

## **Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012 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.  
M Pickering (Cambridgeshire County Council Highways) and 3 members of the public.

### **12/29. To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from J Tuck (C.C.C.) and PCSO Martin Bogunovic.

### **12/30. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.**

Councillor Booth declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No.12/40e reason Chairman of the group.

Councillor Booth declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 12/40f and left the room at the appropriate time, reason tenant of the adjoining Allotment Garden.

Councillor Scrimshaw advised that he would take no part in discussions or decisions on any planning applications as he was a member of Fenland District Council's Planning Committee.

### **12/31. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.**

Mr C Killingworth advised Councillors that the Payne Primary School P.T.A. were intending to create a wild life area in the school grounds to commemorate the Queens Diamond Jubilee. They were also going to organise a party for the children and invite the Over Sixties Club to the party to be held in the school grounds on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012.

### **12/32. Community Police Officers Report.**

A report on the crime figures since the last meeting had been emailed to the Clerk. There had been 1 crime of a motorbike stolen from a secure shed and 2 incidences at John Bends Way of persons seen inside a secure building site.

### **12/33. To approve & sign minutes of the meeting held on the 25th January 2012.**

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

### **12/34. Matters Arising from the Minutes (For information only).**

A response had been received from the website managers and Councillors Cook & Everett agreed to visit their offices on the 29<sup>th</sup> February at 3.00pm to discuss improving the website.

### **12/35. To discuss reductions in the speed limits along Main Road and Church End with Cambridgeshire County Council Highways Officer.**

The Highways Officer explained the procedure for changing the speed limits and stated that the Parish Council would be responsible for all the costs. They would also be responsible for consulting with the public and other bodies.

External contractors could be used to complete the work providing they had the correct qualifications and he would provide the Council with a list of approved contractors. The cost would depend on adequate street lighting and how many existing sign posts could be used. If the Traffic Regulations Order could be incorporated in other highways advertising this would also help to reduce the costs. It was agreed that plans would be drawn up and costed.

**12/36. Queens Diamond Jubilee.**

a) To consider a request from Payne Primary School P.T.A. for a financial contribution towards their plans to celebrate the Jubilee.

Councillors discussed the information provided by Mr Killingworth during public participation and resolved to fund the Plaque for the wild life area at an estimated cost of £120.

b) To discuss any other ideas received on how the Parish commemorate the occasion. Councillors were informed that some other village events were being planned by St Marks Church and the Swan Inn therefore they resolved to defer a decision on this until the next meeting to allow time for other grant applications to be made to the Council.

**12/37. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.**

Councillor Booth advised that the District Council's Community Grants Scheme was now available where voluntary Organisations could apply for grants up to a maximum of £5,000 from the allocated £70,000 but the applications would now be considered and determined by the District Council Cabinet instead of the Neighbourhood Management Group.

Councillor Scrimshaw advised that the planning issues regarding Sandlewood Farm had been referred to and investigated by the Ombudsman who had ruled that Fenland District Council had not been negligent for any errors that occurred.

**12/38. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.**

a) R. Delamore Limited proposed future development on their land at Parson Drove. Councillors resolved for a letter and short questionnaire to be produced in order to obtain the views of the parish on the proposed development. It was also agreed to incorporate some questions to update the Parish Plan regarding future development. The Clerk was to prepare a draft for Councillors to approve and hopefully this would be completed in time to be delivered in early March.

**12/39 Accounts & Finance.**

a) Councillors resolved to approve the following Invoices for payment:-  
Konica Minolta Business Solutions, photocopier rental and copies charge, £80.08. L.G.A. 1972 s.111  
Cambridgeshire County Council, salt bin at Springfield Road £111.60.Highways.Act. 1980 ss 43 & 50.

b) To consider requests from Cambridgeshire Police Shrievalty Trust and Fenland Association for Community Transport Ltd for a grant.  
Councillors resolved to give a grant of £25 to Cambridgeshire Police Shrievalty Trust, L.G.A. 1972 s 137 and a grant of £75 to Fenland Association for Community Transport. L.G.A. 1997.

c) To consider giving a donation to St Marks Church for the use of the Church for Council meetings.  
Councillors resolved to give a donation of £100, L.G.A. 1972 s.111.

d) To consider quotations received for the annual grass cutting and grounds maintenance contract for 2012/13.  
Three quotations had been received for £3165.80, £3990 and £5974.50 and Councillors resolved to continue with the existing contractor as their quotation was the lowest.

e) To consider quotation received for increasing the Public Liability Insurance to £10million as suggested by the Internal Auditor in the last report.  
Councillors were advised that if the Public Liability Insurance was increased to £10 million now the additional premium to renewal date in June would be £47.21. The extra cost per year from June would be approximately £141. Councillors resolved to increase the Public Liability Insurance cover to 10 million with effect from the renewal date in June 2012.

f) To consider quotations received for work to the 4 Lime trees & 1 Sycamore tree on the village green.  
The Clerk advised that 3 contractors had been approached for quotations but to date only 2 quotations had been received for £3,100 and £1,750. Councillors resolved to accept the lowest quotation received as this work needed to be completed before the trees were in full leaf and it would take some time to arrange for the electricity company to turn off the power.

**12/40 To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.**

a) Email from Cambridgeshire ACRE regarding faster and better Broadband in Cambridgeshire.  
Information noted by Councillors, no action required.

b) Email from Fenland District Council regarding the Community Grants scheme for 2012/13.  
Applications could now be made by voluntary groups for grants up to £5000 from the allocated £70,000 Community Grants scheme. Information noted by Councillors.

c) Email from The Learning Disability Parliament inviting members to attend the meeting in Ely on 9<sup>th</sup> March from 10.30 to 3.00 at the Ely Beet Club.  
Information noted by Councillors, no one wished to attend.

d) Email from Fenland District Council with proposed dates for events from the Chairman of Fenland.

Information noted by Councillors.

e) Email from the Road Safety Group advising of their next meeting in The Cage on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm and notes taken at their meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> January.

Information noted by Councillors.

f) Email from Fenland District Council confirming the details of the building plot being sold at Riverside Gardens.

Councillors Spriggs chaired the meeting for this Agenda Item as Councillor Booth had left the room.

From the information and plans provided by Fenland District Council the building plot being advertised for sale was the same area of land shown on the planning application. As no objections had been raised by the Parish Council on the planning application no further action would be taken.

#### **12/41. Gardens & Allotments.**

To consider applications received for the vacant Allotment Gardens.

The Clerk had been unable to collect the one outstanding Allotment Garden rent of £10.50 and therefore the tenancy for allotment garden number 14A had been with drawn.

Two applications for a tenancy had been received and Councillors resolved to allocate Allotment Garden Number 22 to Mr J Bliss. Councillors resolved to offer the remaining Allotment Garden to the Green Communities group for use as the Community Fruit Orchard project as their current Allotment Garden was quite small. If however this was not required by the Green Communities for the Fruit Orchard project then it would be offered to the applicant who resided outside the Parish.

#### **12/42. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.**

a) To approve the plans received from the County Council regarding the Safer Routes to School Scheme & the new traffic calming measures to be installed starting on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

From the plans received it was not clear if the Parish Council's amendments had been incorporated into the scheme. The Highways Officer advised that the build out near to the school gate and G.W. Vialls & Son petrol pumps had been moved back as requested by the Parish Council but he would enquire to see if it could be moved back any further although according to his calculations large vehicles should not have a problem entering and manoeuvring around the petrol pumps and build out as it is currently designed. Changes to the yellow double lines are not being made at this time although this will be monitored and consideration could be given to changing them if it was felt necessary.

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

Councillors advised that there were now three pot holes along the Main Road adjacent to The Bank. There was a pot hole near to the entrance of Newlands Road. The road at Highside was still obstructed by trees and bushes and the surface was subsiding. The 30mph sign at Silvers Lane was lying on the roadside verge. The road and footpath was flooding outside St Marks Church and 109 Main Road.

c) Update report received from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding the Swan Bridge junction.

A letter had been received advising that the suggestions put forward by the Parish Council for improvements to the junction could not be implemented for various reasons. The suggestions being made by the County Council were improved signage at the junction and road markings along Murrow Bank and to wait and assess how effective the Safer Routes to School Scheme is on reducing accidents at the junction.

Councillors resolved to respond to the letter stating how disappointed and appalled they were to receive this response after such a long delay. Also to query the reasoning behind the decisions reached for not implementing some of the suggestions made by the Parish Council.

d) To discuss and agree on site for new street light along Station Road/Murrow Bank. Councillors resolved to proceed with a new street light near the access roadway to the Cage adjacent to the footpath by a majority vote as this was the cheapest option.

e) Faulty street lights to be reported to Cambridgeshire County Council. No faulty street lights were reported at the meeting.

f) To discuss the complaint made during Public Participation at the last meeting regarding the change to the bus route to Wisbech with the bus now going through unsuitable roads in Gorefield.

Councillors could see no other alternative route to incorporate Gorefield and resolved for the Clerk to write to the bus operators bringing to their attention the comments made by the Parishioner.

#### **12/43. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.**

Councillor Scrimshaw enquired if the Clerk had received any progress report on the proposed Exception Site for Affordable Homes at Church End. The Clerk advised that no information had been received recently and she would contact the Housing Association to enquire on the progress of the proposed scheme.

#### **12/44. Any other business (information items only).**

Councillor G Bellamy advised that she had received complaints above the ice and snow along The Bank making it difficult for Parishioner to visit the Post office and Butchers Shop. Councillors resolved to discuss purchasing a Grit Bin next year for this location at a future meeting.

The Clerk advised that the Internal Audit would be completed on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

#### **12/45. Dates for future Council meeting(s).**

Councillors resolved to hold the Annual Parish Assembly Meeting on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in St Marks Church.

The next Parish Council Meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March and subsequent meeting on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

Meeting closed 10.25pm.