

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th September 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.

12/179. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from County Councillor Jill Tuck

12/180. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillor Scrimshaw declared an interest in Agenda Item Number 12/189 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.

Councillor Booth declared an interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 12/189 b, reason a member of this group and for Agenda Item Number 12/190 b as he resides at John Bends Way.

12/181. 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.

12/182. Community Police Officers Report.

There was no Officer at the meeting and the Clerk had not received a monthly report by email to present to Councillors.

12/183. To approve & sign minutes of the meetings held on the 8th & 22nd August 2012.

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

12/184. Matters Arising from the Minutes (For information only).

A response had been received from Inspector Sissons to the Parish Council's request for changes to future Neighbourhood Forums advising that he was unable to make the changes requested due to lack of resources but in any event he did not agree that the changes were necessary.

12/185. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

Councillor Booth advised that he had met with the County Council Highways Officer to discuss the various outstanding highway matters. The outstanding recycling credits for 2012/2013 should be paid out in the very near future. There would be further consultation in October from the Boundary Commission following the District Councils submission on their proposals. Parson Drove Street Pride had been awarded a Silver Gilt in the Anglia In Bloom competition and the Alderman Payne School had received an award under the Special Projects section for the Jubilee Garden at the school.

Councillor Scrimshaw advised that he would be attending the District Councils Street Light Seminar on the 17th September.

12/186. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

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

Planning Application No. F/YR12/0454/F, for the erection of a first floor extension to the existing dwelling of Greenways, Marshall Bank, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

12/187. Accounts & Finance.

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

Anglian Water, water rates for The Cage, £27.52. L.G.A. 1972 s133.

Mrs Y Reader, quarter years salary and expenses, £1.349.40. L.G.A. 1972 s. 112.

b) Letter received from Councillor Alan Melton advising that the Council had been overcharged by £117.96 for the Parish Council Election Fees for 2011 and this amount would be refunded.

Information noted by Councillors.

c) The Clerk advised that training was being offered by C&PALC on the General Power of Competency for Clerks costing £35 and as this was one of the criteria required for the Council to be able to use this power requested approval to attend. Councillors resolved to grant permission for the Clerk to attend the training at a cost of £35.

12/188. Risk Assessment.

a) Update report on work required to the trees around the pond and on the village green. The Clerk was still waiting to receive further information from the tree officer on the additional tests he was completing and had not yet managed to arrange another site meeting to discuss general maintenance of the trees on the village green.

b) The Chairman advised Councillors that a low branch on the Horse chestnut tree outside the Post Office and been damaged and partly fallen down and he had therefore taken action to have this completely detached from the tree at no cost to the Council.

c) A verbal quotation of £40 had been received by the Clerk to replace the broken wooden post on the village green outside the Post Office. Councillors agreed to accept this verbal quotation and for the post to be replaced as soon as possible.

12/189. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council advising that W H Fowler & Sons are withdrawing their bus service for Parson Drove to Wisbech with effect from 30th September 2012.

Councillor Scrimshaw had been in communication with both the District & County Council to try and ensure that some reduced service would be provided and discussions were still taking place but it was hoped that a decision would be made by the end of the week.

b) Letter of thanks from Parson Drove Youth Club for their grant of £300.

Noted by Councillors.

c) Letter from CPERC regarding their project called Recording Wildlife Near You. Councillors resolved to invite a representative to attend a future Parish Council Meeting and to also invite a representative from the Primary School to attend this meeting.

d) Letter from Citizens Advice Bureau advising of the creation of Rural Cambridgeshire Citizens Advice Bureau and inviting the Council to become a member. Councillors resolved to accept the invitation to become a member.

e) Letter from allotment tenant advising that his allotments will be cleaned up by the 11th October 2012.

12/190. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.

a) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding our response to the proposed Prohibition of Waiting opposite the Payne School, Main Road, Parson Drove. Councillors resolved to request a site meeting for the Chairman to attend to discuss our proposals with the County Council Highways Officer and the SRTSS Officer.

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

The County Council advised that the delay was because of surface water lying on the road at the entrance to John Bends Way after it had rained and the road would not be adopted until the contractors had rectified this problem. Councillors resolved to respond advising that to the best of their knowledge there was no problem with drainage at the entrance of the road.

c) Letters from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding Swan Bridge junction. Councillors resolved to invite the Officers to attend the next Parish Council Meeting and also to request that they look again at the plans submitted by the Parish Council with their proposals for improvements.

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

The Clerk was instructed to report a pot hole at Turf End, road flooding outside Numbers 3 and 4 The Bank. The 30mph speed limit sign obscured by trees near to Newlands Road entrance. Trees and bushes obstructing the footpath and street lights along Main Road.

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

There were no faulty street lights reported at the meeting.

f) Up date report following a site meeting with UK Power Networks regarding their intention to dismantle the overhead electricity line and poles along The Bank, Parson Drove and replace these with a new under ground cable resulting in the loss of street lights attached to their poles.

The Chairman and Clerk had met on site with a representative from UK Power Networks to discuss the scheme when it was stated that the existing poles may be retained as they also supported the BT telephone cables.

BT had indicated that they may wish to have ownership of the poles transferred to them in which case our street light columns could remain on the poles.

Since the site meeting BT had confirmed that they would accept the transfer of the poles and that they have no objection to the Parish Council leaving the street lights attached to the poles. The village green would not be disturbed when the work is completed as the new electricity cables are being laid under the footpath. There will be limited loss of electricity supply as this will only be required once most of the preparation work has been completed. UK Power Network intended to commence the project in approximately 3 months.

Councillors resolved to leave the street lights on the existing poles in view of the high cost involved in purchasing new street light columns. Also to request that UK Power Network do not commence the work until March 2013 in order to minimise the possible damage to the village green with vehicles parking on the grass and from UK Power Network to liaise closely with the business likely to be effected by the disruption whilst the work is being completed.

12/191. To consider and agree on further action to be taken regarding the updating of the Parish Plan.

Councillors resolved to defer making a decision on whether the Parish Plan is Refreshed or Renewed depending upon how many people volunteer to assist with the project.

12/192. To receive a report from the Amenities 95 Committee and a Building report for the Village Hall.

Councillor Cook advised that contractors were installing three rat stations on the playing field. Two cycle racks were being purchased for the village hall car park. An audit had been completed by Cambridgeshire ACRE on the village hall building. The report covered the refurbishing of the village hall and a new building and a copy of the report was requested by Councillors.

12/193. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

No questions were raised by Councillors.

12/194. Any other business (information items only).

It was reported that a member of the public was dumping garden waste in the drain adjoining the Allotment Gardens. The Clerk was requested to report this to North Level Internal Drainage Board.

12/195. Dates for future Council meeting(s).

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 10th October 2012 at 7.00pm.
Subsequent meeting to be held on Wednesday 14th November and 12th December 2012.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm.