

MINUTES OF PARSON DROVE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 14th JULY 2010 IN THE CAGE, PARSON DROVE.

Attended by Councillors :- G. Booth (Chairman), A. Sanderson (Vice Chairman), C. Bellamy, G. Bellamy, P. Everett, M Shelley & P. Spriggs. R. Scrimshaw (F.D.C.), P. C. Julie Coales & 2 members of the public.

10/137. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from J. Tuck (C.C.C.) & J. Randall (F.D.C. Neighbourhood Management Services).

10/138. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillors C Bellamy & G. Bellamy declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Items No. 10/145 b) & e). Reason - Agents also acts for the Councillors.

Councillor Everett declared a Personal & Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda item Number 10/145 c). Reason – Councillor Everett resides close to the location of the planning application address.

Councillor Booth declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 10/149 h). Reason – Councillor Booth is Chairman of this group.

Councillor Scrimshaw declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 10/149 K. Reason – Councillors Scrimshaws wife works for Circle Anglia.

10/139. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

Concerns were raised by a Parishioner regarding the Planning Application for the conversion of outbuildings and garages to form additional living accommodation at 12 The Bank because of possible multi occupancy at the private dwelling house.

A request for funding from the Council for the Parson Drove Car Surgery Car Scheme was made by Mr B Dorks (Chairman of the Car Scheme Committee).

Councillors suggested that an application for funding be made to the John Bends Charity but also agreed for the request to be included in the Agenda for the next Council meeting.

Councillors were advised that the Street Pride group had asked Mr G Fowler to level the soil out on the access track over the village green ready for reseeded. As Mr Fowler had kindly completed this work free of charge a request was made that the Council send Mr Fowler a letter of thanks. Councillors agreed to this request.

10/140. Community Police Officer's Report.

P.C. Coales advised that it was difficult getting members of the public to report crimes. No action was being taken on the damage to the cricket nets as the witness to the incident would not make a statement. Councillors advised P.C. Coales that vandalism was once again a problem on the playing field and Councillor Shelley had arranged for a Neighbourhood Watch meeting to be held on the 19th August.

10/141. To approve & sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th June 2010.

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

10/142. Matters Arising from the Minutes. (For information only).

The Chairman advised that the County Council had now advised that we could appoint a replacement for the Future Jobs Fund Employee who left at the end of May but the post had to be filled by the end of July. In view of the tight time scales imposed this was not possible but we had obtained some assistance from the Probation Service under the Community Pay Back Scheme. Work had already been completed earlier in the day around the village and further work would be completed in the Churchyard during the coming weeks.

Councillor Sanderson confirmed that he had been contacted by the County Council to meet on site to discuss concerns over the flooding of the Bowls Pitch once the new footway extension had been installed at the top of John Bends Way.

The next Green Communities meeting was being held in the Cage on Thursday 5th August at 7.30pm.

Councillors suggested that the Street Pride Group contact Peterborough City Council to enquire if they could obtain some funding from the Section 106 money set aside from the Wind Turbine Farms at Thorney for Bird & Owl Boxes.

10/143. Report from Julie Randall, Neighbourhood Management Services.

No report had been received other than leaflets on the school holiday activities and these were distributed to Councillors.

10/144. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

Councillor Scrimshaw advised that he had been appointed as a Governor at the Payne School, Parson Drove, he was now a member of the Anti Social Behaviour Committee and had attended various events held in the District. Judges had been shown round the village last week as part of the street pride entry in the Anglia In Bloom competition.

10/145. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) Planning Application No. F/YR10/0408/F, N Neoptolemos, Agent David Broker, for the conversion of outbuildings/garage to form additional living accommodation at 12 The Bank, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to raise no objections to the application but to request that a condition be imposed stating that the buildings remain as one dwelling for the future. In view of concerns raised by a parishioner on the possible use of the dwelling for multi occupancy Councillors resolved to request that the Enforcement Officer investigate this.

b) J Scrimshaw, Planning Application No. F/YR10/0200/0, Agent Peter Humphrey Associates, amended proposals to site layout to incorporate Tree Preservation Order and reduction to erect 3 dwellings at land north of 69 – 79 Back Road, Murrow. Information noted.

c) G. Meads, Planning Application No. F/YR10/0439/F, No Agent, for change of use from retail to hot food take-away at 3 The Bank, Parson Drove.
Councillors resolved to object to the application as the main areas of concern remain unchanged in respect of parking, preservation of the village green and highway safety, loss of amenity for adjoining properties and detrimental to the Conservation Area.

d) Mrs S Price, Planning Application No. F/YR10/0438/F, Agent Ken Elener, for the erection of a single storey rear extension to 2 Sealeys Lane, Parson Drove.
No objections were raised and Councillors resolved to support this application.

e) Parson Drove Parish Council, Planning Application No. F/YR10/0459/F, Agent Peter Humphrey Associates Ltd., for the formation of a multi-use games area, erection of a 3.6 metre high weld mesh fencing and access pathway on the Playing Field, Main Road, Parson Drove.
Councillors resolved to support this application and request approval is granted as soon as possible.

f) N Coppin, Planning Application No. F/YR10/0471/F, No Agent, change of use of agricultural land to domestic garden and formation of a vehicular access, land north of 305 Main Road, Parson Drove.
Councillors resolved to raise no objections to the change of use from agricultural land to domestic garden but to object to the formation of an additional vehicular access on the grounds of highway safety and loss of amenity to the adjoining property at 307 Main Road.

g) Notification that approval has been granted to S. Ray, Planning Application No.F/YR10/0318/F, Agent S Ayres, for the erection of a 2 storey side extension & lean to roof to porch to existing dwelling at Gull House, The Bank, Parson Drove.
Noted by Councillors.

h) Notification that an appeal has been lodged by M Lawrence, Planning Application No. F/YR10/0179/F, for the erection of a 2 storey side and rear extension involving the demolition of the existing kitchen/utility & outbuildings & the erection of a 1.5m rail fencing at The Paddocks, Long Drove, Parson Drove.
Letter from Fenland District Council advising that their decision to refuse this application was because the proposed extension was larger than the existing dwelling and contrary to Policy E9 of the Fenland District Wide Local Plan (copy attached).
Response from Fenland District Council noted. Councillors resolved to write to the Planning Inspectorate supporting the applicant's appeal.

i) Notification that the appeal lodged by the Executors of R Foster for the conversion of the barn and the erection of a new dwelling at Church Farm, 315 Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove had been allowed by the Planning Inspectorate.

10/146. Accounts & Finance.

a) Councillors resolved to approve the following Invoices for payment:-
MHB Services Ltd., new streetlight at Main Road, £866.59. P.C.A 1957 s3..
EDF, additional charge for connection of new street light at Main Road, £2,908.13.
P.C.A 1957 s3.
Power Electric Testing Ltd., 5 Yearly Periodic Inspection & Test on The Cage, £109.65. L.G.A. 1972 s133.

b) Notification from Fenland District Council of Concurrent Functions Grant allocated for 2010/2011 amounting to £5,770. Payment of first half of grant for £2,885 received.

Information noted by Councillors.

10/147. Progress report on proposed improvements to the Bus Shelter.

The Clerk advised that a letter had now been received from the Planning Department confirming that planning permission was not required to install wooden frames and toughened glass in the 3 openings at the back of the Bus Shelter. Quotations would now be obtained by the Clerk for the required work.

10/148. Risk Assessment

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

An application has now been submitted to Fenland District Council for permission to carry out the required work to the trees around the pond.

With regards to the site meeting to discuss the trees on the village green the contractor had replied stating that he would not attend unless he was paid a consultancy fee of £195. The Conservation Officer had responded indicating that he would take advice from the tree officer and therefore he considered that he need not attend a site meeting. The Clerk advised that she had been unable to make contact with the tree officer as he had no direct dial telephone number or email address and although a note had been left on his desk asking him to contact her to date no response had been received. Councillor Scrimshaw agreed to try and obtain the tree officers contact details for the Clerk.

b) To report back on the inspection of Assets and to consider actions to be taken.

The following areas were identified as requiring some action

1. The War Memorial Books need cleaning, Clerk to obtain quotations.
2. The brickwork on the front header top of the Cage needs re-pointing, Clerk to obtain quotations.
3. The railings in front of the pond are damaged. Clerk to report this to the County Council.
4. The top bar of the swings on the village green needs painting, Clerk to arrange for probation service to complete.
5. Remove weeds under the swings, Street Pride or Probation Service to be asked to complete this.
6. Monitor the chains on the swings for wear.
7. Tree on the village green outside the King William needs reshaping. Clerk to query this with tree contractor as this should have been completed already.
8. Consider moving the seat on the village green opposite the King William and to rectify the steep drop at the rear of the seat at the top of Sealeys Lane.

c) To report on the annual inspection of the Gardens & Allotments.

The new tenants of Gardens numbered 15a and 15b did not appear to have cultivated their gardens as they were over grown with rubbish. The new tenants of Gardens Numbered 14a and 14b were being cultivated but were not in a very good condition.

The tenants of Allotments numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 17 & 18 had no growing crops but most of the rubbish had been cut down. Councillors resolved for the Clerk to write to the tenants informing them that the Council expected their Allotments to be cropped next year.

10/149. To consider, debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received from:-

a) Letter from Cambridgeshire County Council inviting Parish Councils to bid under the Jointly Funded Minor Highways Improvements Scheme for 2011 -2012.

Councillors resolved to make two applications, one for the continuation of the new footway being installed this year in front of the Bowling Green and the second application for a footway extension from the top of John Bends Way going east towards the Playing Field and Village Hall

b) Letter from Cambridgeshire County Council advising of proposed reductions in the mobile library service from October 2010.

Information noted by Councillors.

c) Letter from Chattertons enclosing the Sworn Declaration for submission to the Land Registry for registration of the footpath over the village green.

The Clerk advised Councillors that she had completed the Sworn Declaration and returned this to the Solicitors with the Land Registry Fee of £50. A site meeting with representatives from Elgoods & Son Limited had been arranged for Wednesday 4th August at 7.00pm to discuss improvements to the car park area. Councillors Booth, Spriggs & Everett agreed to attend the meeting.

d) Letter from Cambridgeshire County Council advising of proposal for the reduction in funding for the Connexions and Youth Work Provision and inviting the Parish Council to attend a consultation event on the 14th July, 1.30pm to 5.00pm at the Young Peoples Centre, March.

Information noted by Councillors.

e) Letter from North Level District Internal Drainage Board inviting Council Representatives to attend a tour on Wednesday 13th October 2010.

Councillor Everett indicated that she would like to attend.

f) Letter from Fenland District Council enclosing a copy of the Consultation on the First Year Review of the Neighbourhood Engagement Structure in Fenland.

Councillors resolved to respond objecting to the proposal for the majority of villages being regrouped with Wisbech Town to reduce the number of Neighbourhood Boards from 5 to 4. The suggested unfair allocation of funding as the rural villages accounted for 28% of the Fenland Population. The unrealistic responses often given to queries raised and requests for improvements made by members of the public.

g) Letter from the National Grid advising that they will be carrying out a survey of their pipeline situated on Parish Council land at the Fen Allotments.

Information noted by Councillors and the Clerk to inform the tenants of the Allotments.

h) Copy of the notes taken at the Fenland Road Safety Group Meeting held on the 11th May and advising that the next meetings will be held on the 6th July and 7th September.

Information noted by Councillors, Councillor Booth also informed Councillors that he was now Chairman of this group.

i) Email from Parson Drove Cricket Club advising that the Cricket Club was folding and merging with Leverington Cricket Club. Their kit & equipment would be removed from the storage unit but the plastic pitch and netting for the children's play area would be left as they were provided by the section 106 money & John Bends Charity and are therefore village assets.

Concern was expressed about the concrete base being left by the Cricket Club and the damaged posts. Councillor Scrimshaw informed Councillors that the remaining posts would be removed in the next few days. Councillor Shelley advised that the Amenities 95 Committee would be discussing the future of the concrete base at their next meeting.

j) Letter from AECOM Design & Planning regarding the Shaping Fenland's Future Project requesting information to assist with the draft Core Strategy.

The Clerk was requested to provide as much information as possible covering our previous comments.

k) Email from Fenland District Council's Housing Strategy & Enabling Officer requesting to attend a Council Meeting with representatives from Circle Anglia to discuss possible designs for the proposed exception site scheme.

Councillors resolved to hold an additional council meeting either on the 25th August or the 15th September.

l) Newsletters and magazines from Cambridgeshire Celebrates Age, Cambridgeshire Older People's Newsletter, Cambridgeshire NHS Trust, Local Council Review, Clerks & Councils Direct, COPE, Cambridgeshire ACRE, and Gridline.

Information noted by Councillors.

10/150. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.

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

Over grown hedges were obstructing the footways outside various properties along Main Road and the Clerk was requested to report these to the County Council.

b) Faulty street lights to be reported to the County Council.

The streetlight number 4 at Ingham Hall Gardens was on all day.

10/151. To receive an Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

Councillor Shelley had no other matters to raise other than those already discussed.

10/152. To approve & adopt the Media Policy as presented at the last meeting.

Councillors resolved to adopt the draft Media Policy presented at the last meeting.

10/153. To consider complaints received from parishioners regarding Ragwort in fields to the north of Main Road.

The Clerk was requested to try and ascertain the owners or tenants of the land concerned and report the matter to the County Council if it was a County Council holding.

10/154. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

Some residents were still dumping garden waste on land at the top of Newlands Road and the Clerk was asked if anything could be done about it.

The Clerk informed Councillors that Fenland District Council had written to the tenants of Newlands Road requesting that they did not dump their garden rubbish at this location and arrangements had been made in the past with Fenland District Council to have it cleared away.

10/155. Matters for future consideration.

Councillors agreed for the request for funding from Parson Drove Surgery Car Scheme to be included in the Agenda for the next meeting.

10/156. Any other business (information items only).

Councillors reported that the reflective strips on the new post installed on the village green were coming off.

Councillor Scrimshaw advised that the land at the top of Springfield Road will be cleaned up and reseeded.

Complaints had been received that leaves had been left out in the sacks provided by the District Council but the refuse collectors had refused to take them.

Concern was expressed about Horses were going onto the village green.

The Swan Inn were having a Fun Day on Sunday 8th August and requested permission to use the village green.

Councillors agreed to this request but were concerned about the danger of the adjoining cottage and forge still being demolished.

10/157. Dates for future Council meeting(s)

The next Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th August.

Meeting closed at 11.10pm