

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th June 2011 in The Cage, Parson Drove.

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

P.C.S.O. M Bogunovic, representative from FACT & 1 member of the public.

11/133. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillor P. Spriggs & J.Tuck (C.C.C.)

11/134. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillor Booth declared Personal Interests in respect of Agenda Item Numbers 11/143, reason – a member of the working group and 11/144 b), reason – an allotment garden tenant.

Councillor Everett declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 11/143, reason – a member of the working group.

Councillor Cook declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 11/143, reason a member of the Amenities 95 Management Committee.

Councillor Scrimshaw declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 11/141, reason a member of the District Council's Development Control Committee.

11/135. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

The representative from FACT explained how the charity provided community transport in the Fenland area and distributed information leaflets. Councillors asked the Clerk to include information about this service in the next newsletter and Councillor Everett agreed to display the information leaflets in the Post Office.

Information on the proposed changes to the recycling banks on the village green was explained by Mr Walls who would monitor the new recycling facilities on a daily basis. It was suggested that the Council consider accepting the proposal changes on a trial basis and Councillors agreed to this.

11/136. Community Police Officers Report.

The Police Community Support Officer advised of 3 crimes since the last meeting the most serious one being a distraction burglary, theft of heating oil and theft of a tricycle. Councillors were asked to encourage residents to report any suspicious vehicles and recent acts of vandalism.

11/137. To approve & sign minutes of the meeting held on the 18th May 2011.

The minutes were taken as read, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman after the Clerk noted the following omissions.

Declaration of a Personal Interest by Councillor Scrimshaw for Agenda Item Number 11/123, reason - a member of the District Councils Development Control Committee.

Councillor Scrimshaw advised that he would answer questions and provide information but would not take part in any discussions or decisions made by Councillors on Planning Applications being considered.

Agenda Item Number 11/131 to note that plants had been donated by R. Delamore Ltd for the flower beds and tubs in the village planted up by the Street Pride Group.

11/138 Matters Arising from the Minutes (For information only).

No matters were raised.

11/139. To receive report from Julie Randal, F.D.C. Neighbourhood Management Services.

An email had been received advising that the Officer had been instructed not to attend Parish Council Meetings in the interim in view of the restructuring within the team. Community Development will now be a much smaller team focussing on key areas of the corporate priorities within localism. Support would still be given to the Youth Club and Green Communities and holiday activities within budget restraints. Councillors requested enquiries be made as to whether any further support would be given for Parish Plans. Posters were provided advertising the Multi Cultural Event that Fenland Arts were organising on the 14, 15, and 16th June.

11/140. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

Councillor Booth advised that the District Council had indicated that funding of £1,000 would be given towards the Queens Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in June 2012. Councillors resolved to hold a public meeting in St Marks Church on Wednesday 27th July at 7.30 to obtain ideas on how the parish would celebrate and commemorate this occasion.

Councillor Booth reported that Fenland District Council Leader Councillor Melton had indicated that if Parish Councils agree to affordable housing developments then the District Council would look to share the income it received under the new Community Infrastructure Levy Scheme when it is established later this year.

Councillor Scrimshaw advised that he would be attending an event at Payne Primary School on Monday and he was pleased that the school was enthusiastic and getting involved with the Green Communities initiative.

11/141. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) Mr Selway, Planning Application No. F/YR11/0315/F Agent Peter Humphrey Associates, for the erection of a single storey side extension to existing dwelling at Warners Farm, Elbow Lane, Church End, Parson Drove. Councillors resolved to support this application and recommend approval is granted.

b) R Goy, Planning Application No. F/YR11/0350, Agent Morton & Hall Consulting Ltd., erection of a first floor extension to the rear & single storey side extension to form annex to existing dwelling, involving the demolition of existing garage at Fen Farm, Long Drove, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to support this application and recommend that approval is granted.

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

Councillors resolved to support this application and recommend approval is granted.

d) Notification that the following Planning Applications have been granted approval by Fenland District Council.

1. J. Atkin, Planning Application No. F/YR11/0189/RM, Agent J Wenman, for the erection of a 4 bed roomed 2 storey dwelling at Plot 2 land east of Liswyn, Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

2. E Mann, Planning Application No. F/YR11/0225/F, Agent G Seaton, for the erection of a single storey front extension to existing dwelling at Fen Farm, Johnsons Drove, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

11/142. Accounts & Finance.

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

Auditing Solutions Ltd., Internal Audit Fees, £234.00. Accounts & Audit Regulations 2010.

NALC, Local Council Review, annual subscription, £15.50. L.G.A. 1972 s 143.

Mrs Y Reader, Clerks quarterly salary & expenses, £1,239.68. L.G.A. 1972 s.112.

11/143. Update report on Section 106 Funding, MUGA & Skate Ramp projects.

Councillor Booth advised that the remedial work to the grass surrounding the MUGA and the ruts had been filled and reseeded. Any further fencing around the tennis court will have to be funded from other sources. He was hopeful that the Skate Ramp would soon be ordered once clarification had been obtained regarding the VAT.

11/144. Risk Assessment

a) To consider findings following the annual inspection of assets on the 1st June.

The following issues had been highlighted during the annual inspection:

1. The War Memorial requires cleaning and the railings will soon need repainting.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to obtain a quotation for the cleaning of the War memorial and to look into obtaining grant funding for this work possibly from War Memorial Trust.

2. The fascia boards around the Bus Shelter needs re-staining and to look into the cost to provide windows in the remaining 2 gaps.

Councillors resolved to discuss this at the next meeting.

3. Some of the paving slabs in front of the public seat near the bus shelter need relaying as they had sunk into the ground creating a trip hazard.

Councillors resolved to ask the Street Pride group if they could attend to this.

4. The base of litter bin in the village hall car park was unsteady and uneven and needed attention. The clerk was requested to obtain quotations to lay a new concrete base.

5. The chains on the swings on the village green were getting worn but did not require immediate attention. However the top bar needs repainting and the plastic base mat needs weeding. Councillors agreed to ask the Street Pride Group to attend to this.

6. There were one or two deep ruts in the village green and some trees near to the entrance roads had epicormick growth as the bases obstructing motorist's vision. Councillors resolved for the Clerk to ask the grounds maintenance contractor to attend to these matters.

7. It was noted that the road sign for The Bank outside number 15 was rotten and the Clerk was asked to report this to the District Council.

b) To report on inspection of Allotments & Gardens.

The Clerk was asked to write to the 3 tenants of the Garden Allotments who had not been maintaining their gardens asking if they wished to continue with their tenancies. Councillor Spriggs had kindly cleaned them up again prior to the inspection.

It was noted that the tenant of Allotments 1,2,6,7 and 8 had not cropped the land again this year as requested. Councillors agreed to monitor the situation for a further year.

11/145. To consider plans provided by Elgood & Sons Ltd on proposed car parking and beer garden at the Swan Inn.

Councillors resolved to respond advising that they agreed with the proposed lay out of the plan provided but would like to have another site meeting to discuss the finer details of the improvements to the car park area.

11/146. To receive an update report on the future of Parson Drove Youth Club.

Councillor Booth advised that a meeting was being held the following evening when it would be discussed as to whether the Youth Club at Parson Drove combines with Murrow. A grant of £32,000 had been obtained and this should secure the future of the Youth Club for the next 2 years.

11/147. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received from:-

a) Letter from Fenland District Council in response to our request for guidance on birds nesting in the trees on the village green following a complaint by a parishioner. Councillors resolved for the Clerk to write to Natural England for further advice on this matter.

b) Email from Fenland District Council regarding the proposed Exception Site for Affordable houses at Church End, Parson Drove.

In view of new members being elected to the Council a motion was proposed and seconded requesting confirmation that Parson Drove Parish Council were in favour in principle of Affordable Housing in the Parish. Councillors unanimously voted to support the motion.

A proposal was then put forward and seconded to proceed to the next stage by holding a public meeting to discuss and obtain parishioners views on the proposed site at 213 Main Road, Church End once a proposed layout plan from the Housing Association for the site had been obtained. A second proposal was put forward that the Council do not proceed with the site at Church End but there was no seconder for this proposal. Councillors resolved by a majority vote to proceed to the next stage and hold a public meeting to discuss the site at Church End.

Councillors also agreed that the Clerk include an article in the next newsletter on how to register on the housing waiting list provided by the District Council.

Councillors also resolved for the Clerk to enquire with the new leader of the County Council if they have any other sites apart from Swan Bridge Farm that they would consider putting forward for consideration as an Exception Site.

c) Consultation document, proposed changes to the Audit Commission & future Audits. Councillors resolved for the Clerk to respond stating that Parish Councils should not be grouped with Charities and that the existing audit system for Parish Councils works perfectly well and should not be changed.

d) Information from NALC on the Equality Act 2010.

The Chairman advised that items number 38 and 41 relating to specific employment matters should be noted by the Human Resources Committee and the Clerk was requested to enquire with CPALC as to whether a revised model Contract of Employment would be provided or if amendments should be made to the existing contract of employment.

e) Information from CPALC on training for 2011 & invitation to attend a New Councillor Evening on the 7th July in the Council Chamber at Fenland Hall, March.

Councillors Booth, Cook & Scrimshaw confirmed that they wished to attend. Clerk to book places.

f) Magazines & newsletters from SLCC & War Memorials Trust.

Noted by Councillors.

g) Email from Fenland District Council requesting dates suitable for Councillors to attend training on Planning & Localism during July.

Councillors agreed to request they avoid Thursdays and not Wednesday 13th & 27th July.

h) Letter from resident along Main Road raising concerns over the pond project particularly with young unsupervised children entering the area and running out onto the Main Road.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to respond advising that some safety measures will be put into place as the project progresses including fencing at the waters edge where the area has been cleared for more accessibility.

i) Copy of the Road Safety Group minutes for the meeting held on the 17th May and notification of the next meeting to be held on 28th June at Guyhirn Village Hall.

Noted by Councillors.

j) Email from Safer Fenland Partnership Support Officer providing information about the Leverington Rural Road Safety project and impact day on the 15th June.
Information noted by Councillors.

k) Posters from Fenland District Council for the Wisbech & District Neighbourhood Forum being held at the Queen Mary Centre, Wisbech on Wednesday 22nd June at 7.00pm.
Information noted by Councillors.

11/148. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.

a) Highway issues to be reported to Cambridgeshire County Council.
Clerk to report missing 40mph sign at Church End and request extending the 40mph speed limit.

Councillors also resolved for the Clerk to write to the Highways Department asking for an up date on the speed restriction review to extend the 30mph speed limit and how the new policy of setting speed limits will work.

The Highways Department had agreed to attend a site meeting to discuss the proposed traffic calming scheme outside the Payne School as part of the Safer Routes to School Scheme at 7.00pm on Wednesday 13th July. Councillors therefore resolved to change the venue and time of the next meeting to St Marks Church starting at 7.30pm and to invite the Chairman of the School Governors to attend the site meeting.

b) Faulty street lights to be reported to Cambridgeshire County Council.
No faulty street lights were reported.

11/149. To receive an Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

Councillor Cook advised that the Amenities 95 Committee had not had a meeting since the last Parish Council Meeting therefore he had no matters to report other than another incident of vandalism to the football dug outs on the playing field.

11/150. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

Councillors G Bellamy enquired if Councillors should be walking the public rights of way to check them over as had happened in the past. The Chairman advised that some of the rights of way had recently been walked with members from the District Council as part of the Green Fen Way Project.

11/151. Any other business (information items only).

The Clerk advised that the annual maintenance check of the Cage alarm system would be completed on Friday afternoon.

11/152. Dates for future Council meeting(s).

The next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 13th July at 7.30pm in St Marks Church.

Meeting closed 10.10pm.