

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14th August 2013 in The Cage, Station Road, Parson Drove.

Attended by Councillors G. Booth (Chairman), P. Spriggs (Vice Chairman), C Bellamy, G. Bellamy, J Cook, & A Kraus. Councillor Everett arrived late (approximately 7.30pm). G Gillick (C.C.C.) & 1 member of the public

13/143. To receive apologies for absence.

No apologies had been received.

13/144. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests for Dispensations.

13/145. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillor Booth declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 13/153 and left the room at the appropriate time. Reason Councillor Booth is a Garden Allotment tenant. Councillor Booth also declared a non pecuniary Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 13/155 d). Reason Councillor Booth is Chairman of this group.

Councillor Spriggs declared a non pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 13/153. Reason his son is an Allotment tenant.

13/146. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

The member of the public raised his concerns over the conduct of some members of the public at the Council Meeting held on the 7th August during public participation. The accuracy of the show of hands in favour of the proposed development was also questioned as it was considered that some members of the public who were in favour of the development felt unable to voice their opinion as they felt intimidated. The Chairman accepted that feelings were high but he was not aware of any one being intimidated and gave everyone the opportunity to speak at the meeting.

13/147. Community Police Officers Report.

An email had been received advising of two crimes of criminal damage and two incidences in relation to excessive noise from a neighbouring property and a vehicle nuisance.

The first community led Speedwatch team have now started operating in Parson Drove with results showing a high number of vehicles speeding along Main Road near to the Springfield Road junction. Once areas have been identified with a high number of speeding vehicles the Police will conduct their own speed checks.

The Wisbech North Rural Forum took place in Parson Drove on the 8th August and the three priorities of Speeding in rural villages, Dog Fouling and Fly Tipping were agreed for the next 6 months.

The new Horizon Outreach Vehicle will be in Parson Drove on Tuesday 17th September from 8.30am to 10.30am.

13/148. To approve & sign minutes of the meeting held on the 10th July 2013.

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

13/149. Matters Arising from the Minutes (For information only).

The Chairman advised that the Alderman Payne School had secured funding from the John Bends Charity for the swimming pool cover.

There were a couple of sections that required clarification from the District Council on the section 106 agreement in respect of the Exception Site.

The signs for around the pond have been ordered and waiting to be put in place to complete the project.

13/150. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

Councillor Gillick advised that he was meeting Officers from the County Council to discuss traffic along Murrow Bank and considered that these link roads to the A47 could not cope with any more traffic in view of their poor condition

13/151. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) Mrs A Beldom, Planning Application No. F/YR13/0542/F, Agent K Elener, for the erection of a single storey 3 bed roomed dwelling with integral double garage on land south of 76 Main Road, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to recommend approval is granted subject to there being no objections raised by the Highways authority and providing a suitable splayed entrance is provided.

b) Notification from Fenland District Council that the following planning application has been approved.

A Spriggs, Planning Application No. F/YR12/0962/O, Agent Maxey Grounds & Co., erection of 4 single storey dwellings on land north of 9 Riverside Gardens, Parson Drove. Information noted by Councillors.

c) Notification from Fenland District Council that the following planning application has been refused.

R Humphrey, Planning Application No. F/YR13/0274/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. Information noted by Councillors.

13/152. Risk Assessment.

To receive report following the Annual Inspection of assets and agree on action to be taken.

Councillors agreed that the following areas required attention following the annual inspection. It was suggested that one contractor be asked to undertake all of the painting and general maintenance repairs necessary.

1. Painting of the Cage Clock Tower and replace any rotten wood and repair guttering.

2. Stain the fascia boards and window frames of the Bus Shelter.
3. Paint the support posts of the Village Signs.
4. Paint the railings around the War Memorial.
5. Paint the top bar of the swings on the village green and replace worn chains.
6. Clean the public seats at the far end of the village green and outside St Johns Church.
7. Replace reflector strips on wooden posts around the village green.

13/153. To receive report following the annual inspection of the Garden Allotments and Fen Allotments and agree on action to be taken.

Councillors resolved to write to two Garden Allotment tenants as their allotments were completely over grown with rubbish and did not appear to have been maintained for some time.

One tenant appeared to be encroaching into the adjoining allotment and the Council asked the Chairman upon his return to the meeting to speak to the tenant to rectify this. One tenant of the Fen Allotments had appeared to have planted a crop as previously requested but this had been poorly maintained resulting in an unacceptable amount of weeds. Councillors resolved to write to the tenant with a final warning requesting that the allotments be cleaned up in the next month and if they are not maintained up to an acceptable level in the future the tenancy will be withdrawn

13/154. Accounts & Finance.

Councillors resolved to approve the following invoices for payment.

Konica Minolta Business Solutions, quarterly photocopier rental & charges £226.44

L.G.A. 1972 s 111

Anglian Water, half year water rates for The Cage, £29.61. L.G.A. 1972 s 133.

13/155. Proposed extension to churchyard: Emmanuel Church.

To discuss and agree on action to be taken in respect of the letter from the Agents acting for the Ely Diocesan Board of Finance setting out the terms and conditions for the sale of land to the Parish Council.

Councillors resolved to defer from responding to the offer letter until such time as the Parochial Church Council had studied the plan to ensure that the boundaries and rights of way were correct. Councillors also resolved to enquire if the PCC would be prepared to fund the cost of the boundary fence.

13/156. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Email from Fenland District Council asking if the Parish Council would like to put forward some street names for the Exception Site at Church End.

Councillors resolved to put forward two suggestions for the Street Name, Fosters Close and John Peck Close for consideration.

b) Invitation from North Level Internal Drainage Board for two Councillors to attend the annual tour on Wednesday 9th October commencing at 9.30 and returning at 3.00pm.

Councillors resolved for Councillor Kraus to attend.

c) Email from the Clerk to the Leverington Feoffees advising of the Education Meeting on Tuesday 17th September at 7.00pm and asking for the contact details of our representative.

Councillors resolved for Councillor Kraus to represent the Parish Council.

d) Email from Fenland Rural Road Safety Group advising of a meeting on Wednesday 25th September at 7.30pm and enclosing a copy of the minutes for the meeting held on the 3rd July.

Information noted by Councillors.

e) Email from the County Council advising that the permissive path at Throckenholt Farm, Parson Drove will lapse at the end of September due to ending of DEFRA financial support but if the Parish Council wish to retain this subject to the farmer's agreement the County Council would help with a Permissive Path Agreement albeit without payment. Councillors agreed that they would like to see this permissive path retained and resolved to request the County Council contact the Farmer with a view to arranging this.

13/157. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.

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

The fencing at the Swan Bridge junction had still not been replaced following an accident several months ago.

The street light opposite Newlands Road was still obscured by over grown trees and bushes.

The footpath along Fen Road was being obstructed by over grown bushes from the GPO Exchange.

Trees planted too close to the road edge at Swanlands were now obstructing vision when coming out onto Fen Road.

Horses were making a mess on the footpath near the Bowling Green.

The footpath along The Bank towards Clough Bridge was over grown with hedges.

b) Email response regarding our request for a site meeting in relation to our refused application under the Local Highway Improvements Programme for 2013/2014 for speed reductions along Main Road and Church End.

Councillors resolved to continue with their request for a site meeting with all Officers and Councillors involved in the process.

c) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding the Winter Gritting Routes for 2013/2014.

Councillors resolved to request for all main routes to the A47 to be included as per last year and to also ask for the steep access at Back Road to and from Murrow Bank to be included.

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

The new street light on Station Road/Murrow Bank outside the Cage was not working.

The installation of the new underground electricity cabling was progressing slowly with a few problems arising from some residents. The main area of concern however was the use of the village green for storage of materials and parking of equipment. The Clerk had notified the project manager from EDF Energy of these concerns advising that any damage done to the grass or trees would have to be addressed by them.

13/158. Update report on Football Clubs request for permission to install concrete railings around the football pitch on the playing field.

Councillor Cook advised that a light weight UPV plastic portable system was being considered by the Football Club. This system could be put up and taken down quickly although it was envisaged that it would be left up for the whole football season. Clarification was requested regarding the base sockets and whether the grass cutter would be able to go over the holes made. A plan of the area was also requested.

13/159. Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

Councillor Cook advised that new signs had been erected regarding Dogs being on leads whilst on the playing field. A Surveyor was measuring up the village hall ready for the refurbishment.

13/160. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

The Clerk was asked if any progress had been made on the new posts to be erected around the village green.

13/161. Any other business (information items only).

Councillor Everett advised that the low branches on some of the trees were so low that they were now hitting cars and pedestrian's heads. Councillors agreed to ask the grass cutting contractor to cut back any very low hanging branches pending the Autumn pruning programme.

Councillors had received complaints regarding the maintenance of the churchyard.

The Chairman advised that he had received an email from a Parishioner asking for information on Councillors declaring interests querying whether some Councillors should have declared a Pecuniary Interest relating to a Planning Application. The Chairman had contacted the Senior Solicitor & Deputy Monitoring Officer at FDC who suggested that the Parishioner either contact him or the Clerk.

13/162. Dates for future Council meeting(s).

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 11th September at 7.00pm in The Cage.

Meeting closed 9.40pm.