

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th February 2011 in St Marks Church, 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.) & 2 members of the public.

11/21. Apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from County Councillor Jill Tuck & Julie Randall (Neighbourhood Management Services).

11/22. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillors Booth, Everett & Shelley declared Personal Interests for Agenda Item Number 11/46, reason - Councillors are members of the working group.

Councillor C. Bellamy & G. Bellamy declared a Personal Interest for Agenda Items Number 11/29 J 1 and 3, reason Peter Humphrey Associates acts for the Councillors.

Councillors C Bellamy & G. Bellamy declared a Personal & Prejudicial Interest for Agenda Item Number 11/29 J 2, reason the owner of the site at Sealeys Lane is a relative.

The Clerk declared a Personal & Prejudicial Interest for Agenda Item Number 11/29 J 3, reason the Clerk resides on land adjoining one of the sites being considered as a suitable Exception Site for Affordable Homes.

11/23. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

A member of the public advised that the Planning Permission for the change of use for the Shop at 3 The Bank, Parson Drove to a Fast Food Takeaway had been refused by the Development Control Committee that afternoon. Information was also provided by the Parishioner on Planning Restrictions being implemented by some Councils refusing applications for hot food takeaways if they are 400metres or less from a school, youth facility or park. NICE were also supporting this approach by Local Councils and although Fenland District Council have not adopted such a Planning Policy the Parish Council were requested to pursue this.

Photographs recently taken of the village were shown to Councillors by a Parishioner and it was hoped that these would be produced as Cards for sale within the village.

Councillors supported this idea and agreed to pass the information onto The Friends of The Cage.

11/24. Community Police Officer's Report.

No Officer was present and the Clerk had not received a report to present to the Council. Councillor Shelley informed Councillors that central heating oil was being targeted by thieves. The Crimebuster Bus was going to be in the village on the 10th February.

11/25. To approve & sign the minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2011.

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

11/26. Matters Arising from the Minutes. (For information only).

The Travel Survey questionnaires had been received by the Clerk and distributed at various locations in the parish.

11/27. To receive report from Julie Randall, Neighbourhood Management Services.

A written report was read by the Chairman advising of the half term activities in the village and discussions with the Youth Club regarding future funding. Funding had been received from the County Council to improve seven walking routes in Fenland and advising that Parson Drove is one of them. Councillor Booth agreed to meet up with the Officer from the County Council and the Economic Development Officer from Fenland District Council to progress this.

11/28. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

Councillor Scrimshaw advised that 3,400 responses had been received so far on the District Councils questionnaire on the priorities for next year. As the letter had not yet been sent by the Clerk to the Planning Department regarding Back Road, Murrow Councillor Scrimshaw suggested that a site meeting also be requested with the District Planning Department and the County Council Highways authority as soon as possible in view of further planning applications soon to be made. Councillors agreed to this suggestion.

11/29. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) Planning Application No. F/YR11/0004/F, Roddons Housing Association, Agent K Lancaster, installation of an air source central heating pump to the rear elevation of existing dwelling at 17 Springfield Road, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to support this application.

b) Planning Application No. F/YR11/0008/F, Roddons Housing Association, Agent K Lancaster, installation of an air source central heating pump to the rear elevation of existing dwelling at 10 Springfield Road, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to support this application.

c) Planning Application No. F/YR11/0009/F, Roddons Housing Association, Agent K Lancaster, installation of an air source central heating pump to the rear elevation of existing dwelling at 13 Springfield Road, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to support this application.

d) Planning Application No. F/YR11/0010/F, Roddons Housing Association, Agent K Lancaster, installation of an air source central heating pump to the rear elevation of existing dwelling at 14 Springfield Road, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to support this application.

e) Planning Application No. F/YR11/0017/F, Roddons Housing Association, Agent K Lancaster, installation of an air source central heating pump to the rear elevation of existing dwelling at 20 Springfield Road, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to support this application.

f) Planning Application No. F/YR11/0019/F, Roddons Housing Association, Agent K Lancaster, installation of an air source central heating pump to the rear elevation of existing dwelling at 26 Springfield Road, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to support this application.

g) Planning Application No. F/YR11/0024/F, Roddons Housing Association, Agent K Lancaster, installation of an air source central heating pump to the rear elevation of existing dwellings at 9 and 11 Springfield Road, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to support this application.

h) Notification that the following planning applications have been approved by Fenland District Council.

1. A Warren, Planning Application No. F/YR10/0911/TRCA, felling of 1 Cedar Tree at The Cedars, 30 Main Road, Parson Drove.

Noted by Councillors.

2. Parson Drove Parish Council Planning Application No. F/YR10/0928/TRCA works to Blue Cedar Tree adjacent to Jubilee Cottage, Village Green, Station Road, Parson Drove.

Noted by Councillors.

3. Mr I Johnson, Planning Application No. F/YR10/0891/F for the erection of a 2 storey rear extension involving the demolition of existing single storey rear extension to the existing dwelling at Audwen, Sealeys Lane, Parson Drove.

Noted by Councillors.

i) Notification from Fenland District Council that an appeal has been lodged by Mrs I Manning relating to the enforcement notice issued for a bungalow built on private traveller's site Willow Place, Seadyke Bank, Murrow.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to write a letter to the Planning Inspectorate supporting the District Councils decision to take Enforcement Action.

J) Exception Sites for Affordable Homes.

1. Email from Fenland District Council regarding progress on the proposed site at Sealeys Lane, Parson Drove and advising that a site at 242 Main Road, Church End has now been put forward for consideration.

In view of Circle Anglia being unable to provide a footpath and street lighting at the Sealeys Lane site Councillors resolved that they could not support this scheme being progressed unless another Housing Association would be prepared to provide these services.

Councillor Bellamy raised objections to the site at 242 Main Road, Church End being considered as an Exception Site as this was an open space.

Councillors resolved by a majority vote for the District Council to investigate the possibility of an Exception Site for Affordable Homes on the site at 242 Main Road, Church End now put forward for consideration.

2. Letter from Peter Humphrey Associates requesting the Councils views on an Exception Site for Affordable houses at Sealeys Lane.

From the location plan provided it would appear that this was the same site at Sealeys Lane already submitted for consideration. Therefore Councillors resolved not to support this site as an Exception Site for Affordable Homes unless a footway and street lighting was provided.

3. Letter from Peter Humphrey Associates requesting the Councils views on two Exception Sites for Affordable Homes in the village of Murrow but located in the Parish of Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved not to support the site at Murrow Bank in view of highway safety concerns and the lack of footway and street lighting.

Councillors resolved not to support the site at Seadyke Bank as there was no public footway and street lights at this location.

11/30. To discuss letter from Cambridgeshire County Council, Wisbech Youth Team regarding future funding for Parson Drove Youth Club and requesting financial support from the Parish Council.

Councillors were informed that the John Bends Charity had already agreed to give some financial support to the Youth Club to cover the cost of hiring the village hall for a year. The Amenities 95 Committee would be considering if they could assist at their next meeting. The Youth Club were planning to organise Bingos to raise funds. Julie Randal was working with the Youth Club to try and identify some other sources of grant funding as they are looking to obtain the estimated annual running cost for the Club of £8,000. A Youth Club Committee was to be formed and a request had been made for a representative from the Parish Council. Councillors resolved for Councillor Booth represent the Parish Council.

Councillor resolved to agree to the motion put forward by the Chairman for the Council to support Parson Drove Youth Club by providing them with the recycling credits received from the District Council for equipment and resources.

11/31. Accounts & Finance.

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

EON, electricity for the Cage, £50.40. L.G.A. 1972 s. 133

Clerks & Councils Direct, renewal of annual subscription, £11.00.L.G.A. 1972 s.143.

Koncia Minolta, quarter year photocopier rental & copy charges, £71.00. L.G.A. 1972 s. 111.

b) Letter from Cambridgeshire County Council advising that the Roadside Grass Verge maintenance grant will be reduced by 25% for 2011/2012.

Information noted.

c) To consider & agree to continue with the existing grass cutting contractor for the next financial year for the same cost as the current financial year.

Councillors resolved to continue with the existing contractor for the next financial year at the current cost.

d) Cheque received from CPALC for the Future Jobs Fund Scheme expenses claim amounting to £314.57.

Noted by Councillors. The Chairman kindly agreed not to receive reimbursement for the purchase of the wheelbarrow included in our expenses claim made to CPALC.

e) To consider and agree on a donation to St Marks Church for the use of the building for 5 Parish Council Meetings during the winter.

Councillors resolved to give a grant/donation of £100. L.G.A. 1972 s134.

f) Email from Fenland District Council enquiring if the Parish Council wish to have poll cards for the forthcoming Parish elections in May 2011.

Councillors resolved not to request poll cards in view of the high costs involved.

g) To consider request from Fenland Association of Community Transport for a donation towards a new Mini Bus.

Councillors resolved to give a grant/donation of £100. Transport Act 1985 s. 106a.

11/32. To consider and agree to apply for re-accreditation for Quality Parish Council and authorise payment of the application fee of £60.

Councillors resolved to apply for re-accreditation and approved payment for the application fee of £60. L.G.A. 1972 s 111.

11/33. To approve and adopt a Training Statement of Intent.

Councillors resolved to approve the draft training statement of intent put forward for approval.

11/34. To approve & adopt a Community Engagement Strategy.

Councillors resolved to adopt the Community Engagement Strategy put forward for approval.

11/35. Risk Assessment

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

The Clerk advised that she had still not received any further information from the contractor and would pursue this outstanding matter.

b) Update report on windows for the Bus Shelter.

The Clerk advised that 3 windows and now been installed in the Bus Shelter.

11/36. Update report on Section 106 Funding & MUGA project.

The Chairman advised that Mr Ollier had completed his site inspection and was discussing with the contractors the outstanding work.

11/37. To consider applications received for the two vacant garden allotments and to agree on new tenants.

The Clerk advised Councillors that two applications had been received but one of the applicants did not reside in the parish.

Councillors resolved to refuse the application from the applicant residing outside the parish and suggest that they contact Wisbech St Mary Parish Council. The other applicant would be given the choice of which Allotment Garden they wished to rent. The Chairman advised that the Green Communities Group might be interested in the remaining vacant Allotment Garden to use as a parish community allotment and he agreed to raise this at the meeting next week.

11/38. To consider a request for a dog litter bin on the public footpath going from Main Road, Parson Drove across to Back Road, Murrow.

The Clerk was requested to obtain quotations for a dog litter bin.

11/39. To consider being part of the Green Fen Way Project to improve walking routes.

Councillors agreed to be part of this project and look at improving the route from Main Road Parson Drove through to Back Road, Murrow and this project might be able to fund the dog litter bin. Councillors resolved for the Chairman to meet with the District Council and County Council Officers running the project and report back progress at a future meeting.

11/40. To consider, debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received from:-

a) Letter of complaint from a resident at Sealeys Lane regarding loud and persistent explosions to the rear of their property.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to write informing the parishioner that they should contact the Environmental Department at Fenland District Council but we not sure if any action can be taken if it is a bird scarer.

b) Briefing for Parish Councils on the Localism Bill from the County Council.

Information to be circulated to Councillors for discussion at a later date.

c) Letter from Elgood & Sons Ltd advising that they are currently drawing up a plan for the parking area and beer garden of the Swan Inn with a view to carrying out the work when the weather is suitable and they will send a copy of the plans as soon as possible. Councillors resolved for the Clerk to reply requesting the plans as soon as possible.

d) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council providing website links for information on their Proposals for their Budget for 2011/2012.

Information noted by Councillors and concern was expressed regarding the proposed cuts in subsidies for public buses services.

e) Letter from the Royal British Legion regarding the Great Poppy party Weekend of 10th to 12th June 2011 in celebration of the Royal British Legion's 90 birthday. Information noted by Councillors and it was resolved to pass this onto the local branch of the Royal British Legion.

f) Letter from Fenland Arts Association requesting to attend a Council Meeting. Councillors resolved not to grant this request as they were already well aware of the kind of events being organised by the association.

g) Notification of the Wisbech & District Neighbourhood Forum on Tuesday 1st March at 7.30pm in Leverington Village Hall. Information noted by Councillors.

h) Newsletters, information leaflets and magazines from SLCC & Clerks & Councils Direct. Information noted by Councillors.

11/41. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.

a) Highway issues to be reported to Cambridgeshire County Council. The Clerk was requested to report the following;

1. Flashing speed sign at Church End was not working again.
2. Potholes outside Southea House, Doctors Surgery, Main Road, near to Rookery Homes, top of Springfield Road and corner of Sealeys Lane.
3. Missing Chevrons at Turf Fen Bridge.

b) Faulty street lights to be reported to Cambridgeshire County Council. Clerk to report street light on all day outside 23 The Bank, Parson Drove.

11/42. To receive an Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

Councillor Shelley advised that the post for the CCTV had been erected. The Murrow Children's Centre was holding cookery sessions on Friday mornings. A Karate competition was being held in the village hall on the 6th March. Moles were in the children's play area on the playing field.

11/43. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

Councillors asked if the pest control contractor had been requested to treat the moles on the village green. The Clerk advised that they had been requested to carry out a treatment but she would contact the contractor again in view of the number of moles still there.

11/44. Matters for future consideration.

Councillors resolved to discuss the possible reductions to bus services in the parish due to the subsidies being cut by the County Council at the next meeting.

11/45. Any other business (information items only).

There were no matters raised by Councillors.

11/46. Dates for future Council meeting(s).

The next meeting was due to take place on the 9th March but owing to other commitments may have to be changed to the 2nd March.

The Annual Parish Assembly Meeting would be held on Wednesday 27th April at 7.30pm in St Marks Church.

Meeting closed 10.05pm