

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in St Marks Church, Main Road, Parson Drove on Wednesday 7th August 2013 at 7.30 PM

Attended by Councillors G. Booth (Chairman), P Spriggs (Vice Chairman), C Bellamy, G Bellamy, J Cook, P Everett & A Kraus. D Broker (FDC), G Gillick (CCC).
Approximately 88 members of the public.

13/137. To receive apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

13/138. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests for dispensations received.

13/139. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda

Councillor Everett declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 13/142 a) and left the meeting at the appropriate time. Reason Councillor Everett resides at a property adjoining the site of the proposed development.

Councillor Cook declared a non pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 13/142 a). Reason the Football Club had received sponsorship from the applicant.

Councillors C Bellamy & G Bellamy declared a non pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Items No.13/142 a) and 13/142 c). Reason the Agent also acts for the Councillors.

13/140. Motion proposed by the Chairman to suspend Standing Order Number 1 e in relation to the 15 minute limit for public participation in order to allow all members of the public present to address the Council.

Councillors resolved to support the above motion.

13/141. Public Participation – To allow any members of the public to address the meeting.

Approximately 16 members of the public spoke objecting to the Planning Application for Agenda Item Number 13/142 a).

It was suggested by a parishioner that a Referendum be arranged but the Chairman advised that this would take too long and the statutory consultation period would soon end.

It was also suggested that the Parish Council take advantage of the Localism Act 2011 and draw up a Parish Development Plan. The Chairman agreed that the Parish Council would consider this at their September Parish Council Meeting.

The following are some of the concerns and comments raised by parishioners regarding the proposed development.

1. Loss of village heritage with the demolition of 27 Main Road
2. Loss or damage to mature trees, hedges and front railings at 27 Main Road

3. The proposed development is too large and will not stop at 64
4. The infrastructure is unable to cope with development particularly the roads and water pressure.
5. Serious highway safety concerns with more speeding traffic particularly near Springfield Road and the Swan Bridge junction.
6. Loss of high grade agricultural land
7. The Planning Application is for outline and so the actual development could be changed if granted on this basis.
8. Who is going to maintain all the open public space?
9. This development will set a precedent for further development on this site and other sites within the village
10. Will the residents of such a large development integrate with the community or will it become a hamlet.
11. Where will the people work as there is no or very little employment in the village
12. Bats have been seen in the Old Farmhouse and should be protected.
13. This is a village and such a large development will have a negative effect on remaining a village.
14. There is a lack of public transport.
15. The development is not sustainable.
16. Provision of affordable housing and lack of potential housing for people with a local connection.

One Parishioner spoke in favour of the proposed development who considered that more houses were needed in the village and fears of the proposed development increasing above 64 were unfounded.

A Parishioner asked for a vote of confidence in the Chairman and this was discounted in favour of a show of hands for those for and against the development.

The Chairman then asked for a show of hands to indicate the level of support or objection to the application from those members of the public present.

Some members of the public had already left the meeting but those voting in favour of the development was 1 person with approximately 68 people voting against.

13/142. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) W Eady, Planning Application No. F/YR13/0443/O, Agent Peter Humphrey Associates, for the erection of 64 dwellings, garages & associated infrastructure, involving the demolition of existing nursery buildings & existing dwelling at 27 Main Road, Parson, location R Delamore Limited 29 Main Road, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved by a majority vote to object to the above Planning Application after taking into account the comments made during the public consultation session, the emerging FDC Core Strategy, the Parson Drove 2005 Parish Plan and the 2012 Parish Council Housing Survey.

The main reasons for objecting were:-

1. The development was too large and contrary to the emerging FDC Core Strategy where Parson Drove was categorised as a village for limited growth.
2. The proposed development was contrary to the Parish Plan and Housing Survey.
3. The existing infrastructure was inadequate to cope with such a large development.
4. Serious concerns regarding road safety.
5. Loss of high grade agricultural land and encroachment into the open countryside.
6. Loss of village heritage.
7. The proposed development would set a precedent for further development on this site and others in the village.

There were also a number of other reasons for objecting to the application and it was agreed that the Clerk and Chairman would draw up the response letter based on the emerging Core Strategy and the various comments made.

Councillors also resolved to approach the County and District Councillors, Stephen Barclay MP and CPRE for their support.

b) D Crawford, Planning Application No. F/YR13/0438/F, Agent David Broker, erection of a 2 storey 4 bed roomed dwelling with detached double garage & siting of temporary static caravan on plot 4 land east of The Cottage, 259 Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to support the application and recommend approval is granted.

c) J Scrimshaw, Planning Application No. F/YR13/0481/EXTIME, Agent Peter Humphrey Associates, for the erection of 3 dwellings on land north of 69 – 79 Back Road, Murrow. (Renewal of planning permission F/YR10/0200/O).

Councillors resolved to object to the above application on the same grounds as last time regarding the inadequate road.

Meeting closed 9.55pm