

PARSON DROVE PARISH COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER

Chairman

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Vice Chairman

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Councillors

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G. Bellamy, Brewers Retreat, Brewery Close, Parson Drove. Telephone 700195

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P. Everett, 8 The Bank, Parson Drove.

A. Kraus, 17 Newlands Road, Parson Drove.

Clerk

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

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Precept

The Parish Council Budget for 2015/2016 will be increased to £17,317, which comprises of the Precept of £15,300 and funding of £2,017 received from the Council Tax Support Grant. In monetary terms the increase will not result in a Parish Precept increase in view of the new properties built in the parish during the last year. In actual fact the Parish Precept for a band D household will reduce from £37.88 to £36.78 for the whole year which will be shown as a 2.9% reduction on your council tax bill when you receive it.

The Precept has been increased this year following an inspection by Fenland District Council of all the parish street lights with the report advising that a substantial number of our street lights will require replacing in the next 3 to 4 years. The estimated total cost over the next 4 years to replace these street lights is in excess of £20,000.

Elections May 2015

The 7th May is the date for the General Election and at the same time District and Parish Council Elections will be held. If you are interested in being a Parish Councillor but would like to know more about what this involves please contact the Clerk or Chairman.

Neighbourhood Planning

Fenland District Council has designated the parish as a Neighbourhood area and the working group are preparing a questionnaire for distribution in the next couple of months.

Trees & Hedges

Residents regularly complain about over grown trees and hedges obstructing the footpaths and obscuring the street lights and road signs. 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.

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.

Local Minor Highways Improvement Scheme

The Parish Council submitted two applications to the County Council for the financial year 2015/2016, the first was for the provision of a footpath along Sealeys Lane which unfortunately was not successful this time but is on the reserved list in the event of one of the successful applications not proceeding. We will continue to press for a footpath at this location in the future.

The second submission was a joint application with Wisbech St Mary Parish Council requesting improvements to the Bellamy Bridge junction in view of the number of accidents at this location. This application was successful and we will be liaising with the County Council in the coming year to discuss how this junction can be improved. The 2014/2015 scheme for the extension of the 40mph speed limit at Church End and a build out to slow the traffic just past the Doctors Surgery should be completed by the County Council Highways team in the next few months.

Care Network Cambridgeshire

Care network volunteers are people who help older, isolated or vulnerable people living in Cambridgeshire to stay independent and maintain social contact. They are all ages and from many different backgrounds, but they have one thing in common; they gain great satisfaction from helping people. They are trained, supported and paid any out of pocket expenses. Could you be part of a volunteer team in Fenland and make a difference with just a few hours a month or are you interested in setting up a group or activity to support older or vulnerable people. Care Network has Offices in Chatteris and Wisbech and is on hand to provide training and local support. For more information call 01954 589953 or email volunteering@care-network.org.uk

UK Power Networks

To report a power cut or make enquiries about a power cut residents should ring 0800 3163105 from a land line and 0333 3232105 if calling from a mobile.

Council Meetings

Parish Council meetings will be held in The Cage starting at 7.00pm on the following dates, Wednesday 11th February, Wednesday 4th March and Wednesday 8th 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 29th April at 7.30pm in St Marks Church, Main Road, Parson Drove. Village groups and organisations wishing to apply for a grant during the year are welcome to attend this meeting to give a presentation on their activities and projects in support of their future application for a grant from the Parish Council.