

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th October 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 and three members of the public.

11/212. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from PCSO Martin Bogunovic.

11/213. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillor Booth declared Personal Interests in respect of Agenda Items No 11/216 & 11/223 d), reason a member of these groups. Also declared a Personal & Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 11/222 a) and left the room at the appropriate time, reason an allotment garden tenant.

Councillor Spriggs declared a Personal & Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 11/222 a) and left the room at the appropriate time, reason a close relative is an allotment tenant.

Councillors C Bellamy & G Bellamy declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 11/220 a), reason the Agents also represents the Councillors.

Councillor Scrimshaw declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 11/220 and did not take part in any discussions or voting for this Agenda Item, reason a member of the District Council Development Control Committee.

11/214. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

One member of the public informed Councillors of his objections to the Planning Application listed as Agenda number 11/220 a) in relation to damage to his tree roots and loss of privacy and also reported that some trees had already been removed from the site.

One member of the public raised concerns on the Safer Routes to School traffic calming scheme following the trial of bollards the previous week. Issues raised were the build out was too close to the school gate and the petrol pumps. Problems with parking on the opposite side of the road and fears that more parking problems will occur along The Bank and on the village green.

One member of the public complained about heavy lorries using John Bends Way to access the new development. Councillors agreed for the Clerk to contact the County Council again regarding the progress of the road being adopted.

11/215. Community Police Officers Report.

A written report sent to the Clerk was read out advising that there had been 1 Burglary and 2 incidences of violence & anti social behaviour at Newlands Road since the last report. A member of the public had complained that an untaxed car parked along The Bank had been reported 3 times to the Police but no action taken.

11/216. Guest speaker from Cambridgeshire ACRE on Parish Plans.

A presentation was given on the option of updating our Parish Plan either by refreshing it to reprioritise and extend the existing action plan or producing a whole new Parish Plan. Councillors resolved to delay making a decision on this matter until the Localism Bill is finalised and agreed to discuss this again in the Spring of 2012.

11/217 To approve & sign minutes of the meeting held on the 14th September 2011.

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

11/218. Matters Arising from the Minutes (For information only).

The Clerk advised that the newsletter and posters had been distributed advertising the Public Consultation Meeting on the proposed Exception Site for Affordable Homes on land next to the Doctors Surgery on the 26th October. The meeting would begin with an informal session to allow those attending to observe the proposed site plans and other available information. A formal discussion session would then follow to allow members of the public to raise questions for discussion. It was agreed that the Clerk would try to get the meeting advertised in the local papers under the Public Notices or What's On Sections so as not to incur any advertising costs.

The Clerk advised that the cracked tree branch near to the pond had not yet been removed.

11/219. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

Councillor Scrimshaw advised that the CrimeBuster bus would be visiting Parson Drove during November. The work converting the Day Centre back into use by the Primary School had been very well completed. A Tree Preservation Order had been submitted for Sycamore Trees outside Rookery Cottages, Main Road. A Green Communities Fair was being held in the Village Hall on Saturday 5th November.

11/220. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) Dr D Hattersley, Planning Application No. F/YR11/0688/F, Agent Peter Humphrey Associates for the erection of a 2 storey 3 bed dwelling on land east of Southea House, 16 Main Road, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to object to this application in view of concerns over the possible damage to the trees located at the front of the site and the adjoining property. Also on the grounds of highway safety in view of the number of properties and vehicles using the one access and insufficient amenity space for the site.

Councillors also resolved for the Clerk to contact the Enforcement Officer regarding the apparent removal of trees along the side boundary of the site.

b) Parson Drove Parish Council, Planning Application No. F/YR11/0671/TRTPO, No Agent, for works to 4 Lime Trees and 1 Sycamore Tree on the village green, The Bank, Parson Drove.

Noted by Councillors.

c) Notification from Fenland District Council that the following Planning Applications have been withdrawn.

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.

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.

Information noted by Councillors.

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

1. 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.

2. Fenland District Council, Planning Application No. F/YR11/0416/FDC, for the erection of a dwelling involving demolition of existing garage block on land north of 6 Riverside Gardens, Parson Drove.

3. L Allen, Planning Application No. F/YR11/0616/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.

Information noted by Councillors.

e) Report on site meeting with FDC Planning Officer and CCC Highway Officer to discuss future development along Back Road, Murrow.

The Chairman advised that various issues had been raised and discussed at the site including the loss of some of the passing places, obstructions being placed on the road side verges and the grass verges being lost to private development. The District Planning Officer advised that planning applications could not be refused on Highway Safety issues as the County Council Highways were not making any objections. In view of the width of the road the County Council Highways Officer agreed to arrange for the road to be reassessed for suitability for further development and requested that the Parish Council write to the Development Officer at the County Council formally requesting this reassessment.

11/221. Accounts & Finance.

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

Smiths of Derby, service of clock in The Cage, £196.80. PCA 1957 s 2.

Information Commissioners Office, Data Control Renewal Fee, £35. LGA 1972 s111.

The Office Key, administration supplies, £49.82. LGA 1972 s 111.

b) To consider quotations received for the cleaning of the War Memorial.

A second quotation had been obtained for £495 +VAT and Councillors resolved to accept this.

c) To consider requests for grants from Victim Support and Hope Africa.
Councillors resolved to give a grant of £50 to Victim Support, LGA 1972 S 137 but to decline the request from Hope Africa and pass this onto the Parochial Church Council.

d) To receive and approve Receipts & Payments Bank Reconciliation Accounts and Budget up date report.

Councillors resolved to approve the report presented, after the Chairman had checked the Bank Statements There were no issues arising from the budget report.

e) To discuss and agree on arrangements for the Remembrance Day Service & authorise the ordering of the wreath.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to order a Wreath and the Chairman confirmed that he would be attending the Remembrance Day Service.

11/222 Gardens & Allotments.

a) To review the rents for the Fen Allotments and Riverside Garden Allotments.

Councillors Booth & Spriggs and the Clerk left the room at this point of the meeting.

Councillor Everett was elected to chair the meeting for this Agenda item.

Councillors resolved for the Allotments rent to remain at £75 per acre..

Councillors resolved for the Allotment Gardens rent to remain at £20 for a full Allotment Garden.

b) To agree on date for collection of annual rents.

Councillors resolved for the rents to be collected before the start of the next Parish Council Meeting on the 9th November.

c) To consider applications received for the vacant Riverside Garden Allotment.

The Clerk advised that only one application had been received from a Murrow resident who did not live in the Parish of Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to accept this application as no-one from the Parish of Parson Drove had applied for the tenancy.

11/223. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Letter from the Boundary Commission for England advising of their consultation until the 5th December on proposals for new Parliamentary Constituencies in England.

Councillors resolved to object to the proposed boundary changes as we have no connection with Downham Market and the proposed change will affect the delivery of services.

b) Letter from Cambridgeshire County Council advising of consultations on their budget. This was not received in time for us to respond.

c) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council advising of their consultation on the review of the decision to remove all subsidised bus service funding.

Clerk to request a hard copy ready for the next meeting.

d) Email advising of two speeding impact events arranged by the Safer Fenland Partnership at Parson Drove on the 4th October and the second on the 13th October at Murrow. Also advising that the next Road Safety Group Meeting is on Tuesday 8th November at 7.30 at Guyhirn Village Hall.

Information noted by Councillors. Councillor Scrimshaw had attended the event in Parson Drove on the 4th October.

e) Invitation from CRIF to attend the energy challenge for Cambridgeshire on the 18th October 5.00pm at The Maltings, Ely.

Information noted by Councillors.

f) Notification from CPALC of their AGM on Saturday 3rd December, 10.00am at Bluntisham Village Hall.

Information noted by Councillors. Councillor Booth would try to attend.

11/224. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.

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

No new issues were reported.

b) Email from the CCC Highways advising of the progress on the Safer Routes to School Scheme and to receive report on feed back from parishioners on the trial cones. The majority of comments had been supportive of the scheme but concerns had been raised that the build out was too close to the school gate and G.W. Vialls causing problems accessing the petrol pumps. Councillors resolved to request that the build out is moved further back past the school railings. Problems were also arising with parking near to the school and Councillors resolved for the yellow no parking lines outside the school to be removed and request yellow lines be placed on the opposite side of the road. Clerk to also reiterate the need for improved signage on the approach to the school from both directions.

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

There were no faulty street lights to be reported.

d) To discuss and agree on a proposed location for a new street light.

Councillors resolved to defer this to the next meeting.

f) To consider a request to introduce a reduced speed limit past the corner at Elbow Lane and along Main Road, Parson Drove.

Councillor Booth advised that the County Council was not continuing with the review of the speed limits for A and B roads. However the Parish Council can ask the County Council to reduce the speed limits and therefore Councillors resolved to request that the 40mph speed limit is reduced to 30mph and for it to be extended to round the corner at Church End just past the Welcome to Parson Drove sign.

11/225. To appoint a Parish Council representative for the Leverington Feoffees Charity.

Councillor Booth confirmed that he attended the meeting last month on behalf of the Parish Council. Councillors resolved to elect Councillor Scrimshaw as the Parish Council representative for the future.

11/226. Swan Inn Car park and beer garden project.

The Clerk informed the Council that she had telephoned Elgood & Sons Limited who advised that there had been some delays as it had been decided to remove the old sheds from the building plot at the same time as clearing away the remaining debris from the proposed Beer Garden area and continue with the improvements to the car park area. It was indicated that the work would commence in the next week or so and then a further site meeting could be arranged.

11/227. To consider a request to cut back the tree near to the exit on the Village Green opposite the Butchers Shop.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to obtain a quotation from the grass cutting contractor to remove this small Hawthorn bush/tree. Also to request that he removes the epicormick growth at the base of the tree next to the turning.

11/228. To receive a report on the responses received from Parishioners regarding the Queens Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in 2012.

There were only 6 responses suggesting ideas for commemorating the Queens Diamond Jubilee. From the suggestions received Councillors resolved to explore the possibility of a Jubilee Wood on redundant County Council land at Swan Bridge Farm or an avenue of trees along Green Lane or the riverbank from Parson Drove to Murrow.

The Parish Council could not obtain grants for trees but Community Groups could apply and therefore Councillors suggested that perhaps the Street Pride Group would apply.

11/229. To receive an Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

A site meeting had been held with Wickstead regarding the skate ramp and it was scheduled to be installed during November. The grant application for a new village hall had been refused at the present time but Cambridgeshire ACRE were looking into the reasons given for the refusal of the grant.

11/230. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

Councillor Bellamy asked who had given permission for the erection of all the signs in the village asking motorist to slow down. The Chairman advised that the District and County Council had agreed for these to be erected.

11/231. Any other business (information items only).

Councillor Scrimshaw advised that it had been reported to him that someone was living in the cabin at Elbow Lane at intermittent times. This had been reported to the District Council and was being looked into.

11/232. Dates for future Council meeting(s).

The next Council Meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 9th November starting at 7.30. Meeting closed at 9.50 pm.