

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th November 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.), J. Randal (Neighbourhood Management Services), P.C. Julie Coales & 1 member of the public.

10/232. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from J. Tuck (C.C.C.)

10/233. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillor Everett declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 10/243. Reason – member of the working group.

Councillor Shelley declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 10/243. Reason – member of the working group.

Councillor Booth declared Personal Interests in respect of Agenda items Number 10/243 and 10/245 i) reason - member of the groups. He also declared a Personal Interest for Agenda Items Numbered 10/246 d) and 10/249. Reason - resides at John Bends Way.

10/234. Public Participation – 15 minutes for members of the public to address the meeting.

The member of the public present raised concerns over the persistent pot holes along Main Road near to the School & Day Centre, overhanging trees and bushes at Ingham Hall Gardens and Swan Bridge junction and leaves on the footpaths.

10/235. Community Police Officer's Report.

P.C. Coales reported on the crime figures for the Parish and surrounding villages, they were theft from a car, theft of scrap metal and a mobility scooter. Members were reminded of a meeting on the 17th November at Wisbech St Mary Community Centre for farmers and rural businesses and the Wisbech & Rural Community Forum Meeting on the 29th November at the Queen Mary Centre.

Councillors raised concerns over cold calling particularly at Springfield Road and asked if P.C. Coales could include a warning in her next article in Village Voices.

10/236. To approve & sign the minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2010.

The minutes were taken as read, agreed as a true record after amending a typing error on Page 828, Agenda Item Number 10/216 altering the word 'and' to 'had' and signed by the Chairman.

10/237. Matters Arising from the Minutes. (For information only).

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

10/238. To receive report from Julie Randall, Neighbourhood Management Services.

Councillors were informed that the half term activities had been well attended with over 40 children taking part. A meeting was soon to be held with the organisers of the Youth Club to discuss funding for next year. Following a recent meeting with the new Head Teacher at the Payne School it was indicated that the school were keen to be involved in any community activities.

10/239. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

Councillor Scrimshaw advised that he had received some telephone calls raising concerns over the erection of a coverall building close to the rear of some properties at Back Road, Murrow. He had visited one property directly affected by the building and had contacted the Planning Department at Fenland District Council to look into the concerns raised. Bus timetables were distributed for Murrow and the Clerk was asked to make residents along Back Road, Murrow aware of this service.

The Planning application for the change of use for the premises at 3 The Bank, Parson Drove may be included in the December Development Control Committee Meeting as the applicant had now responded to the planning officers letter.

Councillor Bellamy advised that he had contacted various Officers at Cambridgeshire County Council following the recent three accidents at the Swan Bridge junction raising his concerns over the delay in implementing any improvements at this junction. He was given to understand that nothing would be done at present to improve the situation as there was no funding available. The Chairman pointed out that following the last Highways Area Joint Committee meeting in October the matter was now being taken to the December County Council Cabinet Meeting, where it will be discussed to determine if funding is available for improvements at the junction.

10/240. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

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.

The Clerk advised that this application was submitted as a retrospective application as the tree had already been felled following the Tree Officers concerns over the condition of the tree and safety issues.

b) Notification from Fenland District Council that the following planning applications have been approved.

R E Fowler, Planning Application No. F/YR10/0657/RM, Agent D Broker, for the erection of a 4 bed detached bungalow with attic playroom above & attached car port & formation of a vehicular access including culverting of drain on land west of Mount Wickham, Fen Road, Parson Drove.

Noted by Councillors.

Mr Maynard, Planning Application No. F/YR10/0668/F, Agent M Bonner, for the erection of a single storey extension & porch to the front of existing dwelling at Church View, 314 Main Road, Parson Drove.

Notes by Councillors.

Mr Maynard, Planning Application No. F/YR10/0733/TRTPO, No Agent, for pruning works to an Ash Tree at The Cottages, 316 Main Road, Parson Drove.

Noted by Councillors.

Parson Drove Parish Council, Planning Application No. F/YR10/0697/TRTPO, to fell a Lime Tree on the village green.

Noted by Councillors.

c) A letter from a resident along Back Road objecting to the erection of the coverall building to rear of their property and raising various issues relating to the Planning Applications approved for Sandalwood Farm was read by members. A request had also been made under the Freedom of Information Act for hard copies of all Plans, Policies and Procedures considered by the Planning Officer in relation to these planning applications in the letter.

Councillors resolved that as the issues raised were matters that the Planning Officer at Fenland District Council should respond to and as all of the information requested under the Freedom of Information Act was held by the District Council that a reply should be sent by the Clerk suggesting that they contact Fenland District Council.

10/241. Accounts & Finance.

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

Office Key, Administration Supplies, £11.15. L.G.A. s.111

Smith of Derby Ltd., Cage Clock Service, £186.83. P.C.A. 1957 s.2

Chattertons Solicitors, Fees for the registration of the footpath over the village Green, £235. L.G.A. s.111

East Anglia Tree Care, felling of Turkey Oak, village green, £1,200. O.S.A. 1906 ss9, 10

Konica Minolta, quarterly photocopy charges, £30.23. L.G.A. 1972 s. 111.

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

Victim Support, Citizens Advice Bureau and MAGPAS.

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

Councillors resolved to defer a decision on the application from Citizens Advice Bureau for a grant in view of the agreement already made to fund the Outreach Service earlier in the year.

Councillors resolved to defer the request by MAGPAS as the letter was not correctly worded for applying to the Parish Council for a grant.

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

Councillors resolved to defer this matter until the next meeting in order that clarification could be obtained by the Clerk on the criteria for the additional items bid.

10/242. Risk Assessment

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

The planning approval had been received for the felling of the third Lime Tree on the village green. The contractor had advised that due to the delay in obtaining planning approval the quotation supplied in April would have to be increased to £950.

If the Street Pride group required one of the tree trunks for another sculpture they would have to pay £120 to £150 as he had calculated his quotation on the basis of selling off all the logs. Councillors resolved to accept the revised quotation of £950.

The planning application for the various works to the trees around the pond was being delayed in view of the conflict of opinion between the tree officer at Fenland District Council and the contractor regarding the felling of 1 willow tree. Councillors resolved to amend the application to reflect the tree officers recommendation that the willow tree is not felled but to remove the diseased branches and pollard the tree to 50%.

b) Update report on windows for the Bus Shelter.

The Clerk advised that the contractor hoped to make and fit the wooden frames at the end of November.

10/243. Update report on Section 106 Funding & MUGA project.

The Chairman informed members that the MUGA was progressing well with the fencing and white lining still to be completed.

An application for grant funding from Fenland District Rural Grants Fund had been submitted for the Skate Ramp to utilise the remaining money.

10/244. To consider applying for re-accreditation for Quality Parish Council Status as current accreditation expires on the 1st January 2011.

The Clerk advised that she had been contacted by CPALC regarding submitting an application for re-accreditation and had agreed to meet with them in January 2011 to discuss the application criteria. Although the current accreditation expires on the 1st January 2011 there is a 3 month period allowed for a re-submission. Councillors resolved to defer a decision until after the Clerk had met with CPALC in January 2011.

10/245. To consider, debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received from:-

a) Email from Isabel Edgington confirming date for the next Green Communities meeting for Tuesday 23rd November at 7.30pm in The Cage.

Information noted.

b) Emails from Cambs ACRE and Eaga regarding the forthcoming Digital Switchover. Information noted.

c) Information from Cambs ACRE on the Fens Adventures Tourism Challenge Fund and how to access some of the £750,000 grant funding allocated for the tourism sector.

Information noted.

d) Notification from Cambridgeshire County Council & Peterborough City Council of the Examination of the Core Strategy for the Minerals & Waste Plan by the Planning Inspectorate. Information noted.

e) Letter from FDC advising of changes to the opening hours of the Fenland @ Your Service Shops, Contact Centre & Business Reception.

Information noted.

f) Information from Cambs County Council on changes to the tenders for contracted Bus Services for April 2011.

Information noted.

g) A copy of the Vital Communities Research Report.

Information noted.

h) Invitation from CPALC to attend the AGM on Saturday 13th November at 10.00 a.m. in Bluntisham Village Hall.

The Chairman was unable to attend the meeting and no other member wished to attend.

i) Copy of the notes for the Fenland Road Safety meeting held on the 19th October 2010 and reminder of the next meeting on Thursday 18th November at 7.30pm in Guyhirn Village Hall.

Information noted.

j) Newsletters, information leaflets and magazines from Cambridgeshire ACRE, Clerks & Councils Direct, Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust & Gridline.

Information noted.

10/246. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.

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

The Clerk was asked to report the pot holes along Main Road and along the edges of Fen Road. Also to request some clear no parking signage on the footpath outside the Post Office.

b) Letter from Cambridgeshire County Council Highways regarding road repairs along High Side, Gorefield.

The Chairman advised that he had inspected this work which had been completed satisfactorily.

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

The Clerk was requested to report again the faulty street light along Main Road.

d) Request for John Bends Way road to be adopted by the County Council.

The Clerk advised that the County Council had confirmed that the road was subject to a section 38 agreement and would eventually be adopted once the developer had brought the road up to a satisfactory standard.

e) Letter from Cambridgeshire County Council confirming that our application under the Jointly Funded Minor Highway Improvements Bid for an extension to the footpath along Main Road, Parson Drove was not successful for 2011/2010.

Information noted.

10/247. Gardens & Allotment.

a) To receive a report on the collection of the Allotments & Gardens rents.

The Clerk advised that there were some rents not yet paid and reminder letters would be sent to the tenants.

Two Allotment Gardens had been vacated by tenants and these would be advertised for re-letting as there was no-one on the waiting list.

A tenant of the Fen Allotments had enquired as to whether he could produce hay on his allotment next year as he was unable to plant any crops.

Councillors resolved to agree to this request.

b) To consider a request from the Tenant of Garden Number 22 to erect a shed on their Garden.

Councillors resolved to approve the request for the erection of a shed on Allotment Garden number 22.

10/248. To receive an Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

Councillor Shelley advised that the Cricket Club had not yet given their remaining funds to the Amenities 95 Committee to hold in reserves in the event of a cricket club reforming in Parson Drove. He had now checked inside the container and there was some cricket equipment left including 2 mats, a cricket cradle and lawn mower.

The Amenities 95 Committee were looking into providing seating on the playing field.

10/249. Request for a “No Ball Games” sign to be installed in John Bends Way.

Some residents had approached the Chairman requesting further No Ball Games signs.

The Clerk was requested to make enquiries with the County Council and the District Council if this would be possible.

10/250. To consider an offer by a Parishioner to provide an Oak tree to replace the Oak tree felled on the village green.

Councillors resolved to accept the offer of the Oak Tree but before agreeing to plant it as a replacement for the Oak Tree recently felled the Clerk was to obtain advice from the Tree Officer as to whether it would be wise to plant another Oak Tree at this location.

10/251. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

No questions were asked by members.

10/252. Matters for future consideration.

No additional matters were put forward by members for future consideration.

10/253. Any other business (information items only).

The Clerk was requested to report the broken hand rail at Swan Bridge to the North Level Drainage Board.

Councillor Everett advised that the reflective strips were falling off the posts around the village green.

10/254. Dates for future Council meeting(s) for 2010 and during 2011

The next meeting was confirmed for the 8th December in St Marks Church at 7.00pm with a further meeting on the 15th December at 7.30pm in The Cage to agree the budget and Precept for 2011/2012.

Councillors resolved to continue to hold the meetings during 2011 on the second Wednesday of each month.

Meeting closed 10.30pm.