

MINUTES OF PARSON DROVE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8th APRIL 2009 IN ST MARKS METHODIST CHURCH

Attended by Councillors : - C. Bellamy (Chairman), A. Sanderson (Vice Chairman), G. Bellamy, G. Booth, P. Everett, M. Shelley, P. Spriggs, R. Scrimshaw (F.D.C.), J. Tuck (C.C.C.), G. Harper F.D.C., J. Cook (Fenland Links Parish Council Representative) Thelma Wadsley (Fenland Links), P.C. Julie Coales & one member of the public.

09/51. Apologies for absence.

No apologies had been received.

09/52. Presentation by Councillor Geoffrey Harper CBE, Leader of Fenland District Council.

Councillor Harper gave a presentation to the Parish Council advising them of the structure of the Cabinet, the roles of the various departments, information on the finances and the District Council's achievements over the last few years.

Councillor Harper then left the meeting.

09/53. To approve & sign the minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2009.

The minutes were taken as read, agreed as a true record after inserting "Road Signs" in Minute Reference Number 09/47, second paragraph and signed by the Chairman.

09/54. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

No declaration of interests were made by Councillors.

09/55. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

No matters were raised.

09/56. Community Police Officer's Report.

P.C. Julie Coales advised that garden ornaments were being targeted by thieves. A few more volunteers were required for the Speedwatch scheme. One of the priorities for the Police during the next 3 months would be inconsiderate parking.

09/57. Report by John Cook, Fenland Links Parish Council Representative.

John Cook advised the Parish Council that the Fenland Links Board was now finished following the transfer of the programme to Fenland District Council. The new structure would consist of Boards for the 4 Towns and 1 for the Rural Area with a second tier of Neighbourhood Forums who would not be making decisions but discussing issues and then passing the information on to the Boards. Both the new Boards and Forums would be appointing representatives in the near future, details on how this would take place were not known at present.

Mr Cook then left the meeting.

09/58. Thelma Wadsley - Fenland Links Report.

Thelma Wadsley confirmed that she was continuing to cover all the rural areas at present. Cambridgeshire ACRE were no longer working on Parish Plans in Fenland and the day to day support had been transferred to Fenland District Council. A further meeting on speeding in rural areas was being arranged for late April.

09/59. Planning Matters & Applications.

a) J. Grooms, Planning Application No. F/YR09/0180/F, Agent David Broker for the erection of a single storey front extension and detached garage to existing dwelling at The Js, 203 Main Road, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved unanimously to support the application.

b) S Brodigan, Planning Application No. F/YR09/0190/F, Agent M Beevers, for the change of use of land for the temporary siting of a log cabin for residential use at land north of The White Bungalow, Elbow Lane, Church End, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved by a majority vote to support the application.

c) Notice of Appeal Decision in respect of 3 The Bank, Parson Drove advising that the appeal has been refused.

Information noted by Councillors, no further action required.

09/60. Accounts & Finance.

a) Councillors resolved to approve the following Invoices for payment:-

CPALC , membership renewal £370.06. L.G.A. 1972 s.143.

Chattertons, Solicitors fees, £500. L.G.A. 1972 s.111.

Fenland District Council, rates for The Cage, £242.50. L.G.A. 1972 s.133.

b) To consider quotation received from EDF for a new Street Light.

This matter was deferred to the next meeting.

c) To consider quotation received for concrete bases for new litter bins.

Councillors resolved to accept the quotation for £100 to install the 2 litter bins as the Clerk had been unable to obtain any further quotations.

d) To consider quotation received to paint the outside of The Cage.

As only 1 quotation had been received to date this matter was deferred to the next meeting.

e) Internal Audit Report for year ending 31st March 2009.

Councillors were provided with a copy of the Internal Auditors Report and as there were no issues raised no further action was required.

f) To receive & approve the Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2009 and to approve the completed Annual Return.

Councillors resolved to approve the year end Accounts presented and the Annual Return was completed and approved accordingly.

09/61. To report on progress regarding erection of posts around the village green following site meeting on the 8th April with Conservation Officer, F.D.C.

At the site meeting the Conservation Officer suggested railings as an alternative to posts as he and the Tree Officer was concerned about the visual effect so many posts would have on the village green and possible damage to the tree roots.

After some discussion on site it was agreed that we proceed with the posts but undertake the project in stages in order to reduce the initial cost and to gauge the visual effect the posts would have on the area together with the effectiveness of them preventing parking on the green. It was also agreed that the first stage of the project should be from the King William up to Tan Roses Butcher's shop including the access road outside the shop. Councillors agreed to meet on site with the Tree Officer to discuss his concerns and the Chairman agreed to arrange for this meeting as soon as possible.

Councillors again considered the quotations received and resolved to opt for the Redwood posts costing £25 each plus installation and reflective strips.

09/62. To consider and respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received from:-

a) Email from Fenland District Council with draft articles for Parish Council approval before publication on Exception sites for Affordable Housing.

Councillors resolved for some amendments to be made to the draft articles and agreed that they should be issued on behalf of the Parish Council and not the Parish Plan Group. Also to request that Fenland District Council agree to include in the article a contact person at F.D.C. for landowners with queries or requests for further information on the process.

b) Letter from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding a potential exception site for Affordable Houses in Parson Drove.

Councillors noted the information received confirming that land at Swan Bridge Farm had been submitted to Fenland District Council as a potential exception site for 8 to 10 affordable houses. Councillors resolved for the Clerk to write to the County Council acknowledging receipt of the letter and enquiring if they had any other land in the village that would be suitable for submitting as an exception site for affordable houses.

c) Letter from Fenland District Council, Safer Fenland Partnership regarding the new CrimeBUSTER scheme.

Information noted, no further action required.

d) Letter from Cambridgeshire County Council enclosing advice leaflets on A Guide to help you through the economic downturn.

Councillor Everett advised that these leaflets were very helpful and requested more were issued to Post Offices.

e) Newsletters from COPE, FCVS and Countryside Voice.

Noted by Councillors.

f) Letter from Cambs County Council advising of the grass verge maintenance grant for 2009/2010.

Information noted confirming the increase in the grant to £833 for this year.

g) Letter from Cambridgeshire County Council advising of further consultation on additional Mineral & Waste Proposals for the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Minerals & Waste Development Plan.

Information noted, no action required.

h) A copy of Fenland District Council's Housing Strategy 2009 to 2012.
Document available for Councillors to study.

09/63. To consider letters received from Solicitors and H.M. Land Registry.

Councillors resolved in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960 that as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted at Agenda Items number 09/45 and 09/46 that it was advisable in the public interest that the Public and Press be temporarily excluded from the meeting.

09/64. To consider offer to purchase land at College Lot, Short Drove, Murrow Bank, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to obtain an independent valuation for the area of land before the offer made is considered.

09/65. Street Lighting & Highway Matters

Councillor Tuck advised that more money was being allocated to the Highways Budget. She advised that the suggested diversion through Murrow onto Back Road whilst work is completed on the sewerage scheme will not be implemented.

The Clerk had received a letter from the County Council advising that urgent repairs to pot holes along Back Road had been ordered and that the road was to have further work during the coming year, more details to be received from the County Council in due course.

Councillors requested that pot holes along Main Road and Church End were reported to the County Council.

The Clerk was requested to report the various faulty streetlights in the Parish.

09/66. Gardens & Allotments.

Request by tenant of Allotments Numbered 9 & 10 to erect a shed and polythene tunnel.

Councillors resolved to give approval for the erection of a shed and polythene tunnel subject to a site meeting with the tenant to agree on the exact locations and on the condition that the structures are removed by the tenant when he vacates the allotment.

09/67. To receive an Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

Councillor Shelley informed the Council that the Annual General Meeting would be held on the 15th May. Work was ongoing in relation to the disabled access and an extension to the car park area was being considered.

The Street Pride group had arranged for the majority of the overgrown trees and bushes to be cut back and Mr Fowler would be completing the work in the near future.

09/68. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

The Clerk was asked if any further response had been received regarding the use of 213 Main Road, Parson Drove as Councillors had received further complaints from

adjoining properties. The Clerk advised that no further information had been received regarding the Enforcement Officers investigations and she would endeavour to ascertain the present situation.

Councillor Scrimshaw was asked to advise on the current situation regarding the travellers site at Turf Fen Bridge. Councillors were advised that expert legal advice was being obtained by the District Council as problems were being encountered in arranging for the site to be cleared.

09/69. Any other business (information items only).

Councillor Booth advised that he was meeting with representatives from C.C.C. regarding the safer routes to school scheme to look at the possible use of the public footpath from near John Bends Way through to Back Road, Murrow.

Councillors were invited to attend a joint meeting between the Section 106 Working Group and the Amenities 95 Management Committee on Wednesday 29th April at 7.30pm in the Pavilion. The purpose of the meeting was to advise all interested parties on the current position regarding the proposed extension to the pavilion in relation to obtaining sufficient funding for the project and to consider whether to look at the costs for option two, the all weather surface area.

Councillors expressed concern over the safety of Fosters barn at Church End and the Clerk was requested to raise this with the District Council.

Councillors resolved to hold the next meeting in St Marks Methodist Church and not The Cage as it is the Annual Parish Assembly Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

Meeting closed 10.45pm