

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th December 2010 in St Marks Church, Parson Drove.

Attended by Councillors G. Booth (Chairman), C. Bellamy, G. Bellamy, P. Everett, & P Spriggs. R. Scrimshaw (F.D.C.).

10/255. Apologies for absence.

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

10/256. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillor Booth declared a Personal Interests in respect of Agenda Items Number 10/266. Reason – member of the working group. Agenda Item Number 10/269. Reason – an allotment garden tenant.

Councillor Everett declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 10/266. Reason – member of the working group.

10/257. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

There were no members of the public at the meeting.

10/258. Community Police Officer's Report.

P.C. Coales had telephoned the Clerk and provided her with a report on the most recent crime figures for the Parish, they included the theft of a trailer, a dwelling burglary and a theft. Speedwatch volunteers had recently completed speed checks in the village when several motorists had been exceeding the speed limit. The Clerk had requested the exact figures for future reference. At the recent Police Panel Meeting in Wisbech two of the priorities agreed were speed checks along Leverington Common and through Guyhirn.

10/259. To approve & sign the minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2010.

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

10/260. Matters Arising from the Minutes. (For information only).

There were no matters arising.

10/261. To receive report from Julie Randall, Neighbourhood Management Services.

No report had been received.

10/262. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

Councillor Bellamy expressed his concern over the continued development along Back Road, Murrow in view of the width of the road. The Clerk advised that we were now only receiving copies of planning applications for developments on the north of Back Road. Councillors resolved to request copies for all planning applications where the access would be from Back Road irrespective of whether the dwellings were to be erected to the north or south of Back Road, Murrow.

Councillor Scrimshaw informed Councillors that the Chief Planning Officer had been in contact with the complainant regarding the coverall building to the rear of properties along Back Road, Murrow. Councillor Scrimshaw reiterated Councillor Bellamy's concerns over the development along Back Road and Councillors resolved to include this as an agenda item for further discussion at the next meeting.

10/263. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

Notification from Fenland District Council that the following planning applications have been approved:-

a) Parson Drove Parish Council, Planning Application No. F/YR10/0778/TRTPO, felling of 1 Turkey Oak Tree on the Village Green, Station Road, Parson Drove.

Information noted.

b) Parson Drove Parish Council Planning Application No. F/YR10/0500/TRTPO felling of 2 Willow Trees, 1 Ash Tree, 1 Silver Birch Tree & 1 Cherry Tree, works to 8 Willow Trees, 1 Silver Birch Tree, 1 Hawthorn Trees, 1 Ash Tree and 1 Horse Chestnut Tree around the pond, Main Road, Parson Drove.

Information noted.

c) Letters from residents at Sutton St Edmunds objecting to the proposed erection of 6 wind turbines at Sutton St Edmunds and Gorefield.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to reply advising that the proposed wind turbines were not situated in our Parish and therefore when the planning applications are submitted we may not be consulted. However as the Parish Council do not support the erecting of wind turbines they would support their objections.

10/264. Accounts & Finance.

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

Y Reader, Clerks quarter year salary & expenses £1,150.78. L.G.A. 1972 s.112

Konica Minolta, quarterly rental charges for photocopier, £50.23. L.G.A. 1972 s.111.

T.A. Blackamore, annual grass cutting & maintenance contract, £3,499.51. Open Spaces Act 1903 s 9 & 10

CPRE, annual membership fee, £29. L.G.A. 1972 s.143.

Society of Local Council Clerks, annual membership fee, £82. L.G.A. 1972 s. 143.

b) To consider requests from the following for a grant/donation.

1. MAGPAS.

Councillors resolved to give a grant of £100. L.G.A. 1972 s.137.

2. Southea Parochial Church Council, annual Churchyard maintenance grant.

Councillors resolved to give a grant of £500. L.G.A. 1972 s.214(6).

c) To consider and agree on application to Fenland District Council for Concurrent Functions Grant for 2011/2012.

Councillors resolved to defer this matter to the next meeting on the 15th December when the Budget and Precept for 2011/2012 would be agreed.

10/265. Risk Assessment

a) Update report on work still required to the trees on the village green and around the pond.

The Clerk advised that the Contractor had indicated that he hoped to fell the 3 Lime Trees before Christmas subject to the weather improving, failing this the trees would be felled in January 2011.

No indication had been given when the first phase of the work to the trees around the pond would be completed.

The Clerk advised that a large branch had fallen from the Blue Cedar tree behind The Cage obstructing the footpath but this had now been cleared. The tree officer at Fenland District Council had inspected the tree advising that in his opinion it did not require felling but the weight in the crown should be reduced. He had recommended that the crown be reduced by 20% and the Clerk had submitted an application to the planning department on this basis.

b) Update report on windows for the Bus Shelter.

To date the Clerk had not received any further indication as to when the work would be completed in view of the adverse weather conditions.

10/266. Update report on Section 106 Funding & MUGA project.

The Chairman advised that the white lining was still outstanding but this could not be completed until the weather improved. Fencing at the sides of the tennis court had not been included in the quotation and discussions were ongoing as to whether this was required with a site meeting soon to be held with the Amenities 95 Committee.

The proposed Skate Ramp was still progressing and the application to Fenland District Council for funding under the Rural Capital Grants scheme should be decided at the December Cabinet Meeting. Even if this is successful there may still be a funding shortfall to resolve.

10/267. To consider, debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received from:-

a) Draft copy of the minutes from CPALC for the AGM held on 13th November.

Noted by Councillors, no further action required.

b) Letter of thanks from Victim Support for the grant of £50.

Noted by Councillors.

c) Letter from John Harrison enclosing two DVD's for the Councils Archives on looking back at the village in the late 1970's early 1980's.

The Clerk advised that Mr Harrison had previously lived in the village and offered to donate two DVD's of films he had made of the village in the late 1970's and early 1980's for the Councils archives. The Clerk had accepted the offer and the DVD's were now available for viewing.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to send a letter of thanks to Mr Harrison.

d) Request from ACRE to complete a Rural Services Survey.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to complete and return the survey.

e) Email from J. Tuck attaching a letter from RT Hon Eric Pickles MP regarding the Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

Councillors resolved to defer this matter for a future meeting.

f) Reply from North Level Internal Drainage Board regarding the over grown hedges at Swan Bridge and the damaged hand rail.

The overgrown hedges had now been cut back and as the North Level Drainage Board were not responsible for the maintenance of the hand rail the Chairman & Councillor Spriggs agreed to make the necessary repairs.

g) A copy of NALC's response to the department of Communities & Local Government on the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity.

The Chairman agreed to study this and report back to the next meeting.

h) Training information for 2011 from CPALC.

Information noted.

i) 2011 Calendar from the National Grid.

Noted.

j) Newsletters, information leaflets and magazines from CPRE and War Memorials Trust.

Noted.

10/268. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.

a) Highway issues to be reported to Cambridgeshire County Council.

The Clerk was asked to report again the pot holes at Ingham Hall Gardens and request the sweeping of the footpaths along Main Road in view of the number of leaves still laying on them.

b) Letter from the County Council Highways regarding the adoption of John Bends Way.

The letter advised that the road would be adopted once it had been brought up to an adoptable standard by the developers and the County Council were pursuing this. No further action to be taken at present.

c) Letter from Cambridgeshire County Council Highways replying to our letter regarding signs and highway issues raised at the last meeting.

Response noted advising that the flashing speed sign along Murrow Bank had been removed for repairs to be completed. Signage along John Bends way could not be installed as the road was not adopted but in any case the County Council do not erect No Ball Games signs.

d) Faulty street lights to be reported to Cambridgeshire County Council.

No faulty street lights were reported at the meeting.

e) Chairman's update on Swan Bridge highway safety improvements.

The Chairman advised that the matter would be discussed at the County Councils Cabinet Meeting on December 14th. He was going to attend the meeting but would not be allowed to speak.

10/269. Gardens & Allotments.

a) To receive an update report on the collection of the Allotments & Gardens rents. The Clerk advised that all rents had now been paid & the vacant Gardens advertised.

b) Letter from Anglian Water regarding our enquiry to provide a water supply for the Allotment Gardens.

Detailed information was required on the application form regarding where the water supply would be coming from and going too before a quotation could be provided. The Chairman and Councillor Spriggs agreed to look into the possibility of taking the supply from Riverside Gardens and working out where the supply should be located for use by the tenants of the allotment gardens.

10/270. To agree on a date for the next Parishioners Open Surgery.

The Chairman and Councillor Spriggs agreed to hold an Open Surgery in The Cage on Sunday 6th February from 11.00am to 12 noon.

10/271. To receive an Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

Councillor Shelley had provided the Clerk with a verbal report advising that the Cricket Club Funds had now been given to the Amenities 95 Committee to hold in the event of the Cricket Club reforming. The computers in the Pavilion were being updated. A Dinner organised by the Youth Club had been very good. The Murrow Children's Centre had booked the village hall for two sessions a month starting from January 2011. Over a 100 tickets had been sold for the Christmas Cabaret. A grant of £3,000 had been obtained for CCTV from the District Councils Community Grants scheme subject to liaising with the Safer Fenland Partnership.

10/272. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

Councillor Spriggs asked whether any more information had been received from Elgood & Sons regarding their plans for the Swan Car Park area. The Clerk advised that no further information had been received and Councillors therefore requested that the Clerk write to Elgoods to enquire on their progress.

10/273. Matters for future consideration.

No further matters were raised for future consideration other than those previously agreed earlier in the meeting.

10/274. Any other business (information items only).

Councillor Scrimshaw advised that Mr Mills our Liaison Officer from Fenland District Council was leaving. The Clerk was requested to write to the Chief Executive enquiring as to who would be our replacement Officer.

10/275. Dates for future Council Meeting(s).

The next meeting to agree the Budget and Precept for 2011/2012 is Wednesday 15th December. Councillors C. Bellamy, G. Bellamy & Everett advised that they would be unable to attend. In the event of this meeting not being quorate an alternative date was agreed for the 5th January 2011. The normal monthly meetings will be held on the 12th January, 9th February and 9th March 2011.

Meeting closed 9.20 pm.