

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14th November 2012 in The Cage, Station Road, Parson Drove.

Attended by Councillors G. Booth (Chairman), P. Spriggs (Vice Chairman), C Bellamy, G. Bellamy, & R. Scrimshaw. PCSO Dave Russ & 2 members of the public.

12/215. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Councillor Everett and Councillor Cook.

12/216. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillor Scrimshaw declared a non pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 12/223 b) reason has members of his family buried in the churchyard 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.

12/217. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

A member of the public enquired as to how he could obtain information on the objections raised by residents and the Parish Council on his planning application submitted and refused by the District Council last year as he was intending to resubmit another application. The Chairman responded advising that all the relevant information on the objections raised could be obtain from the District Council.

The applicant for the Planning Application listed on the Agenda under item number 12/222 f) spoke briefly pointing out the merits of the application.

12/218. Community Police Officers Report.

PCSO Russ informed the Council that there had been 3 crimes reported since the last meeting relating to shed burglaries and 4 incidences comprising of 2 poaching, 1 rowdy nuisance and a loose horse on the public highway.

Speedwatch checks had been undertaken at Main Road on the 16th October, 13 vehicles monitored, none speeding and again on the 1st November, 22 vehicles monitored, no vehicles exceeding the speed limit.

12/219. To approve & sign minutes of the meeting held on the 10th October 2012.

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

12/220. Matters Arising from the Minutes (For information only).

Posters and leaflets had now been printed advising residents of changes to the bus services in the village.

12/221. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

Councillor Scrimshaw advised that he considered changes to the Council Tax Benefits would no doubt cause problems when the Council Tax bills were issued in March 2013.

Councillor Booth advised that changes by central government to the Tax Base figures resulting in an increase in the Council Tax Band D would not need to be taken into account when setting our Precept as the District Council had decided that Parish Precepts will not be affected by the legislation.

Further consultation was being completed by the Boundary Commission regarding proposed changes to the District Council wards but there were no suggested changes for the ward of Wisbech St Mary & Parson Drove.

12/222. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) 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.

Councillors resolved to support this application subject to the agreement of the Conservation Officer and the Tree Officer.

b) 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.

Councillors resolved to support this application as it would be an improvement to the building and have no adverse effect on adjoining properties.

c) W Hodges, Planning Application No. F/YR12/0749/EXTIME, No Agent, for the erection of a dwelling with garage (renewal of planning permission F/YR09/0619/O) on land east of The Poplars, Back Road, Murrow.

Councillors resolved to object to this application as continual development will have a cumulative impact on the highway which is inadequate and raises highway safety issues.

d) 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.

Councillors resolved to support this application as it would be an improvement to the street scene and provide a good modern replacement building.

e) G Fisher, Planning Application Number F/YR12/0813/RM, Agent M Hall, for the erection of a 2 bed roomed 2 storey dwelling & detached single garage on Plot 3 land north of 69 – 79 Back Road, Murrow.

Councillors resolved to object to this application as continual development will have a cumulative impact on the highway which is inadequate and raises highway safety issues.

f) 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.

Councillors resolved by a majority vote to object to this application as the site is outside the DAB, would result in development of the site and the design of the dwelling on plot 4 would result in overlooking should further development be approved adjoining this site.

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

1. Mrs With, Planning Application No. F/YR12/0550/F, Agent R Morton, erection of a 2 storey side extension, utilising existing rear wall to form an annexe to the existing dwelling of Rookery Farm, 57 Main Road, Parson Drove.
 2. C Britt, Planning Application No. F/YR12/0679/TRCA, Agent J Rowlett, works to a Walnut Tree at The Nurseries, 19 Main Road, Parson Drove.
 3. J Clifton, Planning Application No. F/YR12/0659/F, No Agent, for the change of use from commercial use to a 3 bed dwelling at 45 Main Road, Parson Drove.
- Information noted by Councillors.

h) Letter from Fenland District Council consulting on proposed changes to the amount of information provided with planning applications & the size of plans sent to Parish Councils.

Councillors resolved to agree to the suggestion of providing Parish Councils with smaller plans and less information in relation to the Flood Risk Assessments & Biodiversity Reports. However as the site location plans used by the District Council were more detailed and clearer than those provided by the Applicant or their Agent Councillors resolved to request that Parish Councils be provided with a copy of these location plans with planning application details received for consultation.

i) Update from Fenland District Council Planning Department for the proposed exception site for affordable housing at Church End.

Councillors Booth & Scrimshaw informed the Council that the planning application for the Exception Site for affordable houses at Church End had been approved subject to various conditions and an amendment to the site location of plots 11 and 12 requested by in Internal Drainage Board.

12/223. Accounts & Finance.

a) Councillors resolved to approve the following Invoices for payment:-
Westcotec Ltd., supply & installing street light column near The Cage, £1,012.32 P.C.A. 1957 s.3.

Clerks & Council Direct annual subscription renewal, £12. L.G.A. 1972 s143.

Konica Minolta Business Solutions Ltd., quarterly rental and copy charges for photocopier, £86.71. L.G.A. 1972 s.111

Smiths of Derby, Cage Clock annual service, £202.80. P.C.A. 1957 s 2.

b) To consider a request from Southea Parochial Church Council for the annual churchyard maintenance grant.

Councillors resolved to give a grant of £500. L.G.A. 1972 s 214 (6).

c) Letter from Fenland District Council advising of the drastic reduction in recycling credits and confirmation that a payment of £14.69 has been made to the Parish Council.
Information noted by Councillors.

12/224. To report on collection of rents for the Fen Allotments and Riverside Garden Allotments & to discuss any issues arising from Tenants or the maintenance of the Allotments.

The Clerk advised that all rents for the Allotments had been paid but there were 5 outstanding Garden Allotment rents. Reminder letters would be issued at the end of the week if these rents had not been received by then.

The tenant of Allotments 9 and 10 advised that he wished to terminate his tenancy as he was unable to maintain the allotments and in any event would soon be moving out of the parish. Councillors resolved to offer the tenancy to Mr J Grooms who had recently applied for an Allotment.

12/225. To consider and approve arrangements for authorising and issuing Dispensations to Councillors in view of the new adopted Code of Conduct.

Councillors resolved to include an Agenda item at every meeting for Councillors to consider any requests received by the Clerk for Dispensations. In view of information received from SLCC advising that Councillors would need to obtain Dispensations before being able to discuss and set the Parish Precept the Clerk was requested to amend the Code of Conduct to rectify this problem. The Clerk advised that she would seek advice from the District Councils Solicitor & Monitoring Office to find out if changes to the Code of Conduct could be made.

12/226. To elect a Councillor to represent the Parish Council for Rural Cambs Citizens Advice Bureau.

Councillors resolved that Councillor Cook would represent the Parish Council.

12/227. To receive a report on the site meeting with representative from Elgood & Sons Ltd., regarding car parking at the Swan Inn.

The Chairman advised that following the site meeting with Elgood & Sons Limited they would look into the costs of marking out parking bays at the side of the Swan Inn and agreed to tidy up the area in front of the building plot to create further parking.

12/228. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Letter of thanks from Victim Support for their grant of £25.

Noted by Councillors.

b) Email from Connecting Cambridgeshire requesting support for their broadband campaign by encouraging local people to register their demand for better broadband for all.

Noted by Councillors.

c) Letter from North Level District Internal Drainage Board advising of a study by DEFRA on the develop indicators that can be used to show how the North Level District IDB provide benefits to the Parish Council and the wider community.
The Chairman and Clerk had studied this complex document and were of the opinion that there was no need to respond. Councillors resolved to take no further action on this matter.

d) Email from Sir Graham Bright setting out his priorities if elected as the Police & Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire.
Information noted by Councillors.

12/229. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.

a) To consider making an application to the Local Minor Highways Improvements Bid scheme for 2013/2014.

Councillors resolved to apply for the speed reductions from 40mph to 30mph and the extension of the existing 40mph speed limit previously discussed for Main Road starting from John Bends Way down to the village entrance at Church End. Also to incorporate in the bid a traffic island – pedestrian refuge near to the Doctors Surgery if the County Council would accept these two measures as one scheme and one bid. Clerk to obtain clarification on the proposal and estimated costs before the application is submitted.

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

The Chairman advised that additional information had been requested by the District Council some of which had already been supplied and some documents requested were not relevant. Clerk would look into this and respond accordingly.

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

Concerns were raised over the quality of the work completed on the road patching along Murrow Bank and Highside.

The street light outside Oakleigh Main Road was still being hidden by a tree protruding into the footpath and the 30mph sign was still hidden by the over grown hedge.

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

No faulty street lights were reported at the meeting.

e) Winter Gritting Volunteers Scheme.

The Clerk advised Councillors that two volunteers had agreed to assist with the grit spreading along Springfield Road and The Bank. Whilst both volunteers were booked onto the County Councils training course only one managed to attend. There was a choice of two grit spreaders available to the volunteers and their preference was for the larger of the two which one volunteer had offered to store. Councillors resolved to request the largest grit spreader and for the Clerk to thank the volunteer agreeing to store and use it during the winter.

f) To consider location for a new street light.

The Chairman advised that there appeared to be a large distance from one street light to another from Sealeys Lane back towards the Village Hall. The Clerk was requested to check into this and for the matter to be discussed again at the next meeting.

g) To consider whether the Parish Council wishes to work with neighbouring Parish Councils to improve the junction at Bellamy Bridge.

Councillors resolved to work together with Wisbech St Mary and Gorefield Parish Councils to try and obtain improvement at this junction to increase road safety. The Chairman agreed to liaise with the other Parish Councils.

12/230. To receive information from Councillor C Bellamy on the forthcoming Golden Age event to be held in the Parish.

Councillor Bellamy advised that a Golden Age Surgery organised by the District Council was being held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 23rd January 2013 from 10.00am to 1.00pm. He requested that members of the Parish Council attend the surgery and that the event is promoted by the Parish Council with posters and newsletter.

12/231. 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.

The Chairman outlined the project to Councillors but as there was some questions raised that he was unable to answer Councillors resolved to defer this matter until the next meeting in order that Councillor Cook could explain the project in more detail.

12/232. To receive a report from the Amenities 95 Committee.

No report was received in view of the absence of Councillor Cook.

12/233. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

There were no questions raised by Councillors.

12/234. Any other business (information items only).

There were no other items of information raised by Councillors

12/236. Dates for future Council meeting(s).

The next meeting was confirm for Wednesday 12th December at 7.00pm followed by an additional meeting on Wednesday 19th December at 7.30pm to discuss and agree on the Budget and Precept for 2013/2014.

Meeting closed at 10.10pm.