

## **Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2013 in The Cage, Station Road, Parson Drove.**

Attended by Councillors G. Booth (Chairman), P. Spriggs (Vice Chairman), C Bellamy, G. Bellamy, J Cook. Invited guest Angus Kraus & 2 members of the public.

### **13/57. To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies had been received from Councillor P. Everett, PCSO Dave Russ & David Broker (Fenland District Councillor)

### **13/58. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.**

Councillor Booth declared a non disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda item No. 13/71. Reason - Chairman of the group.

Councillor Cook declared a non disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda item No. 13/71. Reason - a member of the group.

Councillors C Bellamy & G. Bellamy declared a non disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item Numbers 13/66 a) and b) reason the Agent also acts for the Councillors.

### **13/59. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.**

There were no requests for dispensations received by the Clerk.

### **13/60. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.**

The two members of the public raised their concerns regarding the planning application listed under Agenda Item Number 13/66 a).

### **13/61. Community Police Officers Report.**

An email had been received from PCSO Russ advising that there had been 3 crimes since the last meeting comprising of theft of a vehicle, burglary from business premises and an assault following a small altercation on the playing field. No speed watch checks had been undertaken since the last meeting but were due to be made in the next few days. An email from Chief Inspector Mike Winters had also been received giving an update on the work and successes of the Police Team over the last year.

### **13/62. To approve & sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013.**

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

### **13/63. Councillor Vacancy.**

Following a letter from Angus Kraus advising that he wished to be considered for co-option onto the Council he had been invited to attend the meeting to speak in support of his application.

Councillors resolved to co-opt Mr Kraus onto the Council and the Clerk was requested to arrange a meeting to complete the required Declaration of Acceptance and Register of Members Interests Forms.

**13/64. Matters Arising from the Minutes (For information only).**

A public meeting was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> April in the Village Hall regarding the planning application and subsequent appeal in respect of the Treading Wind Farm at Sutton St Edmunds with approximately 20 people attending.

The Chairman had not managed to visit the Alderman Payne School due to the Easter holidays to discuss the parking outside the school but would try to arrange this in the near future.

**13/65. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.**

Councillor Booth advised that the Boundary Review had been published suggesting no change to the ward of Wisbech St Mary & Parson Drove. The recommendations were now being submitted to Parliament for their agreement. The District Council's Leader now wants to discuss the Core Strategy Documents again at the Council Meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> May when the proposals for March Town will be reconsidered. Any changes agreed will result in the Core Strategy document being reissued for re-consultation.

**13/66. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.**

a) C Giddings, Planning Application No. F/YR13/0144/F, Agent Peter Humphrey Associates, for the erection of 2 single storey 3 bed-roomed log cabins for use as holiday lets on land north of 177 Back Road, Murrow.

Councillors unanimously resolved to object to the application as the proposed development was back land and if approved would set a precedent for further back land development. Also to reiterate past comments regarding the inadequate width of the road for further development and any resulting increase in traffic. To raise concerns over the sustainability and viability of the proposed business and the inappropriate access.

b) R Humphrey, Planning Application No. F/YR13/0148/F, Agent Peter Humphrey Associates, for the erection of 2 two storey 3 bed dwellings on land north of Lakeside Manor & east of Sycamore Farm, Seadyke Bank, Murrow.

Councillors resolved by a majority to object to the application as it was considered that the site location was too far a distance from the village centre and did not comply with the criteria set out in the Core Strategy.

**13/67. Accounts & Finance.**

a) To approve the following Invoices for payment:-

Fenland District Council, yearly rates for The Cage, £231. L.G.A. s133

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Association of Local Councils, annual membership fees, £442.28. L.G.A. 1972 s143.

North Level District Internal Drainage Board, drainage rates for Allotments & Gardens, £153.776. Small Holdings & Allotments Act 1908 ss23, 26 & 42.

Cambridgeshire County Council, footpath extension along Main Road, £11,000.

Councillors resolved to approve payment of the Invoices except for the Invoice from the County Council for £11,000 as this could not be paid until the grant for £10,000 had been received from the District Council.

b) To approve the Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 and to approve Section 1 of the Audit Commissions Annual Return.

Councillors resolved to approve the Accounts presented by the Clerk and subsequently approved the Annual Return Section 1.

The Clerk advised that the claim for the VAT refund had subsequently been completed when an arithmetic error of £3 had been discovered in relation to the expenses and salary paid to the Clerk in June 2012. Councillors resolved to note this and indicate that they had been made aware of the error on the Corporate Governance Questionnaire for Internal Audit.

c) To approve the completed Corporate Governance Questionnaire for Internal Audit on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

Councillors resolved to approve the completed Corporate Governance Questionnaire for Internal Audit.

13/68. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Letter from REG Windpower advising of a public exhibition session about their plans for the French Farm Wind Farm and Willow Hall Wind Farm, Thorney.

Information noted by Councillors.

b) Letter from Fenland District Council confirming that the Community Grants Scheme will not be continuing for 2013/2014 due to lack of funds but that the Rural Capital Grants Scheme will continue during 2013/2014.

Information noted by Councillors.

c) Letter from Cambridgeshire County Council advising that as from 1<sup>st</sup> May all planning related correspondence will be sent to us by email to help them meet statutory response deadlines and drastically reduce their printing and mailing overheads.

Information noted by Councillors.

d) Letter from Cambridgeshire ACRE advising that due to the cut in funding received by them they can no longer afford to carry on delivering their services in the same way.

Information noted by Councillors.

### **13/69. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.**

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

Councillors reported pot holes along Main Road, Sealeys Lane and at Church End.

Overgrown hedges along Highside before the boundary with Longacre Garden Centre.

Footpath outside 36 The Bank flooding and a large dip in the road near to Josdan

Kennels, Long Drove.

The Chairman advised that he had spoken to the County Council regarding resurfacing Main Road.

The Chairman advised that he had been advised that the contractors would be coming back to complete the red strips across the road and install some new signs at the Swan Bridge junction. He had received numerous complaints about the roads being closed when it was not necessary as no work was being undertaken, also when all 4 roads had been closed and vehicles were going over the village green. Diversion and road closure signs had been left up at Turf Fen Bridge all the time the work was being carried out and even when the road was not closed. The road closure programme had not been followed causing major disruption.

Councillors resolved to write to the Cabinet Member responsible for Highways at the County Council asking for confirmation of the costs incurred to implement the scheme. To ask why the work had been carried out even though the Parish Council did not agree to the scheme plans and ask when were the County Council going to install measures that would be effective in reducing accidents at this junction.

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

A parishioner had reported earlier in the day that the street light outside the village hall was not working. The street light near to Newlands Road was being look into by the County Councils Highways Officer. Councillors advised that the street light near to St Marks Church was also being obstructed by the over grown trees and hedges.

c) Maintenance of hedge opposite 20 -24 Sealeys Lane.

The Clerk was requested to contact the North Level Internal Drainage Board to see if this was their responsibility as the hedge was very overgrown and considered to be dangerous for children playing and running out into the road.

d) Neighbourhood Watch sign to be reinstated at Sealeys Lane.

The sign was down and laying in the garden of No 4 Sealeys Lane. The Clerk was requested to contact PCSO Russ to see if he or the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator could assist with getting the sign put back up.

**13/70. To receive a report from the Amenities 95 Committee.**

Councillor Cook advised that the Annual General Meeting had taken place on the 21<sup>st</sup> March when the attendance had been very disappointing. The existing committee and officers were re-elected en-block.

**13/71. Progress report from Street Pride on the pond project.**

The Chairman advised that a great deal of progress had been made on the pond project with the trees being cut back, the area cleared of undergrowth and the fence and kissing gate installed. New hedging had been planted around the boundary edges and the Bird Boxes erected. The bulbs and plants were being planted in the next few weeks and an Information Board and warning signs produced by the District Council would be installed in the near future. The District Council intend to inspect the project on the 25<sup>th</sup> April.

**13/72. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.**

Councillors enquired when the deadline for the Allotments to be planted up with crops expired as one tenant had still not completed any work on his allotments. The Clerk advised that the deadline was the 1<sup>st</sup> May and she would send a reminder to the tenant concerned advising of this deadline date.

**13/73. Any other business (information items only).**

Complaints had been received regarding dog fouling on the footpaths and the Clerk was asked to include a reminder about the problem in the next Newsletter.

Councillor Cook advised that he had contacted Fenland District Council regarding the felling of trees at Jubilee Cottage and the matter was now being investigated by the Enforcement Officer.

Councillors were informed that an Architect was holding a Public Consultation Meeting on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April 4 to 7 pm in the Village Hall regarding a major development on land along Main Road.

**13/74. Dates for future Council meeting(s) & Annual Parish Assembly Meeting.**

Councillors resolved to hold the Annual Parish Assembly Meeting prior to the Annual Parish Council Meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> May.

Meeting closed 9.25pm.