

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th March 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. One member of the public.

13/39. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from County Councillor Jill Tuck and PCSO Dave Russ.

13/40. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillor Booth declared a non disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda item No. 13/53 reason Chairman of the group.

Councillor Cook declared a non disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda item No. 13/53 reason a member of the group.

13/41. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

No requests for dispensations had been received by the Clerk.

13/42. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

The member of the public present at the meeting was representing FENRATS and asked for the Parish Councils support in opposing the planning appeal for the erection of 6 wind turbines at Treading Field, Sutton St Edmunds. The original planning application was refused by both South Holland District Council and Fenland District Council but is now going to appeal and was being dealt with by a hearing to be held in the Boathouse on the 23rd April if any members wished to attend or speak. Councillors resolved to write a letter objecting to the planning application appeal even though the Parish Council were not consulted on the original planning application.

13/43. Community Police Officers Report.

An email had been received by the Clerk advising that there had been one crime of criminal damage along Main Road relating to damage to wheelie bins and no incidences in the Parish since the last meeting. A speedwatch check had been undertaken on the 1st March in Main Road near to the Springfield Road junction when 36 vehicles had been monitored with 2 recorded exceeding the speed limit. The Wisbech North Rural Forum had taken place on the 21st February at Wisbech St Mary and following the return of 121 questionnaires completed across all the villages in the North Rural Area the priorities for the next 6 months were agreed. The main priority identified was speeding in the rural villages with other issues including dog fouling and fly tipping.

13/44. To approve & sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 13th February 2013.

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

13/45. Matters Arising from the Minutes (For information only).

The Chairman advised that it appeared that some work was being completed down John Bends Way which would hopefully result in the road being adopted by the County Council in the near future.

13/46. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

Councillor Booth confirmed that the Council Tax for the District Council would be increased by 1.68%. The Boundary Review report would now be published on the 25th March. As previously indicated the Districts Community Grants scheme would not be continuing for 2013/14.

13/47. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) Notification from Fenland District Council that the following Planning Application has been approved.

Roddons Housing Association, Planning Application No. F/YR12/0917/F, Agent Fenland District Council, application for the formation of a shared access and 6 parking bays for use of existing dwellings at 93 to 103 Main Road, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

b) Consultation on the Fenland Local Plan – Core Strategy DPD & Policies Map.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk and Chairman to respond to the consultation document stating that they considered the changes in the policies were going in the wrong direction. Comments made by the public on the previous consultation document had not been taken into account. The revised policies were not specific enough especially for rural villages and in not setting out sound criteria was open to persuasion and mis-interpretation. There was insufficient detail relating to the provision of services and infrastructure.

13/48. Accounts & Finance.

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

Open Spaces Society, membership renewal, £45. L.G.A. 1972 s 143

Mrs Y Reader, Clerks quarter year salary & expenses £1,289.20. L.G.A. 1972 s 112

D A Pest Control, annual contract, £350. Public health Act 1987 s 164.

Citizens Advice Bureau, Outreach sessions during the financial year 2012/2013, £240. L.G.A. 1972 s.142.

b) Letter from Fenland District Council confirming the Concurrent Functions Grant for 2013/2014.

The concurrent functions grant for 2013/2014 will be £5,710 the same as the last 2 years but could well be reduced in future years.

c) To consider request from FACT for a grant.

Councillors resolved to give a grant of £50. Transport Act 1985 s 106a.

Councillors also resolved to enquire with FACT about the possibility of a shuttle service to Guyhirn to link up with the public bus services to Wisbech, March & Peterborough.

d) To consider giving a grant to St Marks Methodist Church as venue used for the Annual Parish Assembly Meeting in 2012.

[Councillors resolved to give a grant of £50. L.G.A. 1972 s.134.

e) To receive and approve Receipts & Payments Account, Bank Reconciliation Account & Budget Update Report.

The reports presented by the Clerk were approved by Councillors.

Councillors resolved that the respective budget headings with remaining funds would be carried over to allocated budget headings for the next financial year.

13/49. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Email from Rosemary Mullen regarding parking at the Alderman Payne School.

Councillors resolved for the Chairman to contact the Headteacher at the school to see if our suggestion of children being dropped off at the school gate could be considered in order to reduce problems with parking outside the school and on the village green.

b) Request from the Parochial Church Council for a letter of support for their grant application for funding to provide a toilet, central heating, kitchen, social area, lowering of pew plinths, re-roofing with insulation to the roof and floor at Emmanuel Church. Councillors resolved to support the proposed improvements to Emmanuel Church and for a letter of support to be sent to the Parochial Church Council for submission with their grant application to RDPE.

c) Letter from Councillor Alan Melton replying our enquiry regarding the New Homes Bonus Scheme.

The letter advised that the Parish Council would not receive any contribution from the District House under the New Homes Bonus scheme. Whilst this response was disappointing Councillors resolved to take no further action at this time.

d) Email from Street Pride Co-ordinator advising that the fruit trees for the Community Orchard are to be planted on the 16th March.

Information noted.

e) Letter of thanks from Parson Drove Street Pride for the grant of £230.

Noted by Councillors.

f) Letter from Fenland District Council confirming that our application under the Rural Capital Grant scheme for a grant of £10,000 towards the footpath extension along Main Road has been successful.

The Clerk was requested to enquire if this grant would be paid directly to the County Council who were currently completing the work.

13/50. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.

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

The 40mph sign near to Number 3 Sealeys Lane had still not been replaced together with the Church End sign.

The Bowling Green next to John Bends Way was flooding presumably caused by poor drainage.

An email had been received on the 13th March advising that a road closure would start on the 20th March and anticipated to end on the 25th March during which time a new anti skid road surface would be installed at the Swan Bridge junction.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to respond advising that they considered this to be a waste of money and that once again the Highways Authority were not doing what the Parish Council had requested.

An email had been received from the County Council Highways on the 13th March advising that our application under the Jointly Funded Minor Highways bids was being discussed and evaluated by members and officers on Monday 18th March if we wished to make any further representations or attend the meeting. The Chairman advised that due to work commitments he was unable to attend but would look at our original application and if required submit some additional information in support of our application.

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

The faulty street light outside 225 Main Road was still being obstructed by a tree. Following receipt of an email advising that 3 street lights would be removed from Ingham Hall Gardens by the County Council the Clerk had queried this as information previously received indicated that the street lighting would only be reduced by 10% and their proposal to remove 3 street lights was nearly 30%. A response had been received advising that they would look into to this before commencing with any changes.

c) Confirmation that the work to install the underground electricity cable along The Bank will start on the 29th July and continue until the 28th August.

Information noted by Councillors.

d) Update report on progress for new street light along Main Road.

The Clerk advised that she had attended a site meeting with EDF Energy to discuss the electricity supply for a new street light outside Number 123 Main Road and early indications were that this would not be too expensive to provide.

13/51. Councillor Vacancy.

Councillor resolved to close the meeting at this point as the Clerk had been taken ill.

The meeting therefore closed at 9.15pm with the remaining Agenda Items listed below being deferred to the next meeting.

13/52. To receive a report from the Amenities 95 Committee.

13/53. Progress report from Street Pride on the pond project.

13/54. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

13/55. Any other business (information items only).

13/56. Dates for future Council meeting(s) & Annual Parish Assembly Meeting.