

PARSON DROVE PARISH COUNCIL

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER

Chairman

G. Booth, 3 John Bends Way, Parson Drove. Telephone 701157

Vice Chairman

P. Spriggs, 7 Riverside Gardens, Parson Drove, Telephone 700548

Councillors

J Hunt, Blithe Cottage, Elbow Lane, Parson Drove

C Killingworth, 6 Common Bank, Throckenholt.

G Watson, The Retreat, 2 The Bank, Parson Drove.

P Williams, Amber House, 338 Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove

Clerk

Mrs Y Reader, Sunrise, Back Road, Murrow. Telephone 700501.

Email Theclerk@parsondrove-pc.org.uk. Website www.parsondrove-pc.org.uk

Precept

The Parish Council Precept for 2019/2020 will be increased from £18,876 to £19,378 which is an increase of approximately 2.7%. In monetary terms it will probably result in a very minimal increase, if in deed any increase at all, on your council tax bill as the net tax base has increased in view of new dwellings being built in the Parish during the last year. In addition to the Precept of £19,378 a Concurrent Functions grant of £3,807 will be received from Fenland District Council.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Neighbourhood Development Plan has been available for public and statutory consultation for the last 2 months and will now be reviewed before being referred to a Planning Inspector for approval before we then progress to the final stage of a parish referendum.

Highway Fault Reporting System

Cambridgeshire County Council has an on-line reporting system for highway problems. The online service is available at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/highwaysfault in addition you are still able to report faults by telephone on 03450455212.

Footpath at Sealeys Lane

Funding from the County Council has been allocated to Parson Drove for the last two years to provide a further section of footpath along Sealeys Lane. The work to install the footpath has been delayed due to discussion with North Level Drainage Board but the County Council have now indicated that this will be completed in early April. A further application has been made for the next financial year to continue with the footpath and we are waiting to hear if our application has again been successful. As only small amounts of funding are allocated to the improvements scheme each year we will continue to apply for further funding in future years until the whole road has a footpath.

Bellamy Bridge Junction

We are working with Wisbech St Mary and Gorefield Parish Councils to secure some improvements to the Bellamy Bridge junction in view of the number of accidents occurring on a regular basis. The County Council have indicated that some improvements will be made in the coming months.

Village Pond

Work to a Willow Tree at the back of the pond has recently been completed due to safety concerns and further work has been identified which will be completed during the year.

Street Lights

The Parish Council decided to remain in Fenland District Council's maintenance contract for their street lights therefore faulty street lights can be reported directly to the District Council either by telephone or on their website online reporting system. To report a faulty street light you will need to quote the column number and the name of the road. Faulty street lights can also be reported to the Clerk or any Councillor but again it would be helpful if you could please quote the column number.

Parish Council Elections

Parish Councils are re-elected every 4 years and the current 4 year term ends in May 2019. The Parish Council has 7 member seats and all the seats are vacant at the forthcoming election.

The qualifications for being a councillor are; you must be over 18 years of age, and live in or within 3 miles of the parish or have your place of business in the parish. We need people who care about Parson Drove and are willing to give up some of their time representing local residents, you do not need any special qualifications beyond these.

The Parish Council meets in The Cage, next to the Swan Inn, once a month on the second Wednesday of each month. If you would like more information about becoming a Parish Councillor please contact the Clerk or talk to one of the current Councillors.

If you are interested in being nominated as a candidate for Councillor of Parson Drove Parish Council, then the relevant nomination form and guidance notes are available on the Electoral Commission's website www.electoralcommission.org.uk. The deadline for the receipt of nomination papers by Fenland District Council is 4.00pm on **Wednesday 3rd April 2019**. It is a Candidate's own responsibility that they meet this deadline.

Community Contact Point

PCSO Helen Norton Smith together with an Officer from Fenland District Council will be holding a Community Contact Session in The Cage, located on the village green next to the Swan Inn, on Thursday 14th March at 9.30am when members of the public have the opportunity to raise any issues or concerns they may have with them.

Parish Council Meetings

Council Meetings will be held in The Cage starting at 7.00pm on Wednesdays 13th March and 10th April. Members of the public are welcome to attend all 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.

The Annual Parish Assembly Meeting will be held on Wednesday 24th April at 7.30pm in the Pavilion on Parson Drove Playing Field.