

MINUTES OF PARSON DROVE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10th DECEMBER 2008 IN ST MARKS METHODIST CHURCH.

Attended by Councillors:- C. Bellamy (Chairman), G. Bellamy, G. Booth,
P. Everett & P. Spriggs.
Thelma Wadsley (Fenland Links) & 1 member of the public.

08/194. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillor M. Shelley and P.C. Julie Coales.

08/195. To approve & sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2008.

The minutes were taken as read, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

08/196. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillor P. Everett declared a Personal interest in respect of Agenda item number 08/200 payment to Peter Humphrey Associates Ltd., planning application fee for proposed Pavilion extension.

Reason for declaring an interest – Councillor Everett is a member of the section 106 working group.

Councillor G. Booth declared a Personal interest in respect of Agenda item number 08/200 payment to Peter Humphrey Associates Ltd., planning application fee for proposed Pavilion extension.

Reason for declaring an interest – Councillor Booth is a member of the section 106 working group.

Councillor's C. Bellamy & G. Bellamy declared a Personal interest in respect of Agenda item number 08/200 payment to Peter Humphrey Associates Ltd., planning application fee for proposed Pavilion extension.

Reason for declaring an interest – Peter Humphrey Associates Ltd., also acts as Agents for the Councillors.

08/197. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

Councillors G. Bellamy, G. Booth & M. Shelley had attend the meeting at the Payne Primary School to discuss their Safer Routes to School application to the County Council. Councillor Booth gave a verbal report on the meeting advising that the project is over 2 years. Information was being collected and 79 out of 90 questionnaires had been returned by parents. The County Council were hoping to install equipment to monitor the volume and speed of traffic. A further meeting will be held in the New Year.

Councillor Everett advised that she would try and attend the Community Road Safety Action Group Meeting being held on the 18th December in St Marks Church.

The Clerk had been unable to contact Dan Horn at F.D.C. requesting an extension for responses on the Housing Strategy Consultation document. The consultation document was still being circulated for Councillors to study.

A site meeting had been arranged with the County Council's street lighting engineer for Wednesday 17th December at 10.30 to discuss locations and costs for a new street light.

08/198. Planning Matters & Applications.

There were no planning applications to consider.

08/199. Thelma Wadsley - Fenland Links Report

Thelma Wadsley informed the Council on the activities being arranged during the February half term. Council Shelley had attend a speeding meeting organised by Fenland Links and from this meeting an action plan had been drawn up. Speed Watch training was being provided at the Community Road Safety Meeting on the 18th December. Roddens were operating a community grants scheme again this year for voluntary groups.

08/200. Accounts & Finance

a) Councillors resolved to approve the following payments:-

Cambridgeshire ACRE, membership renewal, £25. L.G.A. 1972 s. 143

Clerks quarter year salary & expenses £1,034.83. L.G.A. 1972 s. 112

Peter Humphrey Associates Ltd., Planning Application Fee for proposed extension to the Pavilion, £1,340. L.G.M.P.A 1976 s. 19.

The Clerk advised that as part of the Planning Application the Architects would have to prepare a Flood Risk Assessment and a Design and Access Statement. This would result in an additional cost of approximately £500 +VAT. Fenland District Council had advised that this fee could not be funded from the section 106 money held by them.

Thelma Wadsley agreed to approach the County Council requesting funding for this fee from the grant given for the feasibility study as there was still funding left in this budget. If this request was refused then Councillors resolved that the additional fee would have to be funded by the Parish Council.

CPALC, Councillor training fee, Allotments training day 7th March 2009, £55

L.G.A. 1972 s. 111.

b) To consider request from Cambridgeshire Shrievalty Trust for a grant.

Councillors resolved to give a grant of £50. L.G.A. 1972 s. 137.

c)To consider request from FACT for a grant towards the purchase of a minibus costing £35,419.

Councillors resolved to give a grant of £150. L.G.A. 1972 s. 137.

08/201. To discuss and agree responses where appropriate to items of correspondence received as shown below.

a). F.D.C. consultation document on Wind Turbines in Fenland.

Councillors resolved by a majority vote to respond strongly objecting to any further wind turbine developments in Fenland.

b). Consultation document on Codes of Conduct for Members & Employees from Communities & Local Government.

Councillors resolved to support the amendments being proposed to the Code of Conduct for Members and the implementation of a Code of Conduct for Employees.

c). Letter of thanks from Parochial Church Council for the grants given and enquiring on progress regarding purchase of land to extend the churchyard.
Clerk to respond advising that no further progress had been made pending a response from the Diocese.

d). Letter from Cambridgeshire County Council inviting applications for 2009/2010 under the Parish Paths Partnership scheme.
Councillors resolved for the Clerk to request improvements to the footpath over the village green near to the Cage as this was over grown with grass and now very narrow.

e) Copy of Cambridgeshire County Council's Annual Report for 2007-2008.
No action required as for information only.

f) Letter from Cambridgeshire County Council enclosing information on how they support people in applying for welfare benefits.
Information noted and to be displayed on notice boards.

g) Information on Cambridge Housing Society.
The Chairman advised that a scheme was already being operated by Wisbech St Mary Parish Council in partnership with Roddens and was very successful in assisting local people obtain housing in the Parish. Councillors resolved for the Clerk to invite Laura Waite to the next meeting to discuss the possibility of a similar scheme for Parson Drove.

08/202. To consider & adopt new Freedom of Information Act - Model Publication Scheme.

Councillors resolved to adopt the new Freedom of Information Model Publication Scheme.

The information available under the model publication scheme was discussed and agreed upon.

08/203. To review the Council's Code of Practice for handling complaints.

The code of practice was discussed and Councillors resolved to make some amendments to the existing code. The amended code of practice is to be prepared by the Clerk and presented to the Council for adoption at the next meeting.

08/204. Garden & Allotments.

a) To receive report on collection of rent arrears.

The Clerk advised that all the Garden Rents had now been paid and a reminder letter had been sent to the tenant for the outstanding Allotments rent.

b) To consider letter from allotment tenant giving notice to vacate allotments numbered 5, 9 & 10 with immediate effect.

Councillors resolved to accept the notification by the tenant to vacate the three allotments.

Clerk to advertise the vacant allotments in Village Voices and on the notice boards.

08/205 To receive a progress report on applications to the Land Registry for voluntary first registration of land & agree on any action to be taken relating to the building plot.

A letter had been received from the Land Registry advising that our application was being progressed in relation to Bridge Drove and Short Drove for possessory title subject to no objections being received from adjoining land owners. The parts of the village green currently unregistered were also being granted absolute title and if we wished to proceed with the areas currently registered we must lodge an AP1 application.

Councillors resolved to instruct our solicitor to lodge the required AP1 applications and inform the Land Registry of the pending sale of the building plot adjoining the village green.

08/206. To consider information and advice received from NALC & the Open Spaces Society regarding parking on the village green.

The information received so far was noted by Councillors but clarification was still required regarding the validity of the existing Bylaws and the wording for any no parking signs erected on the village green. Councillors resolved to invite the Conservation Officer at Fenland District Council to attend a site meeting to discuss possible posts or edging to deter parking on the green.

08/207. Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

No report was given as Councillor Shelley was unable to attend the meeting due to illness.

08/208. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

No questions were asked by members.

08/209. Any other business (information items only).

The Clerk was requested to report to the County Council Highways the over hanging hedges along Silvers Lane as these were obstructing vehicles using the highway and the grass verge outside Rookery Homes encroaching onto the public footpath.

The Clerk was requested to inform Fenland District Council of the vehicles and produce apparently being sold from a private house at 213 Main Road, Parson Drove.

Concern was also raised over the damage being done to the road by the contractors installing the sewerage scheme at Back Road, Murrow and it was agreed that the Clerk should inform the County Council Highways.

The Clerk was requested to write to the farmer enquiring into the position regarding the proposed permissive walkway along the river bank from Murrow to Parson Drove.

Meeting closed 10.25pm