

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th December 2012 in The Cage, Station Road, Parson Drove.

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

12/236. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received and accepted from Councillor Everett due to ill health.

12/237. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillor Scrimshaw declared a non pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 12/252 reason a member of the group and advised that he would take no part in discussions or voting on any planning matter as he was a member of Fenland District Council Planning Committee.

Councillor Booth declared a non pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 12/252, reason a member of the group.

Councillor Cook declared a non pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Items Numbered 12/250 and 12/252 reason a member of these groups.

12/238. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

No requests for Dispensations had been received by the Clerk.

12/239. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

12/240. Community Police Officers Report.

PCSO Russ had provided the Clerk with a report on crimes and incidences since the last meeting. There had been no crimes reported and 3 incidences comprising of poaching, a loose horse on the highway and a nuisance incident at John Bends Way. The Crimebuster Bus was still out of use, a Speedwatch check had been made with no vehicles recorded as speeding and a Police Forum Meeting would be held in February, venue and date to be confirmed.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to request that the length of time for the Speedwatch checks be increased as it was considered that 20 minutes was not long enough to obtain an accurate record of speeding traffic through the village.

12/241. To approve & sign minutes of the meeting held on the 14th November 2012.

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

12/242. Matters Arising from the Minutes (For information only).

Councillor Cook advised that he had attended the Citizens Advice Bureau's AGM. The Chairman advised that Councillor Payne from Wisbech St Mary Parish Council was organising a joint meeting to discuss improvements to the junction at Bellamy Bridge.

12/243. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

Councillor Scrimshaw asked for Councillors to look out for the elderly and lonely residents over the Christmas & New Year period.

Councillor Booth advised that the Core Strategy updates would be discussed by the District Council on the 24th January.

The County Council had decided to disband the Area Joint Highways Committee and Highways matters would now be dealt with by a Cabinet Member. Councillors requested that this matter be included in the Agenda for the next meeting.

A street sign for Station Road would shortly be installed on the village green behind The Cage in view of recent confusion over the road names of Station Road and Murrow Bank.

A recent OFSTED inspection at Alderman Payne School had been completed with the inspectors rating the school as good. The second stage of the Willow Den at the school would be starting soon and a meeting was being arranged with the Governors and the Highways Officer to discuss the parking and waiting outside the school.

Following the appointment of the new Street Pride Co-ordinator the community garden would be sprayed off in March in order for progress to be made with the community orchard.

12/244. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) 1. Foster Property Development Ltd., Planning Application No. F/YR12/0684/F, Agent J Hunting, for the erection of 12 two storey affordable dwellings comprising of 8 two bed roomed & 4 three bed roomed dwellings on land east of 242 Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove. Revised proposals amending the positioning of plots 11 and 12 to comply with Internal Drainage Board Byelaws.

Information noted by Councillors.

2. Roddons Housing Association, Planning Application No. F/YR12/0917/F, Agent Fenland District Council, application for the formation of a shared access and 6 parking bays for use of existing dwellings at 93 to 103 Main Road, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to support the application in principle but raised concerns over the steep incline and considered that a better design could be produced by having an access at each end of the parking bays.

3. A R Warren, Planning Application No. F/YR12/0832/F, Agent D Broker, for the erection of 4 two storey 4 bed dwellings on land east of The Cottage, 259 Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove. Revised proposals for changes to the design of front elevation for plots 2, 3 and 4.

Information noted by Councillors. Councillor Scrimshaw advised that the application had been granted approval earlier in the day at the Development Control Committee Meeting.

b) Notification from Fenland District Council that the following Planning Applications have been approved.

1. Mrs With, Planning Application No. F/YR12/0748/TRCA, Agent Morton Consulting Engineers, for the felling of 1 Sycamore Tree, 1 Norwegian Spruce, 1 Cypress Tree & 1 Holly Tree & works to 1 Yew Tree and 1 Cypress Tree at Rookery Farm, 57 Main Road, Parson Drove. Information noted by Councillors.

2. J Scrimshaw, Planning Application No. F/YR12/0763/F, Agent M Rose, for the erection of an agricultural cattle & grain storage building involving the demolition of existing cattle building at Old Eau Field Farm, Seadyke Bank, Murrow.
Information noted by Councillors.

3. R Clark, Planning Application No. F/YR12/0732/F, Agent G Seaton, for the erection of a single storey rear extension to existing dwelling at Christmas Cottage, 141 Back Road, Murrow.
Information noted by Councillors.

12/245. Accounts & Finance.

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

CPRE, renewal of membership, £29. L.G.A. 1972 s.143

Society of Local Council Clerks annual subscription renewal, £100. L.G.A. 1972 s.143

Royal British Legion, Remembrance Day Wreath, £20. L/G/A. 1972 s.137

D J Rowell, to supply and replace broken wooden post on the village green, £50. Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10.

T A Blackamore, annual grounds maintenance charges, £3,645.96. Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10 & Road Traffic Reg. Act 1984 s 72.

Mrs Y Reader, clerks quarter year salary & expenses £1,317.10. L.G.A. 1972 s.112.

12/246. Update report on collection of outstanding rents for the Riverside Garden Allotments and to discuss any issues arising from Tenants.

The Clerk advised that there were still 2 tenants who had not paid the rents for their Allotment Gardens.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to write again advising that if the rents were not paid within the next 7 days then the tenancy agreement would be terminated and the Allotment Gardens re-let.

12/247. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Letter of thanks from Southea Parochial Church Council for the grant of £500.
Noted by Councillors

b) Email from Fenland Rural Road Safety Network attaching minutes for their AGM held on the 7th November and advising of their next meeting to be held on 20th February 2013.
Noted by Councillors.

12/248. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.

a) Report on costs for proposed application to the County Council Local Minor Highways Improvements Bid scheme for 2013/2014.

If an application was made under the Highways Minor Improvements bid for speed limits/restrictions changes within the parish including a traffic calming island at Church End the Parish Council would be expected to contribute at least 10% of the total cost of the scheme as well as any costs over and above the County Councils scheme limit of £10,000.

The County Council estimates the total cost of the scheme will be £11,300 therefore the Parish Council would have to fund the amount of £1,300 over the scheme limit of £10,000 plus at least 10% of the total cost of the scheme resulting in a minimum contribution of £1,130 making a total minimum contribution to the project of £2,430. Current budget heading for speed limit changes stands at £250 therefore a further £2,180 at least would be required from either the 2013/2014 Precept or taken from Cash Reserves.

The Chairman advised that these costs could be reduced if a different contractor is used to install the speed limit signs.

Councillors resolved to defer a decision on this matter until their Budget & Precept Council Meeting on the 19th December.

b) To report on the Rural Capital Grant Application to Fenland District Council for the footpath extension along Main Road.

The Clerk advised that all the required information had now been supplied to the District Council for referral to the Cabinet in January 2013.

c) To consider email received from the County Council regarding improvements to the Swan Bridge junction.

As the County Council had advised that traffic lights would not in their opinion be an acceptable solution for this junction Councillors resolved to respond asking if they had looked into the possibility of a traffic calming scheme similar to the one at Newborough. To also respond to their decision to install a new road surface along Murrow Bank to assist with skidding to the effect that skid marks had never been seen on the approach from Murrow following an accident at this junction.

d) To consider a request for the dropped kerb at Ingham Hall Gardens to be removed.

Councillors resolved to ask for the dropped kerb on the corner at Ingham Hall Gardens to be removed as the footpath was difficult to use resulting in pedestrians walking on the road which was dangerous. Also to request that the dropped kerb be reinstalled further back into Ingham Hall Gardens with not such a steep incline.

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

There were no issues raised to be reported to the County Council but Councillor Cook enquired if it would be possible to have the footpath along Fen Road extended as this road was used by a number of children. The Chairman advised that a request for a footpath extension at this location had been made on several occasions dating back to 2005 when this issue was raised in the Parish Plan and again during the completion of the Safer Routes to School scheme in 2010.

During the last six years three applications had been made under the Jointly Funded Minor Highways scheme for a footpath extension at Fen Road but unfortunately the applications had never been successful as they had been scored very low by the County Council.

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

No faulty street lights were reported.

g) To consider location for a new street light.

Councillors resolved to look into having a new street light along Main Road near to the Sealeys Lane junction coming back towards the village hall as there appeared to be a gap in the lighting at this location. To also look at whether a street light was included in the development of the Exception Site as this may also be a site where a street light would be required.

h) Update report on Winter Gritting Volunteers Scheme & information on the Winter Gritting service.

The Clerk advised that there was a delay in the County Council obtaining supplies of the grit spreaders for the volunteers and the grit bin requested for The Bank had not been progressed as the person contacted to arrange for the purchase of this was away on long term sick leave. Councillors resolved for the Clerk to try and make alternative arrangements if these delays could not be rectified in the very near future in view of the extreme weather now being encountered.

12/249. Preparing for an emergency in our community.

The Clerk advised that despite asking for volunteers in the last Parish Council Newsletter no definite volunteers had come forward to liaise with the District Council on behalf of the Parish.

Councillors resolved to respond to the District Council advising that the Parish Council would co-ordinate any action required in the event of an emergency in the Parish but if the District Council were having a meeting to discuss this matter then a Parish Council Member would try to attend.

12/250. To consider supporting & approving the Football Clubs application to the Football Foundation for a grant towards barriers around the football pitch on the playing field.

Councillor Cook explained to Councillors that the barriers were required by the Football Association in order for Parson Drove Football Club to move up to the next level in the league. The Amenities 95 Committee had raised no objections to the installation of the concrete posts and barriers but to-date the Car Show Committee and Gymkhana Committee had not been consulted.

Councillors resolved not to approve the erection of concrete posts and barriers around the football pitch and requested more information on possible removable barriers as an alternative.

12/251. Parish Plan.

Councillors Booth, Scrimshaw and Cook agreed to form a working group to take this project further. Some other parishioners had also indicated an interest in volunteering to assist with the project and Councillors resolved to arrange a public meeting in the Pavilion on Tuesday 19th March subject to the Clerk being able to arrange for the Parish Plan co-ordinator from Cambridgeshire ACRE being able to attend the meeting.

12/252. Street Pride Group update report on projects.

The Chairman advised that grant funding had been obtained to progress the Pond project and to plant more flowers in the village gateways. A planning application had been submitted to the District Council for the work required to the trees around the pond. The first phase of the Jubilee seat on the village green had been completed by the College of West Anglia.

12/253. To receive a report from the Amenities 95 Committee.

Councillor Cook advised that the first cycle rack had been installed at the front of the village hall and another was to be installed near the Pavilion. The flooding of the village hall car park was being looked into and more gravel had been ordered.

12/254. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

Councillor Spriggs asked if that as planning applications outside the current development area boundary were now being granted approval would this open the floodgates for development throughout the parish. The Chairman advised that in view of the emerging Core Strategy which has no development area boundaries each application is considered individually and development should only be approved if it lies within the built up area of the village.

12/255. Any other business (information items only).

There were no other items raised by Councillors.

12/256. Dates for future Council meeting(s).

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 19th December at 7.30pm in The Cage to discuss and approve a draft budget and precept for 2013/2014. The next full Council Meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 9th January 2013 at 7.00pm in The Cage.

Meeting closed at 10.05pm.