

PARSON DROVE PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2013

Chairman

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Vice Chairman

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Councillors

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Clerk

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Councillor Robert Scrimshaw

We were very saddened by the sudden death of Councillor Robert Scrimshaw who was a hard working and dedicated Parish Councillor for the Parish of Parson Drove as well as one of our District Councillors. Councillor Scrimshaw was also a very active and enthusiastic member of the Parson Drove Street Pride Group, Fenland Rural Road Safety Group, Parson Drove Youth Club and a Governor at Alderman Payne Primary School and his contribution to all these voluntary groups will be sorely missed. The casual vacancy on the Parish Council will be filled by co-option as no request was made for the vacancy to be filled by means of an election. If you are interested in being considered for co-option onto the Council please contact the Clerk by Monday 11th March.

Precept

The Parish Council Budget for 2013/2014 will be increased from £15,310 to £16,500, however in view of changes by Central Government in calculating the Council Tax the actual Precept figure will be £14,181 with a grant of £2,319 being received from the Council Tax Support Grant. In monetary terms this will result in a Parish Precept increase of approximately £3.10 for a band D household for the whole year although we appreciate it is an increase of approximately 9% as may be shown on your council tax bill when you receive it.

Road Safety at Swan Bridge Junction

The Parish Council continue to press for improvements to be made to the Swan Bridge junction and have submitted various suggestions for traffic calming schemes including traffic lights to the County Council Highways department for consideration. Unfortunately so far all our suggestions have been rejected by the County Council and so we are now waiting to hear from them with their suggestions for improvements to this junction and hope that the measures installed will be effective in reducing the number of accidents.

Parish Plan

Our first Parish Plan was completed in 2005 and so it is time to consider updating and

refreshing this important document. A public meeting is being held in the Pavilion on the 19th March at 7.30pm when it is hoped a working group will be formed. If you are interested in hearing more about the process or wish to volunteer to join the working group please attend the meeting or contact the Clerk.

Trees & Hedges

Residents often complain about over grown trees and hedges obstructing the footpaths and obscuring the street lights and road signs particularly along Main Road. We would be very grateful therefore if home owners could bear this in mind and cut back their trees and hedges if they are likely to be causing an obstruction.

Become a School Governor

Cambridgeshire County Council is urging people to consider becoming a school governor. There are over 4,000 school governors in Cambridgeshire, making it the largest volunteer force in the country. You do not have to have children at school to be a governor, nor do you need specialist skills. You do need to be over 18, satisfy eligibility criteria set by the government and have the interest and ability to listen, think through new ideas and decide what is best for the school as part of a team. The governing body works with the head teacher and staff to make sure the school provides a good quality education for its students, providing strategic direction to support the head teacher to make operational day-to-day decisions.

The role of the governor consists of three elements; to take a largely strategic role in the running of the school, to act as a critical friend and to ensure accountability of the governing body to the parents, and of the head teacher to the governing body. The responsibilities and powers must be exercised in partnership with the head teacher and staff.

The term of office for a school governor is normally four years. You will need to be able to give some time to prepare for and attend meetings. Most schools have a full governing body meeting twice a term (lasting about two hours) and you can also join a committee which usually meets once a term. You may be invited to make planned visits to the school. Under employment law, employers may give employees who are school governor's reasonable time off to carry out their duties. A governor would need to discuss having time off for governing body work with their line manager or employer. Anyone interested should contact Jill Tuck on 01354 742388 or email jill.tuck@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Council Meetings

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in The Cage on Wednesday 13th March with subsequent meetings as listed below.

Wednesday 10th April at 7.00pm in The Cage.

Wednesday 8th May at 7.00pm in The Cage

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meetings and have the opportunity to raise any parish matter during Public Participation for a 15 minute period near the start of the meeting.