

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th October 2012 in The Cage, Station Road, Parson Drove.

Attended by Councillors G. Booth (Chairman), P. Spriggs (Vice Chairman), C Bellamy, G. Bellamy, J. Cook, P Everett & R. Scrimshaw. PCSO Dave Russ & 2 Officers from Cambridgeshire County Council Highways Department.

12/196. To receive apologies for absence.

No apologies had been received.

12/197. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillor Booth declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 12/208 and left the room at the appropriate time, reason an Allotment Garden tenant.

Councillor Booth declared a non pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Items Numbers 12/209 b) reason chairman of this group and 12/210 b) reason resides at John Bends Way.

Councillor Spriggs declared a non pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 12/208 and left the room at the appropriate time, reason a member of his family is an Allotment Garden tenant.

Councillor Scrimshaw declared a non pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 12/209 b), reason a member of this 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.

12/198. 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.

12/199. Community Police Officers Report.

PCSO Dave Russ gave a report for the parish advising that there had been no crimes reported and 2 incidences. A speedwatch check on 22 vehicles had been completed on the 10th September along Main Road with no vehicles found to be speeding.

12/200. To discuss improvements to the Swan Bridge junction with Officers from Cambridgeshire County Council.

Officers from the County Council discussed previous suggestions made for improvements to this junction and discussed various options suggested by Councillors. Information and local knowledge relating to the junction and accident details was discussed and it was considered advantageous for the Clerk to keep a detailed record of all accidents at the junction as often minor injury and damage only accidents were not recorded.

The Highway Officers agreed to review the information and suggestions for improvements and to look into the possibility of Traffic Lights or Chicanes similar to the scheme installed at Newborough as Councillors considered that these would possibly be the only solutions to the problem.

12/201. To approve & sign minutes of the meeting held on the 12th September 2012.

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

12/202. Matters Arising from the Minutes (For information only).

The Bus Service to and from Wisbech provided by W H Fowler & Son had ceased except for one bus to and from Wisbech each Thursday. Information about this service and the Fenland Association of Community Transport would be included in the Parish Councils Newsletter and posters had been displayed in the Post Office, Village Hall and Notice Board. Fenland District Council was intending to include information on the changes to the bus services in the Wisbech Standard and Village Voices.

12/203. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

Councillor Scrimshaw advised that a new Street Pride Co-ordinator had been appointed by the District Council.

12/204. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) 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. Councillors resolved to support this application and recommend that approval be granted as it would bring the property back into use and improve the street scene.

b) 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. Councillors resolved to support this application and recommend approval is grant subject to the agreement of the tree officer.

c) A R Warren, Planning Application No. F/YR12/0683/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 and considered that it was over development of the site for executive dwellings.

d) Foster Property Developments Ltd., Planning Application No. F/YR12/0684/F, Agent J Hunting, for the erection of 12 two storey affordable dwellings comprising of eight 2 bed and four 3 bed dwellings with associated parking and open space on land east of 242 Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove. Councillors resolved by a majority vote to support this application and recommend approval is granted as they want to encourage affordable homes for people with local connections and subject to a planning condition being imposed ensuring that the dwellings remain affordable for perpetuity and are subject to the local lettings agreement as discussed with the land owners and housing association.

e) Notification from Fenland District Council that the following Planning Application has been approved.

Payne Primary School, Planning Application No. F/YR12/0558/F, for a 3 bay mobile unit for use by Playgroup at Payne Primary School, 9 Main Road, Parson Drove.
Information noted by Councillors.

12/205. Accounts & Finance.

a) Councillors resolved to approve the following Invoices for payment:-
Information Commissioner, renewal of Data Protection Act 1998, £35. L.G.A. 1972 s.111
EON, electricity for the Cage, £31.56. L.G.A. 1972 s 133

b) To approve Receipts & Payments Bank Reconciliation Account and Budget Update Report.

Councillors resolved to approve the reports presented.

c) To consider a request from Victim Support for a grant/donation.

Councillors resolved to give a grant of £25. L.G.A. 1972 s.137.

d) To approve the ordering of a wreath for the Remembrance Day Service.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to order a wreath for the Remembrance Day Service.

12/206. Risk Assessment.

a) Update report on work required to the trees on the village green.

The Clerk advised that an email had been received advising that the tree officer had not yet managed to obtain the equipment to carry out further tests on the Lime tree on the village green but assured the Council that there was not immediate danger of the tree failing.

12/207. To consider and approve amendments to our Standing Orders in view of the new adopted Code of Conduct.

Councillors resolved to amend Standing Order Number 7 paragraph C in view of the adoption of the new Code of Conduct provided by Fenland District Council. The Clerk advised that NALC would be publishing a revised model of Standing Orders in the Autumn 2013 to take into account the Localism Act 2011 which relates to the new Code of Conduct & disclosure of interests, General Power of Competence, Neighbourhood Planning & rights to bid for assets of community value.

12/208. To review the rents for the Fen Allotments and Riverside Garden Allotments and agree on a date for the collection of annual rents.

Councillors Booth & Spriggs left the room for this Agenda item and Councillors resolved for Councillor C Bellamy to chair the meeting in their absence.

Councillors resolved to make no increase in the annual rents for a further year. Rents to be collected prior to the November Council Meeting.

12/209. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Letter from Fenland District Council advising of the current position regarding the Local Government Boundary Commission, Fenland Electoral Review.

Information noted by Councillors.

b) Letter of thanks from Fenland Rural Road Safety Action Network for their grant of £50.

Noted by Councillors.

c) Email from Cambridgeshire ACRE attaching information from Cambridgeshire County Council on their Community Transport Fund.

Information noted by Councillors.

d) Email from CAPALC advising of their AGM and Parish Council Funding Fair on Monday 19th November.

Information noted by Councillors.

e) Email from Cambridgeshire ACRE providing details of a programme of ‘Localism Delivered’ seminars that they are running.

Information noted by Councillors.

f) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council advising of their Strategy Consultation on Local Flood Risk Management & Flood Asset Register for Cambridgeshire.

Information noted by Councillors.

g) Letter from the organisers of the Quilt & Flower Festival and a balance sheet.

Information noted by Councillors and the Balance Sheet confirmed that £100 has been retained for future year’s expenses as requested by the Parish Council.

12/210. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.

a) Update report from the Chairman following a site meeting with representatives from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding the proposed Prohibition of Waiting opposite the Payne School, Main Road, Parson Drove.

The Chairman informed Councillors that following the site meeting held with Officers from the County Council Highways Department it was unlikely that a drop off point could be provided outside the school. The Safer Routes to School Officer had agreed to discuss the possibility of changing the current school policy of parents walking the pupils into the school with the head teacher in order to improve the situation with parking.

b) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council replying to our query regarding the adoption of the road at John Bends Way.

The Chairman advised that despite the County Council stating that there was a ponding issued with water at the top of John Bends Way he had only seen a slight collection of water and believed that perhaps the new footpath might have reduced the ponding.

Councillors were also of the opinion that the blocked drain on Main Road opposite John Bends Way was where most of the surface water lay during wet weather. Clerk to respond to the email on this basis.

c) To approve the Rural Capital Grant Application to Fenland District Council for the footpath extension along Main Road.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to submit an application for grant funding of £10,000 to enable the complete section of footpath to be installed, estimated to cost £20,000, under the Minor Highway Improvements scheme where £10,000 funding had already been secured from the County Council and Parish Council.

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

Clerk to report to the District Council that the Elbow Lane road sign was lying on the ground, request that the Church End sign is replaced and report that The Bank road sign has been damaged following the recent accident at Swan Bridge junction.

Clerk to report the over grown hedge and grass verge encroaching onto the footpath outside Southea House, Main Road, Parson Drove.

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

There were no faulty street lights reported at the meeting. The Clerk advised that the new street light column near to The Cage had been installed and we were now waiting for the electricity company to lay the cable and connect the electricity to the column.

UK Power Network had confirmed that they had received our request for the work on the overhead cables along The Bank to be programmed for March 2013 and the Clerk was now waiting to receive confirmation from the Project Manager that this request would be acceptable to them.

12/211. To receive a report from the Amenities 95 Committee.

Councillor Cook advised that the rat traps were working on the playing field and the rat activity had been reduced. The Village Hall Audit report was given to the Chairman for the Council to study.

12/212. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

There were no questions raised by Councillors.

12/213. Any other business (information items only).

Councillor Everett advised that the Open Day at the North Level Internal Drainage Board Offices attended by the Chairman and Councillor Everett had been very informative and an enjoyable day.

The Clerk advised that a site meeting had been arranged with representatives from Elgood & Sons Ltd to discuss the Swan Inn car park area on Tuesday 23rd October at 6.00pm.

12/214. Dates for future Council meeting(s) for 2012 and 2013.

Councillors resolved to hold an additional Council Meeting on Wednesday 19th December at 7.30pm in the Cage to discuss and agree on the Budget & Precept for 2013/2014.

Councillors resolved to continue to hold Council Meetings during 2013 on the second Wednesday of each month.

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 14th November at 7.30pm in The Cage and the subsequent meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 12th December at 7.00pm in The Cage.

Meeting closed at 9.55pm.