

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th February 2013 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. Jane Andrews-Gauvain (CPERC) & PCSO Andy Bush.

13/19. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from County Councillor Jill Tuck.

13/20. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillor Cook declared a non disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda item No. 13/29 f) reason a member of the group.

Councillor Booth declared a non disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda item No. 13/29 f) reason a member of the group.

13/21. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

No requests for dispensations had been received by the Clerk.

13/22. 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.

13/23. a) Community Police Officers Report.

PCSO Andy Bush reported on the crimes and incidences in the Parish since the last meeting comprising of 2 crimes of burglary and 3 incidences consisting of a rowdy nuisance along main Road, sheep being attacked by a dog at Johnson Drove and a suspicious male along Main Road.

Changes had been made to the speedwatch scheme with volunteers from the community now being asked to carry out these checks without the assistance of PCSO's. The next Neighbourhood Police Forum was being held in Wisbech St Mary on the 21st February.

b) Email from Fenland District Council with an update on the CrimeBUSTer initiative as this has now been renamed the New Horizon Outreach Vehicle and is due to be in operation shortly. Information noted

13/24. Invited Guest, Jane Andrews-Gauvain from Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Environmental Records Centre regarding the Recording Wildlife Near You project.

Jane Andrews-Gauvain explained the reason for the recording wildlife near you project which was to be a short project funded by Heritage Lottery. Councillors were asked to get members of the public involved and she was also hoping that the Alderman Payne School and Parson Drove Street Pride Group would participate in recording the wildlife in the village. Various events were being organised to promote the project and information was available on their website. Jane then left the meeting.

13/25. To approve & sign the Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th January 2013.

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

13/26. Matters Arising from the Minutes (For information only).

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

13/27. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

Councillor Booth informed Councillors that information from FACT indicated that 10 new members had joined since the reduction of the bus services by W H Fowlers.

Our Capital Grant application to the District Council for the footpath extension was being considered by the Cabinet on the 21st February. The report sent out with the Agenda made reference to there being no recent consultation and that a previous grant application had been made for the Safer Routes to School Scheme. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should write to clarify these points before the Cabinet Meeting as a Parish Plan is valid for up to 10 years and recent consultation was undertaken with the Safer Routes to School scheme when the local primary school applied for funding from the District Council.

Councillor Booth advised that the District Council were cutting the Capital Grants Scheme. The proposed increase in Council Tax of 1.68% was being debated at the next full Council Meeting. The Police Authority was intending to increase their budget by 1.9 %.

The District Council's revised Core Strategy was being published on the 28th February for further consultation until the 10th April.

13/28. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) R Goy, Planning Application No. F/YR13/0031/F, Agent K Elener, for the erection of 5 dwellings comprising of 1 three storey 6 bed dwelling with detached double garage, 2 two storey 4 bed dwellings with detached double garage, 1 storey 5 bed dwelling with detached double garage & 1 two storey 5 bed dwelling with integral garage on land north of 15 – 27 Mill Road, Murrow.

Councillors resolved to support the application in principle but to raise concerns over inadequate off road parking provision for plots 2 and 3. Also to request conditions are imposed for the provision of a streetlight and footpath in front of the development.

b) Notification from Fenland District Council that the following Planning Applications have been approved.

1. Parson Drove Parish Council, Planning Application F/YR12/0893/TRTPO for the felling of 1 Willow Tree and works to 7 Willow Trees & 1 Ash Tree around the Village Pond, Main Road, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

2. CHM Builders Ltd., Planning Application No. F/YR12/0938/RM, Agent K Baxter, for the erection of a 2 storey 3 bed roomed dwelling with attached garage involving demolition of existing garage block on land north of 6 Riverside Gardens, Parson Drove. Information noted by Councillors.

c) Email from Fenland District Council advising that as from 28th January they will be adopting the proposal of sending out planning application plans reduced in size to A3 and less information on the application.

Information noted by Councillors but as no response had been received regarding our request for better location plans the Clerk was asked to enquire again about this.

13/29. Accounts & Finance.

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

Konica Minolta Business Solutions, photocopier rental and copy charges, £120.42.

L.G.A. 1972 s.111

Cambs County Council, salt/grit bin for The Bank, £114. Highways Act 1980. ss43, 50.

Office Key, administration supplies, £43.44. L.G.A. 1972 s 111.

b) To consider request from Fenland Volunteer Centre for a grant/donation.

Following receipt of further information Councillors resolved to refuse the request for a grant this year.

c) To consider quotations received for the annual grass cutting and grounds maintenance contract for 2013/2014.

The Clerk advised that 3 quotations had been received for £3,871.03, £4,242 and £4,968.75. Councillors resolved to accept the quotation for £3,871.03.

d) To consider quotations received for the annual pest control contract.

The Clerks advised that 2 quotations had been received for £350 and £410.

Councillors resolved to accept the quotation for £350.

e) Letter from Fenland District Council regarding the Concurrent Functions Grant for 2013/2014 and for the future.

Information noted advising that the same amount of grant would be received for 2013/2014 but this could well be reduced in future years.

f) To consider letter from Parson Drove Street Pride Group requesting a grant.

Councillors resolved to give a grant of £230 towards the completion of the Queens Diamond Jubilee featured seat on the village green.

g) To consider request from FACT for a grant.

Councillors resolved to defer this matter until the next meeting in case an application had also been made to the John Bends Charity.

13/30. Update report on vacant allotment gardens at Riverside Gardens.

The Clerk advised that Mr Allen had agreed to take the tenancy of the 2 small vacant allotment gardens at Riverside Gardens. The Chairman agreed to liaise with Mr Allen to advise him of the exact location.

13/31. To consider issues raised by Parishioners at Golden Age Surgery.

The following issues had been raised by parishioners at the recent Golden Age Surgery:- Overgrown trees and hedges, particularly along Main Road, obstructing the footpath, street lights and road signs. A request for a link bus to Guyhirn.

13/32. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Email from Rosemary Mullen regarding suggestion from parents of pupils at the Alderman Payne School to park on the village green near to the bottle bank. Councillors were made aware of the legislation prohibiting parking on the village green and therefore resolved to refuse this request. Councillors suggested that a solution to the parking problems might be reduced if the school would reconsider their present policy and allow parents to drop the children off at the school gate with this being supervised by a member of the school staff.

b) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding adoption of John Bends Way. Information noted advising that the County Council Officer was still liaising with the developers regarding resolving the ponding problem.

c) Email from Anglian Water regarding consultation on the future of water. Information noted by Councillors.

d) Email from C&PALC asking the Council to lobby central government regarding changes to council tax support. Councillors resolved to send a letter as requested by C&PALC.

e) Letter from Cambs County Council inviting members to attend a meeting on 7th March at Over Community Centre starting at 6.30pm regarding Parish Paths & Future Partnerships. Information noted, no member indicated they wished to attend.

f) Email from Councillor F Yeulett on behalf of the Conduct Committee of Fenland District Council advising that they are seeking 2 representatives from Town & Parish Councils to assist with the committee's work. Applications to be returned by the 15th February. Councillors resolved for the Clerk to respond advising that no Councillor wished to apply.

g) Email from C&PALC with details of training available during 2013 and the Clerks CILCA Certificate for the training completed on the General Power of Competence on the 15th September 2012. Councillors resolved to discuss the training needs of Councillors at a later date.

h) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council with information on their Community Transport Fund. Information noted.

13/33. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.

a) Highway issues to be reported to Cambridgeshire County Council. The Clerk was requested to report the rapid deteriorating road surface towards Clough Bridge together with various pot holes near to the Swan Bridge junction. Also to note the recent accident at Swan Bridge involving a bus and car when the road signs were badly damaged.

b) Faulty street lights to be reported to Cambridgeshire County Council.
Councillors reported a faulty street light near to Fenways, Fen Road.

c) Winter Gritting Volunteer Scheme.

Complaints had been received about the delay in the Bank being gritted following the severe weather during late January. The Clerk advised that this was due to an oversight by the County Council in not contacting our volunteer.

Councillors resolved that a request should be made to the County Council asking for permission for us to contact the volunteer in future stressing that as we are a Quality Parish Council we should be entrusted to carry out such tasks.

d) Church End signage.

Councillors resolved to request that the County Council install a replacement new sign.

e) Update report on the Bellamy Bridge junction initiative.

The Chairman advised that he had met with the Chairman of Gorefield and Wisbech St Mary Parish Council to discuss improvements to this junction. It was suggested at this meeting that the County Council be requested to change the layout of the junction and the Clerk to Wisbech St Mary Parish Council would be writing a joint letter for the three parishes. County Councillor Jill Tuck also supported changes to the junction to improve road safety.

13/34. Councillor Vacancy.

The Clerk advised that as no request had been made for an election the Council could now co-opt to fill the casual vacancy. Notices would be posted advising of this and asking for anyone interested to contact the Clerk by the 11th March.

13/35. To receive a report from the Amenities 95 Committee.

Councillor Cook informed members that a request had been made for a dog litter bin near the skate ramp and this was being looked into. The Annual General Meeting was being held in the Village Hall on the 21st March starting at 7.30pm.

13/36. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

Members asked if the planning application for the Exception Site at Church End included a street light and public footpath and the Clerk advised that it did not.

13/37. Any other business (information items only).

Councillor Spriggs asked if he could install a public seat in memory of his late parents near to the Johnsons Drove, Fen Road and Long Drove turning. Councillors advised that they agreed in principle but permission would be required from the County Council if the seat was to be sited on the grass verge and any adjoining private property.

13/38. Dates for future Council meeting(s).

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 13th March at 7.00pm in The Cage.

Meeting closed at 10.05pm.