacon's** tech support and equipment.

For those who don't know how the fair works, there are **4 main 'legs 'to the fair,** which are the:

- **Pre-fair acquisition of sponsorship and advertising** to fund the fair expenses of basics like insurance, programme printing, rubbish clearance, First aid provision, road closure costs, and consumables. This year kindly coordinated by **David Newman and Ted Horton.**

- **Car parking** managed and coordinated by **Zoe Horton and her team 'Hurtwood';**

- **School field + Pimm's + BBQ + 1st Aid + Fire Engine** managed and coordinated by **Sam Pride and Emily Riley** and their school team of helpers; and

- **Central body of the fair** which provides a platform for any other village groups wishing to contribute to, and benefit from, the fair. This latter includes the:

- o **Villages Group,** who provide the delicious teas in the Hall itself, thanks to **Chris Lewis and team;**

- o **St Mark's Church,** who provide a raffle and ran a stall up on the Old School Room lawn and open the church, Thanks to **Christine and David Harrison and team.** Noted that these need including on the fair map in future!

- o **Peaslake Players,** who run the ever-popular **Human Fruit Machine,** thank you all!; and

- o **Hall Committee,** who run a bottle tombola, thanks to **Kevin Stevens and team.**

Other stalls run solely in aid of the fair include the:

- o **Beer Tent,** this year taken on and run by the **CHaPS;**

- o **Fair Bric-a-brac** run by **Sam McCormick and team;**

- o **Plant Stall** back for the first time in a while, run by **Emma Church and Jinny McMonigall;**

- o **Book Stall** run by **Shiona Bacon, Rob Hedgecock and Kim Ferguson;**

- o **Information and Raffle** organised and run by **Gerry Reffo and Debs Stevens;**

- o **Anne Edgington** annually runs the **bowling for bacon** and

o **Jeff Jones** his **punchboard**, both of which are very popular attractions. Many thanks to all involved!

And we thank:

o **Peaslake Community Fund**, that coordinates and runs the Peaslake Presents music stage and this year projected an interesting presentation in the Hall about what they achieve and the projects they support;

o **Marion Jones** who runs a bric-a-brac stall in aid of prostate cancer.

o **Jenny Janse** who ran an Eco-church information stand

o **Friends of the Hurtwood** who also run an information stand

o And **23 commercial stalls** who pay for a spot and come along and help provide interest, shopping opportunities and food options.

The Community Council members present gave **ALICE WILLIAMS** a warm round of applause for her outstanding work co-ordinating the whole event, solving problems, publicizing the fair and keeping everyone motivated.

We do not know exactly how many people attended the fair, but from the financials in so far it would seem that numbers are pretty similar to last year. This is good as the village appears to be at capacity in terms of both traffic and people!

Financials

In 2023 the fair made a grand total of £11,146. It is not possible at this stage to give a final exact and definitive figure for the fair for 2024 as all the expenses have yet to be finalised, and the remaining book sales are still going through. But is it looking like we should be **between 5% to 10% up on last year's figures overall**. Thanks to our fabulous treasurer **Jane Williams** for her hard work on the money side of things!

Many thanks to everyone who helps make this truly community event a success and to all the volunteers who turn up on the day and give their time. To all our sponsors and advertisers and donors. To everyone who lends their time and talents and property. And of course, everyone who comes along and spends their money and helps make the fair such a wonderful community get together!

Photos from this year's fair can be viewed at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/2AsnCzdPVCqnFSySA> copyright of, and thank to, Herbie Hedgecock.

Alice Williams 07812 491397

Peaslake Fair 2025 – Vacant Roles and Volunteers

Roles for next year for which we already have new volunteers include:

- **Street stall booking secretary and street stall day coordination** – We have a volunteer for this role in 2025 already! Many thanks to Helen Turnbull Smith for stepping up to this role!
- **Classic Cars** – we already have a taker in Steve Leake and hope to be able to work with the school to display them in the school field! A popular and much-missed draw.

For the fair to run next year we also need the following roles to be taken on, if you are willing to volunteer a few hours of your time we would be very grateful. Please get in touch and volunteer if you can, call Alice 07182 491397:

- **Traffic Tzar** see annex A below.
- **Sponsorship and advertising** coordinator – this job requires approaching all of our sponsors and advertisers and collating artwork for inclusion in the programme prior to the end of July 2025. It raises around £2000 and helps pay for fair essentials. You would be working alongside Ted Horton who puts the programme together for printing.
- **Social Media** posts, this involves a couple of weeks of advertising the fair pre-event and a few posts post-event. We have a bank of photos to work with.
- **Parish Mags and flyers**, also a promotional role. Inserts in the May/June/July/August & October Mags. Flyers around the area in shops/bus stops. Could be one role or 2.

- **Advertising posters** – these need a redesign for 2025 as the A2 knock-in signs we had were reported as lovely up close but unreadable from a distance and too small. It would be good to have a re-think.

The above 3 jobs could be one person or a team. There are volunteers to put the signs up or in the ground.

- **Street volunteer coordinator** – involves a few hours rustling up some people to stand on street barriers during the fair,
- **Friday night social and H&S briefing** – involves sorting out a get together of all volunteers and helpers pre-fair for a cheese, wine and safety talk.
- **Dog show** – this is our most requested attraction and hasn't run for 2 years. It's not a technical dog show, more of a fun event and could easily be run by any dog owner.
- **General fair overview and coordination** – involves managing a WhatsApp community and answering any questions or concerns raised by the various groups involved and checking that everything is running smoothly and nothing is missed. Alice may be willing to do this again if all the other roles are filled.

Also

- **Car parking helper** – Zoe Horton coordinates the car parking for the Hurtwood and is looking for help with this role. Specifically:

- o **Managing the stall-holder's car park**

- o **Procurement and delivery and removal of straw bales**

Please get in touch with Zoe on 07939 114059 if you would be willing to help her and the Hurtwood with the car parks next year.

6. **Shere Parish Council (SPC) Issues** – Gerry Reffo and Tania Florent

Peaslake Parish Council Proposal

A proposal to consider a separate Peaslake Parish Council was made by SPC's Vice Chair and considered by SPC in July. The Council agreed to:

- neither oppose or support the proposal at this time.

- Any demand for a Peaslake Parish Council should come from residents and not SPC and could be made directly to Guildford Borough Council (GBC).

- A GBC review would include a public consultation.

In July, the PCC agreed that before residents could take a decision, they needed more information. Tania prepared a list of questions for SPC and for GBC. With the authors' permission a full set of questions and answers will be published on the PCC website.

Some headlines from the answers received so far include:

Process

To trigger a Community Governance Review by Guildford Borough Council to consider the case for an independent Peaslake Parish Council would require a petition with **at least 228 residents' signatures** (7.5% of Shere Parish residents).

The review would include a **formal consultation with the whole parish of Shere.**

Church/Parish

An independent Peaslake Parish Council would be only for local government purposes. **The Church/Parish status and structure would not change.**

Assets

If a new Peaslake Parish Council was formed all property, rights and liabilities relating to Peaslake would transfer to the new Parish Council.

Electoral

The Guildford Borough Council review would include electoral arrangements including boundaries, wards and number of councillors.

Support

- Guildford Borough Council would provide advice and support if a new Parish Council was formed.

Peaslake Farm Housing Development

SPC have obtained quotes for clearing Peaslake Farmyard with the intention of preserving the existing planning permission due to expire in December. A majority of the residents present supported clearing the site. Concerns were expressed about activating the existing planning permission because of flood risks, the possibility of alternative uses and the risk that no developer would take on the existing planning permission.

Shere Surgery Mobile Physio Service

The Surgery asked for the community to be made aware that funding is being withdrawn for this service. The Surgery are appealing against the decision with support from Jeremy Hunt MP and Bob Hughes SCC and GBC.

7. **Family Hub Project** – Louise Collins talked through the potential of the project based at Peaslake School.

Could a Small, Nature-Inspired Family Hub Enhance Our Village Community?

The Family Hub project will be a natural extension of our Nursery that offers a small welcoming cabin space and play garden for families in our village. Inspired by nature and creativity, this Hub is designed to foster connections within our community, complementing, not competing with, the existing village halls and local clubs.

What Will the Small Family Hub Offer?

Our vision is to create a cosy, nature-inspired space where families can come together for small group activities, creative play, and community support. The Hub will provide opportunities for children to engage with nature, while also serving as a peaceful spot for parents and small groups to connect through activities like stay-and-play sessions, story time, and mother-and-baby gatherings.

How Does This Hub Complement Our Village Life?

The Family Hub will serve as a bridge between our Nursery and the wider community, strengthening the bonds that make our village special. Our mission is to enhance our community by providing a nurturing Family Hub cabin nestled in our Nursery play garden space.

Why Is This Project Important?

In our small village, there are limited spaces for families with young children to gather and feel supported. The Family Hub Project addresses this need by offering a nurturing environment that encourages creativity, learning, and community engagement, all while ensuring our Nursery and school continue to thrive.

How Will We Ensure It's a Welcoming Space?

We're committed to making the Family Hub an inviting and accessible space that complements the existing village amenities. The Hub will operate in harmony with Nursery schedules, ensuring that the space is available for community use without disrupting our educational programs. Our goal is to create a small, welcoming environment that feels like a natural part of village life.

8. **Peaslake Community Fund** update from David Mercer

The Fund provided the Peaslake Presents stage for the Peaslake Fair.

Awareness of the fund is improving. New committee members have joined the team. David asked the community to provide funds and to put forward funding requests. There was discussion about funding First Aid training for the community. Reactions were positive. Adrian Collins and others offered help.

9. **Peaslake Village Hall – AGM on 30 September.** All members of the community are invited and welcome.

10. **Peaslake Players** Two One Act plays on **14-16 November**. Auditions are on the 3rd and 4th of September. More information and booking available at www.peaslakeplayers.co.uk

11. **Eco Church**

St Marks will be hosting recycling bins on Sunday 8th September - Ryman's Bin - printer and stationary based recycling; and Boots – pharmaceuticals.

Village Maintenance

12. David Mercer asked whether the weeds growing in the Ewhurst Road stream could be cut back. Gerry will raise with SPC.

13. Adrian Bell reported that there was a lot of silt in the Village Centre drains especially around the Bike Shop. Gerry will raise with SPC.

Annex A - Traffic Czar Role

We need a volunteer to take on this role. It will involve

- a review of all traffic, and pedestrian, movement and signage around the village. The last review was done a while ago so needs updating.
- Applying for road traffic closures and diversions. There is a team of volunteers available to put out the signage on the lead up to the fair. This role is to conduct the review, plan and co-ordinate the road management. If you are able and willing to take on this planning role please do get in touch with Alice Williams. It would involve a few hours work in May/June and maybe one meeting with the signage team to implement the plan.