

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th July 2012 in The Pavilion, Main Road, Parson Drove.

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

Invited guests:- K. Freya (F.D.C.), F. Coulson (Roddons Housing Association)

Architects and representative from the land owners of proposed Exception Site at Church End.

12/136. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from PCSO Martin Bogunovic.

12/137. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillor Scrimshaw advised that he would take no part in the discussions and voting on all planning matters as he was a member of the District Council's Planning Committee.

Councillor Booth declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 12/148 b). Reason Chairman of the Road Safety Group.

12/138. 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.

12/139. Community Police Officers Report.

An email had been received advising that 3 crimes and 1 incident had been reported to the Police since the last Council Meeting consisting of a stolen motor vehicle, criminal damage to a private house at The Bank, criminal damage to a motor vehicle at John Bends Way and an incident of suspicious circumstances relating to evidence indicating that persons had been sleeping rough in the grounds of the Five Bells.

PCSO Martin Bogunovic advised that he would be leaving the rural north district on the 20th July and was being replaced by PCSO David Russ.

12/140. a) To discuss and approve a revised lay out plan following discussions with FDC Housing Officer, Circle Anglia Housing Association, Foster Property Developments Ltd., & their Architect regarding the proposed Exception Site for Affordable Homes on land east of 242 Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove.

The Housing Officer from FDC read out a letter from Cambridgeshire ACRE supporting the proposal for 12 Affordable Homes on the site. Two revised plans for 12 dwellings were provided by the Architects. Councillors suggested changing the parking layout on plan option C so that the parking was directly connected to each dwelling. It was proposed that the scheme proceeds to the next stage on the basis of 12 dwellings being provided on the site. Councillors Booth, Cook and Everett voted in favour of the proposal.

Councillors C. Bellamy, G. Bellamy and P Spriggs voted against the proposal. Councillor Scrimshaw abstained from voting. The proposal was carried by the Chairman's casting vote.

Councillors voting against the proposal indicated that they would have supported the proposal if the scheme had been for 10 dwellings.

b) To consider contacting the Leader of Fenland District Council regarding possible sharing of the new homes bonus for developments.

Councillors resolved to write to the District Council confirming that the Parish Council would like to take up the Leader of the Council on his offer of sharing some of the additional money received from Central Government by the District Council for larger scale developments.

12/141. To approve & sign minutes of the meetings held on 13th & 27th June 2012.

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

12/142. Matters Arising from the Minutes (For information only).

The broken street light column opposite Sandlewood Farm was being investigated by Wisbech St Mary Parish Council.

It was suggested that a Planning Policy for future development should be drawn up by the Parish Council to take into account the recent Housing Survey completed to update the Parish Plan and provide clarification on development outside the DAB. Councillors agreed for this to be discussed at the next Council meeting.

12/143. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

Councillor Scrimshaw advised that the CrimebusterBus would be visiting the village in the near future.

Councillor Booth advised that following national changes to how the Council Tax is calculated the District Council will be consulting with the Parish Council on this matter in due course as it will have an impact on how the Parish Precept is calculated.

12/144. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) Mrs N S Pittman, Planning Application No. F/YR12/0454/F, Agent David Broker, for the erection of a first floor extension to the existing dwelling of Greenways, Marshalls Bank, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to enquire if there is also a change of use for this application but in any event they supported the application as it was an improvement to the building.

b) Foster Property Developments Ltd., Planning Application No. F/YR12/0403/F, Agent J Hunting, for the erection of 12 affordable dwellings comprising of eight 2 storey 2 bed roomed and four 2 storey 3 bed roomed dwellings with associated parking & open space on land east of 242 Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to make no comment on the plans submitted as revised plans were being drawn up following the recent discussions with the Architect, land owners and Housing Association.

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

1. J. Fowler, Planning Application No. F/YR12/0317/F, Agent G Edwards, for the erection of a 2 storey three bed dwelling with attached garage/car port, involving demolition of the existing dwelling of Nicola, Fen Road, Parson Drove.

Information noted.

2. Cambridgeshire County Council, Planning Application No. F/YR12/0318/F, No Agent for the widening of existing access road at Cranfield, 201 Main Road, Parson Drove.

Information noted.

12/145. Accounts & Finance.

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

Bowles Tree & Garden Services, pollarding of Willow Tree at the pond, £350. Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9 & 10

Bowles Tree & Garden Service, work to 5 trees on the village green, £1,750. Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10.

Fenland District Council, election costs for Parish Council election May 2011, £1,251.60. L.G.A. 1972 s.150

b) To consider request from Southea & Murrow Parochial Church Council for a grant towards the Quilt & Flower Festival in September 2012.

Councillors resolved to defer this matter until more information was available and requested that the Clerk invite a member of the group to attend the next meeting.

c) To receive and approve a Receipts & Payments Account Bank Reconciliation Report and Budget Update Report.

Councillors resolved to approve the reports presented and there were no issues arising from the reports.

12/146. Risk Assessment.

a) To consider issues identified requiring attention following the annual inspection of assets on Monday 2nd July 2012.

The following areas were identified as requiring attention:-

Cage clock tower requires repainting.

Replace broken window in bus shelter and re-stain top fascia boards.

Support posts need repainting on the Village sign, Best Kept Village sign and Notice Board.

War Memorial railings need repainting.

Top bar of swings on the village green need repainting

Broken wooden post need repairing outside the Post Office and reflector strips need replacing on all the wooden posts around the village green.

Dead wood in tree adjacent to bottle bank and next to the War Memorial needs removing and hawthorn bush cutting back adjacent to the access road near Tan Rose Shop.
Litter bin base at village hall car park eroding away and needs concreting in again.

b) Update report on work required to the trees around the pond and on the village green. The Chairman advised that he had meet with the tree officer to discuss further work to trees around the pond.

It was suggested that several of the willow trees be pollard and dead wood removed from all the trees. A quotation had also been obtained to complete the work for £2,500 but as this was part of the pond project being undertaken by the Street Pride Group they were trying to obtain grant funding to cover this work.

The report had not yet been received from the Tree Officer in respect of the lime tree on the village green causing some concern. It was also reported at the meeting that a branch had fallen from the lime tree adjacent to Carnival Lodge, along The Bank and the Clerk was requested to contact the tree officer regarding this tree.

12/147. Gardens & Allotments

To report on the annual inspection of the Gardens & Allotments and discuss any issues arising from the inspection.

Following the inspection there were 4 Allotment Gardens over grown with rubbish. Councillor Spriggs offered to clean up the Community Garden and Councillors resolved for the Clerk to write to the three tenants of the other Gardens requesting that they clean their gardens up.

Following the inspection of the Allotments at Johnson Drove two tenants had not cropped their Allotments again this year and one tenant had allowed his allotments to become overgrown with weeds and rubbish.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to write to both tenants requesting that they clean up their allotments by the 11th October 2012 and crop them next year by the 1st May. If either of these deadlines were not met, then their tenancies would be terminated.

12/148. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Letter from REG Windpower inviting members to a public exhibition session regarding 6 wind turbines at French Farm, Thorney.
Information noted by Councillors.

b) Email from Fenland Road Safety Group with notes from their meeting held on the 23rd May.
Information noted by Councillors.

c) Email received from C&PALC regarding the new Code of Conduct.
Further detailed information had also since been received from Fenland District Council with an invitation to attend a training session on Tuesday 24th July.
Councillors Booth, Cook & Everett wished to attend together with the Clerk.

12/149. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.

a) Letter received from T Charity, Cambridgeshire County Council regarding Back Road, Murrow.

Councillors resolved to write to the District Council requesting changes to the Planning Policy for Back Road, Murrow as the continuous infill of developments are having an accumulative effect on the road.

b) Update report on proposed speed reductions in the village.

The Clerk advised that two letters had been received from the consultation letters sent out both supporting speed reductions in the village. The Chairman advised that a Road Traffic Regulation Order was being made by the County Council in the near future. Once this has been issued the Parish Council has 2 years to implement the changes to the speed limits. Funding for the scheme could be applied for under the Minor Highway Bids.

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

The 40mph flashing sign along Murrow Bank is not working again. There are overhanging bushes at the entrance to Ingham Hall Gardens obstructing motorist's vision.

The Chairman has received complaints about speeding traffic along Sealeys Lane and a request for traffic calming measure to be implemented. Councillors resolved for the Clerk to write to the County Council.

The chairman advised that if a further grant of £10,000 could be obtained from the District Councils Rural Capital Grants scheme then the whole section of footpath could be installed under the Jointly Funded Minor Highway Scheme along Main Road.

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

There were no faulty street lights reported.

The Clerk confirmed that the new contractors would honour the original quotation received for the installation of the new street light at Station Road.

12/150. To receive a report from the Amenities 95 Committee.

Councillor Cook advised that the committee had received a report from the District Council regarding the rats on the playing field and were looking into the costs of a rat trap. They also considered that a cycle rack outside the village hall was a good idea and they were looking into the costs involved in providing this facility.

12/151. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

Councillors queried whether or not the beer garden at the Swan Inn encroached onto the Councils land and requested that the Clerk check the land registry maps and report back at the next Parish Council meeting and to delay arranging a joint meeting to discuss the car parking until this had been clarified.

The Clerk was asked if an application had been made to English Heritage for Listing Building status on the Old Farm House, Main Road in view of the email received by Councillor Scrimshaw from the Conservation Officer. The Clerk was not aware of any application but would ask the Conservation Officer to make enquiries.

12/152. Any other business (information items only).

The chairman advised that the building work at Rookery Farm was being monitored by the District Council.

Councillors requested that the Notice Board outside the Village Hall and the refresh of the entire Parish Plan be included in the Agenda for the next meeting.

12/153. Dates for future Council meeting(s).

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 8th August at 7.00pm in The Cage and the subsequent meetings on Wednesday 12th September and 10th October.

Meeting closed 10.22pm.