

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th August 2011 in The Cage, Parson Drove.

Attended by Councillors G. Booth (Chairman), P Spriggs (Vice Chairman), C. Bellamy, G. Bellamy, J. Cook, P. Everett, & R. Scrimshaw.

P.C.S.O M Bogunovic & P.C.S.O S. Clarke, R Preston & S Parsons (C.C.C. Highways Officers) & 2 members of the public.

11/174. To receive apologies for absence.

No apologies had been received.

11/175. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillors Booth declared a Personal Interest for Agenda Item Number 11/185, reason a member of the working group.

Councillor Everett declared a Personal Interest for Agenda Item Number 11/185, reason a member of the working group.

Councillor Cook declared a Personal Interest for Agenda Item Number 11/191, reason a member of the management committee.

Councillors Scrimshaw declared a Personal Interest for Agenda Item Number 11/183 and took no part in the discussions or voting, reason a member of the District Councils Development Control Committee

11/176. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

A member of the public raised concerns over the Parish Council contributing to the footpath extension in front of the Bowling Green adjacent to John Bends Way as he believed that this should have been provided by the developers as part of the planning conditions imposed by the District Council when planning approval was granted for John Bends Way. He also raised concerns over the adoption of the road at John Bends Way and problems with tracing the location of the sewer connections. The Chairman and Councillor Scrimshaw agreed to look into these matters.

The poor condition and uneven road surface and over hanging bushes and trees at Seadyke Bank were raised by a member of the public and Councillors resolved for the Clerk to report this to County Council Highways.

11/177. To discuss proposed traffic calming measures to the Swan Bridge junction following site meeting with Officers from Cambridgeshire County Council Highways prior to the Parish Council Meeting.

The Officers from the County Council had informed Councillors of the accident figures since 2006 at the junction and results of speed checks along Murrow Bank indicating that the average speed was 34.7mph in the 40mph speed limit.

They also advised that improvements at the junction could be done in stages and they would be looking at various options. The County Council Cabinet would decide once a scheme had been put forward if it was a good use of the limited funding available.

The first option suggested by the County Council Officers was to wait and see how effective the Safer Routes to School Scheme was in reducing the number of accidents at the junction.

The second option suggested was to improve the signage and road markings including colour markings on the road surface.

The third option suggested was to change priority at the junction but this would be very expensive estimated to be £150,000. County Council Officers stated that this was a difficult junction to improve effectively.

Councillors were of the opinion that there would be no improvement in the number of accidents following implementation of the Safer Routes to School Scheme as the main accidents were due to poor visibility from and over Swan Bridge and the speed of traffic approaching the junction from Murrow. Officers from the County Council suggested that Councillors put together their own ideas for improvements for them to consider.

11/178. Community Police Officers Report.

A comprehensive report on the crime figures in the Parish was presented to the Council by PCSO Bogunovic.

11/179. To approve & sign minutes of the meeting held on the 13th July 2011.

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

11/180. Matters Arising from the Minutes (For information only).

The Chairman advised that 5 Councillors, the Clerk and 2 members of the public attended the open public meeting to discuss ideas for the Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations in June 2012. In view of the poor attendance it had been decided at this meeting to send out a questionnaire with the next issue of Village Voices to try and obtain parishioners views and ideas on how they would like to celebrate this occasion and how the money should be used that was being given by the District Council. The questionnaires are to be returned by the end of September. Letters were also being sent to all the village organisations to obtain their views.

11/181. To receive report from Julie Randal, F.D.C. Neighbourhood Management Services.

The Officer was not at the meeting and the Clerk had not been provided with a report to present to the Council.

11/182. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

Councillor Booth advised Councillors that the District Councils Mobile Gymnasium would be coming to Parson Drove on Tuesdays in the near future but the exact dates were not known at present.

11/183. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) M & L Buckenham & Gomm, Planning Application No. F/YR11/0514/RM, Agent R Swann for the erection of a 2 storey 4 bed dwelling on plot 2 land north of 69 79 Back Road, Murrow.

Councillors resolved by a majority vote to object to this application on the grounds of highway safety due to the unsuitability of Back Road, Murrow for any further development.

b) Mr & Mrs M J Bates, Planning Application No. F/YR11/0561/F, Agent David Broker, for the erection of a 2 storey 3 bed dwelling with detached garage with store over involving demolition of existing dwelling of The Bungalow, Harolds Bank, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to support this application as it would be an improvement to the site and street scene.

c) Roddons Housing Association, Planning Application No. F/YR11/0555/F, Agent K Lancaster, for the installation of an air source central heating pump to the rear elevation of existing dwelling at 7 Springfield Road, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to support this application as it was a sustainable development.

d) Church of Emmanuel, Planning Application No. F/YR11/0593/F, Agent C Staff, for the erection of a single storey extension to the side of the church to form a lobby with WC involving the demolition of the attached gardener's store.

Councillors resolved to support this application as the facilities were a much needed improvement.

e) Notification from Fenland District Council that the following Planning Application has been granted approval.

G Fowler, Planning Application No. F/YR11/0420/EXTIME, Agent David Broker, for the erection of 3 dwellings on land east of Nicola, Fen Road, Parson Drove, (Renewal of planning permission F/YR08/0391/O).

Information noted by Councillors.

f) Notification that the following Planning Application has been refused by Fenland District Council.

L. Allen, Planning Application No. F/YR11/0364/RM, for erection of a 2 storey 4 bed dwelling with attached 2 bed annex on land east of Liswyn, Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

g) Email regarding site meeting on Monday 15th August at 6.30pm to discuss future development along Back Road, Murrow.

The Clerk informed Councillors that Wisbech St Mary Parish Council had indicated that the 15th August would be acceptable to their members and she had notified the Planning Officer at Fenland District Council of this. To date a reply had not been received from Fenland District Council confirming that the site meeting would take place and therefore the Chairman agreed to contact the Planning Department to confirm the meeting and advise Councillors accordingly.

h) Letter from Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council regarding their Minerals & Waste Core Strategy & Local Development Framework. Information noted by Councillors.

i) Notification from Fenland District Council of the consultation on the Fenland Communities Development Plan – Core Strategy & Statement of Community Involvement until the 23rd September 2011. Councillors resolved to defer this matter until the next meeting in order to study copies of the consultation document.

11/184. Accounts & Finance.

a) Councillors resolved to approve the following Invoices for payment:-
EON, electricity for The Cage, £34.94. L.G.A. 1972 s.133
Konica Minolta Business Solutions Ltd., rental & copy charges for 1 quarter, £238.03.
L.G.A. 1972 s.111

11/185. Update report on Section 106 Funding for Skate Ramp project.

The Chairman advised that the District Council had accepted the letter from the Parish Council confirming that the Skate Ramp would be maintained by the Amenities 95 Committee and the order will be placed.

11/186. Risk Assessment

a) To receive update report on trees on the village green.

The Clerk advised that a planning application had been submitted for the works required to the 4 Lime trees and 1 Sycamore Tree. EDF had indicated that they could arrange for the electricity to be shut down during October or November if the work was to be completed in the near future but had not offered to contribute towards the cost of the works required.

b) To discuss maintenance of broken railings at swan bridge.

Councillor Spriggs agreed to carry out the required repairs subject to the North Level Internal Drainage Board agreeing to this.

11/187. To review & amend Standing Orders & Financial Regulations following the Internal Auditors Report & recent amendments by NALC to the model Standing Orders.

Councillors resolved to amend the Financial Regulations and the Standing Orders relating to procurement policies and formal tendering processes to a level of expenditure of £35,000 amending Standing Order Number 30a v and 30b & Financial Regulations Number 11 b, 11 g, an 11 i.

Councillors resolved to make no other changes to the Standing Orders.

11/188 To consider agreeing on a date for a public meeting to discuss an Exception Site for Affordable Houses at Church End, Parson Drove following receipt of draft layout plans from Housing Association.

Councillors resolved to hold a public meeting on Wednesday 26th October at 7.30pm in the Village Hall subject to the Officers at Fenland District Council and the Housing Association being able to attend the meeting on this date. Details informing parishioners of the meeting are to be advertised with a separate Newsletter to be delivered with Village Voices. Posters are to be displayed in the shops, Post Office, village hall and notice boards and on the website and Shape Your Space Website and also if possible in the local newspapers. Councillors also suggested that those on the housing waiting list should also be informed by the Housing Officer at the District Council of the meeting.

11/189. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received from:-

a) Letter from Fenland District Council requesting assistance in providing a rest centre to help the local community within our area in the event of an emergency situation.

Councillors resolved to suggest the village hall and St Marks Church Hall.

b) Invitation from the Cambridgeshire Learning Disability Parliament for Adults to attend their Parliament Day on Friday 16th September at St Peters Church, March from 10.30pm to 3.00pm focusing on rural issues.

Information noted by Councillors.

c) Letter from Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust inviting members to attend the Annual Public Meeting & Staff Awards on 21st September 3.00pm at the Menzies Golf & Country Club, Bar Hill, Cambridge.

Information noted by Councillors.

d) Information from Cambridgeshire ACRE on the Queen Elizabeth Challenge.

Councillors resolved for this information to be forwarded to the Amenities 95 Committee.

11/190. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.

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

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to report Seadyke Bank road surface, raise again the missing signs and over grown hedge at the telephone exchange at Fen Road, report that the flashing 40mph sign at Church End is on all the time.

b) Information from Cambs County Council Highways on HCV Strategy.
Information noted by Councillors.

c) Notification of a road closure due to repairs to Murrow Bank from 15th August to 26th August.

Information noted by Councillors but concern was expressed that this could be very disruptive for local farmers trying to get the crops harvested.

d) Letter from Cambs County Council regarding preparation for the Winter Season 2011/12 relating to grit bins.

Councillors resolved to purchase a salt bin for the top of Springfield Road near to the public seat if the Housing Association agreed for this to be sited on their land.

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

The street light outside Snips was reported as not working.

11/191. To receive an Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

Councillor Cook advised that the committee were waiting for architect's plans for the proposed new village hall.

11/192. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

No questions were asked by members.

11/193. Any other business (information items only).

Councillor Bellamy advised that he had been approached by Gordon Smith regarding a Heritage Sign being erected to commemorate the many years that the field at Long Drove was used by Parson Drove Football Club. Councillors resolved to support this idea in principle subject to the current land owners and the Football Club agreeing to this request.

Councillor Everett advised that a new set of Postcards with pictures of the village were now available. Young people were needed to join the newly formed Patient Representation Group organised by the Doctors Surgery.

The Clerk advised that she would be on sick leave with effect from the 12th August for at least the next 3 weeks.

11/194. Dates for future Council meeting(s).

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 14th September and subsequent meetings on Wednesday 12th October and 9th November.

Meeting closed 10.05.pm