

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th January 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 & Jill Tuck C.C.C.

In view of the sudden and sad death of Councillor Robert Scrimshaw members observed a minutes silence before the start of the meeting.

13/1. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from PCSO Dave Russ.

13/2. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillor Spriggs declared a non disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda item No. 13/9 and left the room before discussions and voting took place, reason the applicant is Councillor Spriggs's son.

13/3. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

Councillor Everett had submitted a written request to the Clerk for a dispensation in respect of Agenda Item Number 13/10 d).

Councillors resolved to grant the dispensation for Councillor Everett to cover her remaining term of office in order that she could participate in discussions and voting on the Parish Precept.

13/4. 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.

13/5. Community Police Officers Report.

A report had been supplied to the Clerk on the crimes and incidences in the parish since the last meeting which consisted of 1 crime of theft of oil from John Bends Way and 3 incidences comprising of a neighbour dispute at Newlands Road, rowdy nuisance at John Bends Way and animals loose on Main Road.

A Speedwatch check was undertaken on the 7th December 2012 along Main Road for 20 minutes when 21 vehicles were monitored with none exceeding the speed limit.

A number of scams are occurring in the Fenland area, these include persons on the road with their bonnet up flagging down motorists and offering jewellery and watches in return for cash as they state they have run out of petrol.

13/6. To approve & sign minutes of the meetings held on the 12th & 19th December 2012.

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

13/7. Matters Arising from the Minutes (For information only).

Councillor Cook advised that the football club were still looking into options regarding the installation of barriers around the football pitch on the playing field.

13/8. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

Councillor Tuck advised that Cambridgeshire was the fastest growing county in the country and this was resulting in various issues relating to funding of services.

Cambridgeshire County Council is a low taxing county council and this could result in only statutory services being provided in the future. The County Council Cabinet will be holding their next meeting on the 29th January in the Boathouse, Wisbech when a report should be presented on the progress of the Wisbech Initiative should members wish to attend. The restructuring of organisation and staffing of the highways department is still ongoing. The county is always looking for School Governors if anyone is interested and an appeal for volunteers is to be included in the next issue of Village Voices. Councillors agreed to include this appeal on their next newsletter and on the parish notice boards.

Councillor Booth gave a report for the District Council advising that the Boundary Commission's consultation date closed on Monday 7th January. Although the Parish Council had not received a letter from the Boundary Commission asking for members views the proposal for the ward of Wisbech St Mary & Parson Drove was for no change.

Councillor Booth had established that the District Council were responsible for street name signs and the County Council for place name signs. The missing Church End sign was being classed as a place name sign and it was suggested that the Parish Council could fund this replacement sign. Members resolved to discuss this further at the next meeting.

The District Council's budget and the council tax for 2013/2014 would be discussed at their next meeting on the 23rd January.

13/9. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) A Spriggs, Planning Application No. F/YR12/0962/O, Agent Maxey Grounds & Co., for the erection of 4 single storey dwellings on land north of 9 Riverside Gardens, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved by a majority vote to support the application and recommend approval subject to the Highways Authority raising no objections and providing that the access is co-ordinated with the turning circle on the opposite side of the road to ensure adequate provision for the emergency services to gain access to the dwellings.

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

1. A R Warren, Planning Application No. F/YR12/0832/F for the erection of 4 two storey 4 bed dwellings on land east of The Cottage, 259 Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove.
2. G Fisher, Planning Application Number F/YR12/0813/RM for the erection of a 2 bed roomed 2 storey dwelling & detached single garage on Plot 3 land north of 69 – 79 Back Road, Murrow.

Information noted by Councillors.

13/10. Accounts & Finance.

a) Councillors resolved to approve the following Invoices for payment:-
C&PALC, Clerks training, £35. L.G.A. 1972 s.111.
EON, electricity for the Cage, £63.90 L.G.A. 1972 s133.

b) To consider request from Fenland Volunteer Centre for a grant/donation.
Councillors resolved to defer any decision on this request until more information had been obtained by the Clerk on the number of community groups or parishioners receiving assistance from the centre in the last year.

c) To receive and approve a Receipts & Payments Bank Reconciliation report.
The reports presented by the Clerk were approved by Councillors with no issues arising from the reports requiring attention.

d) To approve the draft Precept for 2013/2014.
Councillors resolved to increase the budget allocation for Parish Council Election costs by £500 resulting in a final budget of £16,500 for 2013/2014. A letter had been received from the District Council advising that the Council Tax Support Grant for the parish would be £2,319 resulting in a Parish Precept request for £14,181.

13/11. Update report on collection of outstanding rents for the Riverside Garden Allotments.

The Clerk advised that the 2 tenants who had not paid the yearly rent of £10 for the year ending 31st October 2012 had still not paid and consequently their tenancy had been withdrawn. There was one parishioner on the waiting list for an allotment garden and as the 2 vacant allotment gardens were small Councillors resolved to for the Clerk to offer both of these to the applicant before advertising any vacancies.

13/12. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Letter from Fenland District Council regarding the results of the patient transport questionnaires with a summary report of the access to Healthcare.
Councillors resolved for this information to be forwarded onto the Patient Group at the Doctors Surgery.

b) Email from Age UK Cambridgeshire with information on Keeping Warm this winter.
Information noted.

c) Email from the Chairman of Fenland District Council and the Chairman of the Fenland Twinning Association inviting members to attend a meeting on Wednesday 23rd January.
Information noted, there were no members wishing to attend.

13/13. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.

a) To consider email received from the County Council regarding improvements to the Swan Bridge junction.
Councillors resolved to respond requesting the County Council's suggestions for physical measures to be installed since ideas put forward by the Parish Council had not been acceptable to them.

Also to inform the County Council that there were issues with the Give Way Sign at Swan Bridge on Fen Road as motorists were ignoring this sign and that from local knowledge it had been established that nearly all the accidents occurred during the day time and as a result of speeding traffic from Murrow.

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

The Clerk was requested to report the following issues raised by Councillors:-

1. The speed sign along Station Road, Murrow Bank was facing the wrong way round.
2. The road surface going towards Clough Bridge was rapidly breaking up.
3. Pot holes along Fen Road.
4. 40mph sign near John Bends Way bent and damaged,
5. Flooding of the footpath outside St Marks Methodist Church, Bowls Green and entrance to John Bends Way.

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

There were no faulty street lights reported at the meeting.

13/14. Parish Plan.

A representative from Cambridgeshire ACRE had agreed to attend and chair the public meeting on the 19th March 2013 but had also suggested a meeting with Councillors and volunteers showing an interest prior to this meeting to discuss the issues and priorities. Councillors resolved not to agree to this request.

13/15. To receive a report from the Amenities 95 Committee.

Councillor Cook advised that the village hall car park had been improved with new gravel being laid.

13/16. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

Councillor Everett enquired if any further information had been received from the electricity company regarding when the work to move the electricity supply underground along The Bank would be completed. The Clerk advised that no further information had been received to date but enquiries would be made asking if a date could now be provided by the electricity company.

13/17. Any other business (information items only).

Posters for the Golden Age Surgery on Wednesday 23rd January had been displayed. Councillor Cook agreed to attend the Surgery to represent the Parish Council and to promote the refresh of the Parish Plan in order to try and obtain some volunteers for the group.

13/18. Dates for future Council meeting(s).

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 13th February 2013 in The Cage.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm.