

**Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2013 in St Marks Church, Main Road, Parson Drove.**

Attended by Councillors G. Booth (Chairman), P Spriggs (Vice Chairman), C. Bellamy, G. Bellamy, J Cook, P Everett & A Kraus.  
20 members of the public.

**13/219. To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies had been received from Fenland District Councillor D Broker.

**13/220. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.**

There had been none received by the Clerk.

**13/221. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.**

Councillor Everett declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 13/225 and left the meeting at the appropriate time.

Councillors C Bellamy & G. Bellamy declared a non pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item No 13/225.

Councillor Cook declared a non pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 13/225.

**13/222. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.**

The Chairman outlined the current situation regarding the Planning Applications by R Delamore Limited and advised that comments already received by the Planning Department would be taken into account when considering the Planning Application for the demolition of The Old Farm House and outbuildings to be discussed at this meeting. In view of this the Chairman requested that members of the public only referred to new issues arising from this application. The Planning Officer would be visiting the site and buildings to assess the application.

Some members of the public felt that both planning applications should have been submitted and considered at the same time in order to avoid any confusion and be totally transparent as to the intentions for the whole site.

Various members of the public spoke asking if the Parish Council could request that the Conservation Officer inspect the Building and possibly someone from English Heritage. The Chairman advised that English Heritage had already been approached with a request for the Old Farm House to become a listed building but this had been refused.

It was also highlighted that the Old Farm House is a building of Local Interest within the Conservation Area and even if it is rebuilt using recycled materials it would still be a reproduction.

The width of the proposed new access was raised as the Highways authority was requesting a minimum width of 23 metres when normally 25 metres would be required. It was queried as to whether even the minimum width of 23 metres could be achieved if the fencing and hedging was to be retained as proposed by the applicant.

Concern was again expressed about the loss of some very mature trees within the Old Farmhouse grounds.

**13/223. To approve & sign minutes of the meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013.**

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

**13/224. Matters Arising from the Minutes (For information only).**

The Chairman confirmed that all the required CRB checks for the Youth Club had been completed.

The Clerk advised that PCSO D Russ had confirmed that an incident relating to the building site next to the Doctors Surgery had been missed from his November report.

**13/225. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.**

a) Mr W Eady, R Delamore Limited, Planning Application No. F/YR13/0843/F Agent Peter Humphrey Associates Ltd., for the erection of a 3 two storey 4 bed dwellings with garages and formation of an access road involving the demolition of the existing house and outbuildings at The Old Farmhouse, 27 Main Road, Parson Drove. Councillors resolved to object to the Planning Application reiterating the objections previously raised regarding highway issues relating to the access and concerns about the wall at the Old Vicarage, the loss of mature trees and the effects on the village heritage. Additional comments to include reservations over the actual width of the proposed access being achieved without substantial loss of the front hedge and railings. The loss of a Parish Council Streetlight and a request that the Conservation Officer and Tree Officer inspect the property and surrounding grounds.

**13/226. Accounts & Finance**

a). Councillors resolved to approve the following invoices for payment.  
 CPRE, Annual Membership renewal, £29. L.G.A. 1972 s.143  
 Society Of Local Council Clerks, Annual Membership renewal, £101. L.G.A. 1972 s.143  
 Clerks & Council Direct, Annual Membership Subscription, £12. L.G.A. 1972 s 143  
 Royal British Legion, Remembrance Day Wreath, £20. L.G.A. 1972 s 137.  
 C&PALC, Local Council Reference Book & New Model Standing Orders, £49.99.  
 L.G.A. 1972 s.111  
 Mrs Y Reader, Clerks quarter year salary and expenses, £1,349.89. L.G.A. 1972 s.112.

b) To consider and approve the request from Parson Drove & Murrow Parochial Church Council for the annual maintenance of the Churchyard grant.  
 Councillors resolved to give a grant of £500. L.G.A. 1972 s.214.

c) To receive recommendations from the Human Resources Sub-Committee on the review of the Clerks Annual Salary and agree on action to be taken.  
The Clerk left the meeting whilst this matter was discussed.  
Councillors resolved to increase the Clerks annual salary by £250 for 2014/2015 and by a further £250 for the following 2 years.

d) To receive and approve a Budget Update Report.  
Councillors resolved to approve the report presented by the Clerk and there were no issues arising.

e) To discuss and agree on a provisional Budget and Precept for 2014/2015.  
A provisional budget and Precept was agreed and Councillors resolved to approve this once the District Council had confirmed the amount being granted to the Parish Council under the Concurrent Functions Grant as they had indicated that this would be reduced for 2014/2015 but would not decide on the final figure until their Council Meeting later in December.

### **13/227. Allotments & Gardens**

To consider a letter received from a Tenant.  
Councillors resolved to respond to the letter advising that the Allotment Garden had been cleaned up by Councillor Spriggs as it was over grown with weeds and if there were any crops planted by the tenant these could not be seen. They did however accept that the volunteers preparing the land for the Community Orchard earlier in the year had mistakenly encroached onto the allotment garden and we had already apologised for this oversight. The adjoining tenant was also now encroaching over onto this allotment garden and the Chairman agreed to contact the offending tenant to rectify this.

### **13/228. To consider a request to plant a Christmas Tree on the village green and illuminate the tree during the Christmas period.**

Councillors resolved to grant permission for a Christmas Tree to be planted near to the Swan Inn by the Landlady and illuminated during the Christmas period providing that it was not placed too close to the Diamond Jubilee feature.

### **13/229. Any other business (information items only).**

Councillors reported that the street light near the bus shelter was not working.

Meeting closed 9.45pm.