

MINUTES OF PARSON DROVE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE CAGE ON WEDNESDAY 13th AUGUST 2008.

Attended by Councillors C. Bellamy (Chairman), A. Sanderson (Vice Chairman), G. Bellamy, P. Everett, M. Shelley & P. Spriggs. Thelma Wadsley (Fenland Links), P.C. Julie Coales & 3 members of the public.

08/119. Apologies for absence.

No apologies were received.

08/120. To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held on the 9th and 23rd July 2008.

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

08/121. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillors C. Bellamy & G. Bellamy declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda item number 08/124 b). Reason – Agent also acts for the Councillors. Councillor C. Bellamy declared a personal interest for Agenda item number 08/124 d). Reason as a District Councillor he had made representations on the application.

08/122. Presentation by Mr M Brown on the proposed Quilt & Flower Festival following previous request for grant funding.

Mr Brown presented the Council with a draft financial plan/budget for the Festival together with general information.

Councillors resolved to give a grant of £100 towards this years Festival and requested a copy of the final Accounts/Balance Sheet for the event.

08/123. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

The Clerk advised the Council that Fenland Links Management Board would not agree to Parson Drove having two representatives on the board. Mr John Cook had therefore been appointed as the representative for Parson Drove and had attended the Annual General Meeting as had members of the Council.

Fenland District Council had been notified of Andrew Mills's resignation and the appropriate notices advertising the vacancy had been issued by the District Council and displayed on the notice board and in the Post Office.

The external audit had been completed with no issues raised by the Auditors. The completion of audit notice had been displayed on the notice board.

08/124. Planning Matters & Applications.

a) Anglian Water Services Ltd., Planning Application Number F/YR08/0598/F, for the erection of a Vacuum Pumping Station, Chemical Dosing Kiosk, underground valve house, telemetry aerial, security fence and formation of access road on land west of Carousel, 117 Back Road, Murrow.

Councillors resolved to raise no objections to the application.

b) J Pugh, Planning Application Number F/YR08/0636/F, Agent Peter Humphrey Associates Ltd., for the erection of a first floor side extension with balcony and external staircase to existing dwelling at The Russetts, 65 Main Road, Parson Drove. Councillors resolved to raise no objections to the side extension but to object to the balcony and external staircase in view of over looking resulting in loss of privacy to adjoining properties as was the decision for the previous application.

c) D. J. Fitzpatrick, Planning Application Number F/YR08/0662/F, Agent J.D. Lynch Partnerships, for the conversion of a barn to a 3 bed dwelling including the erection of a single story extension and erection of detached open barn at The Barn Common Road, Throckenholt.
Councillors resolved to raise no objections to the application.

d) S.A. Johnson, Planning Application Number F/YR08/0680/O, Agent Vawser & Co, for the erection of 2 dwellings on land east of Liswyn, Main Road, Parson Drove. Councillors resolved to raise no objections to the application.

08/125. Thelma Wadsley Fenland Links Report

Thelma Wadsley reported that the school holiday activities were now being well supported after a disappointing start.

The Fenland Links Annual General Meeting had been held and a review on the future structure of Fenland Links was presented. This would take effect at the end of March 2009.

08/126. To discuss and agree responses where appropriate to items of correspondence.

a). Reply from North Level Drainage Board regarding fly tipping in the drain and along the bank at Swan Bridge.

Councillors noted the comments made and agreed to monitor the situation.

b). Letter from the Swan Inn advising of their intension to hold a Beer Festival on the 12th, 13th and 14th September.

Councillors resolved to raise no objections to the event or the use of the village green for the various stalls on the 14th September. They requested that plans should be in place to control parking.

c). Invitation from Cambridgeshire Rural Forum to attend a Conference on Thursday 25th September at 9.30am at The Burgess Hall St Ivo Leisure Centre, St Ives.

No Councillor indicated a wish to attend.

d). Letter from Parson Drove Amenities 95 regarding the cutting of the grass in the children's play area.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to reply advising that they were unable to finance any additional cuts.

e) Letter from North Level Drainage Board inviting two Councillors to attend a visit to a pumping station on Wednesday 8th October at 9.00am.

It was agreed that Councillors P. Everett and G. Bellamy should attend the visit on behalf of the Council.

f). Invitation from Cambridgeshire ACRE to attend the AGM on Tuesday 2nd September at 5.30pm at the Burgess Hall, St Ivo Leisure Centre, St. Ives.
No Councillors indicated a wish to attend the meeting.

g). Invitation from Fenland District Council to attend a conference on the Council Housing Strategy 2008 - 2011 on Friday 19th September at 1.30pm in the Council Chamber, Fenland Hall, March.
No Councillors indicated a wish to attend the conference.

h) Notification from Fenland District Council of the arrangements for the collection of refuse and other services during the National Strike Action.
No action required as for information purposes only.

i). Information from Fenland District Council regarding maintenance on the street lights in our Parish.
No action required as for information purposes only.

08/127. To report any faulty streetlights and highway matters.

The Clerk was requested to report the disappearance of the arrow signs warning of the bend at Turf Fen Bridge.

The Clerk was still waiting for a response from Cambridgeshire County Council Highways on the confusion over signage of Bridge Drove and Fen Road.

Investigations completed so far indicated that Ordnance Survey maps and satellite navigation systems did not recognise Fen Road.

08/128. Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

Councillor Shelley advised that the Youth Club had been awarded a grant of £5,000 from the Youth Bank.

The joint meeting with the Section 106 working group had been held and the working group were in the process of obtaining quotations from Building Contractors and working on grant applications for funding. A further joint meeting will be arranged when required.

08/129. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

No questions were raised by Councillors.

08/130. Any other business (information items only).

Councillor Shelley had attended a Neighbourhood Policing Champions Meeting recently when discussions took place on speeding kits costing £3,000. Volunteers were being sought to assist the police with operating the speed guns and training for this would be provided. Speeding in Parson Drove is one of the priorities for the Police as a result of the recent Neighbourhood Policing Panel Meeting. Smartwater is being promoted by the Police and Councillor Shelley was requested to enquire when this would be made more available to residents in Parson Drove.

The Clerk advised that the weed growth on the paving slabs outside the Cage entrance had been treated by the grounds contractor. Also the broken wooden surrounds on the flower planters had been removed and the flower planters cleared of weeds and replanted.

The War Memorial had been cleared of debris and the surrounding flower bed tidied up by the Street Pride Group and would continue to be maintained by them on a monthly basis.

The damaged wooden bench outside the Post Office had been repaired and was now to be stained with wood preservative.

The tree officer at the District Council had been contacted to arrange for his inspection of the trees highlighted by Councillors during the recent annual inspection requiring attention. The Clerk was requested to include the Oak Tree in the District Council inspection as some low branches were obstructing vision at the Swan Bridge junction.

It was noted that the Cage roof was leaking following the heavy rain earlier in the evening.

Vandals had tried to damage the notice board outside the village hall and dig holes in the village green where there were mole hills.

Councillor G. Bellamy requested that the Council consider adopting a policy for the village green to establish permitted use and clarification on parking.

Meeting closed at 10.30pm.