

Notes on Peaslake 'Community Council' meeting, 2nd June 2025

Except taken from the PCC's own minutes as published on their site:

(Quote):

Independent Peaslake Parish Council Update

Nick Wells reported that the Guildford Borough Council Community Governance Review is underway; the consultation closing date is 7 July. 356 people signed the petition in favour of an independent Peaslake Council and Nick encouraged them to respond to the consultation.

Two coffee mornings will be held on 7th and 21st June in the Old School Room at 10.30 for those who want more information. One resident asked for more information on Shere Parish Council spend.

Some residents raised concerns regarding the amount of work it takes to run a parish council. A healthy debate ensued. Brian Cohen suggested that residents read a website he has set up putting his views opposing a Peaslake Parish Council –

www.peaslake.info

Shere Parish Council

Tania reported that Shere Parish Council (SPC) held an Extraordinary Council Meeting on 28 May. The majority of councillors voted that it was not in the best interest of the residents of the Parish that Peaslake is able to form its own Parish Council. SPC also agreed to publish their own Public Community Governance Review Information Sheet. A copy will be posted to all households in the Parish and published on their website and social media. A Holmbury Councillor asked that Peaslake Community Council publish the SPC Information on the PCC website. It was agreed to put it on the website for residents to view and to ask SPC reciprocate by including the leaflet setting out the case for a Peaslake Council on their website.

Tania reported that Penny Tomkins was appointed the new SPC Chair in May.

(End of quote)

My own notes:

This is not the place to give full 'Minutes' of the whole meeting, please visit the PCC website for a detailed account. Here are some observations speaking to the issue at hand, ie the change in the current Parish council proposal.

Approx 29 members of the public attended, including Cllrs Reffo and Florent. Cllr. Marion Taylor-Cotter was also present. Martyn Warrell was in the chair. The usual actions, minutes from the past, and news from local organizations were discussed.

Review of Governance issue:

A brief intro from Martyn W, and Nick Wells spoke to this too. 356 had signed the petition triggering this. Some seemed to think this represented the whole community of Peaslake, and were surprised to discover in fact it did not, and that anyone would or

could hold a differing view, There were probably 6 people to oppose the motion, there may have been others who did not declare . We do not know. This differing view came as a shock to many. Some spoke well to the motion expressing their views, ie to remain with Shere Parish. One person in particular gave a rigorous and well reasoned case to remain , covering many aspects of the pro's and cons. Another also made a very good well reasoned case to remain. Cllr Taylor-Cotter too expressed a view. Some who prefer to remain with Shere did not speak, as is their right. One tried to speak but was shouted over.

Some present expressed very vociferous views to leave , but in my view failed to make any compelling case with few, if any, specific points. Much volume, a lot of emotion, but very short of fact. A question to ask what specifically would Peaslake need, which it did not get now, and what projects did they envisage that needed extra money- They could not identify any specific needs.

However, the leave/remain issue is a big issue , bigger than individuals or individual councillors, and any change will be permanent, affecting the village and the entire parish, for generations. There will be a cost without doubt, in many ways.

Shere Parish as it is now, was defined in 1891, with the first parish council formed in 1896. Do we have the right to alter this now , for no real reason? Maybe not.