

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th June 2014 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, & A Kraus.
PCSO Dave Russ. 2 Parishioners arrived at 8.00pm.

14/116. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Cambridgeshire County Councillor G Gillick.

14/117. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests for dispensations.

14/118. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

There were no declarations of interest made by Councillors.

14/119. Community Police Officers Report.

PCSO Russ gave a report on the recent crimes figures and advised that there had been 4 crimes consisting of 3 criminal damage to vehicles and 1 aggravated burglary since the last report. As they were short of staff he was spending a lot of time in Wisbech but they were recruiting across the whole of Cambridgeshire.

The next North Rural Forum was to be held on Thursday 21st August in Guyhirn.

Parson Drove had a good Speedwatch team and speeding tickets had been issued as a result of their speedwatch checks.

There was going to be an Evangelist Event in Wisbech St Mary on the 21st to 25th June when it was expected that approximately 50 traveller caravans would be attending.

14/120. 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 at the start of the meeting. However as two Parishioners arrived at 8.00pm wishing to raise a matter with the Council, Councillors resolved to suspend Standing Orders in order that they could address the Council. Their concerns related to problems with neighbours and alleged harassment and did not therefore fall within the jurisdiction of the Parish Council.

14/121. To approve & sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th May 2014.

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

14/122. Matters Arising from the Minutes (For information only).

A meeting had been held on the 6th June when a group had been formed to organise an event on the 4th August in the Village Hall to commemorate the Great War. There would also be a special Church Service on Sunday 3rd August. Funding was required for a Wreath and refreshments.

The treatment of Rabbits was to be left until the Autumn as it would be more effective at that time of year. Mr Fuller had confirmed that he was happy to accept the smaller Riverside Allotment Garden but would like a bigger one when one becomes available. Mr Allen would therefore have to pay a higher rent in view of the extra section of land that he had taken over.

14/123. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

Councillor Booth advised that he had received complaints regarding dog fouling on the village green and had therefore asked the District Council to provide some signs that could be placed on the wooden posts around the village green.

14/124. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

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

1. C Elbury, Planning Application No. F/YR14/0290/F, Agent D Broker, for the erection of a single storey front extension to the existing dwelling Erayna, 119 Main Road, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

2. Mr & Mrs Risley, Planning Application No. F/YR14/0245/F, Agent D Broker, for the erection of a 2 storey 4 bed dwelling with integral garage on plot 4 land west of 114 Main Road, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

14/125. Accounts & Finance.

a) Councillors resolved to approve the following Invoices for payment:-
Playsafety Limited ROSPA Pond Inspection, £78.00. Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10.
Mrs Y Reader, clerks quarter year salary and expenses £1,383.80. L.G.A. 1972 s.111.

b) To consider quotation received for painting of The Cage clock tower.

A quotation for £950 had been received and as this was the only quotation the Clerk had been able to obtain Councillors resolved to accept this on the basis that the work would be completed within 3 months.

14/126. Report on progress from the working group on Neighbourhood Planning.

Councillors Kraus advised that he had been elected as Chairman of the working group with Gerald Van Daalen as Vice Chairman and Kate Rosier as Secretary. Future meetings would be held on a regular basis during the 4th week of each month with the next meeting being held on the 24th June. A statement was being prepared for Facebook and Village Voices explaining what Neighbourhood Planning was all about. A stall would also be at the Village Car Show on the 20th July to promote the group. Councillor Booth also confirmed that Cambridgeshire ACRE had been asked for a quotation for services that they can provide and an approach had been made to a neighbouring Parish to ascertain how they were taking their Neighbourhood Plan forward.

14/127. Parish Property Risk Assessment.

Broken window in the bus shelter.

Councillors resolved for this glass to be replaced. Paul Tibbs to be approached for a quotation.

14/128. Chairman's report on meeting with Circle Housing Roddons and Fenland District Council regarding the Affordable Houses on the Exception Site.

The Chairman advised that the 2 applications for Shared Ownership had not been successful as one of the applicants had withdrawn their application and the other did not meet the required criteria for a loan, these applicants had therefore been offered a rental tenancy.

The two Shared Ownership homes would now be re-advertised for a further 2 months. Seven of the homes had now been let with five going to applicants with local connections. Another meeting would be held at the end of June to review progress. Councillors requested that the Clerk enquire again when the promised tour of the site would be held and to express their concern that the Anti Social Behaviour criteria was overly strict.

14/129. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Letter from Jolliffe Daking setting out the terms for the proposed extension to the Churchyard and the Parochial Church Council's comments regarding their rights of access.

The Clerk advised that the Parochial Church Council were not prepared to accept the terms relating to their rights of access to the proposed churchyard extension and had made suggestions on how this should be amended. A member of the Parochial Church Council had been in contact with Jolliffe Daking and amendments to the condition regarding their rights of access had been agreed.

Councillors resolved to accept the terms set out in the letter from Jolliffe Daking subject to the changes to the rights of access for the Parochial Church Council and alteration to the wording relating to the responsibility for the future maintenance of the boundary fence to the Parochial Church Council and not the Parish Council.

b) Letter from Cambridgeshire County Council requesting applications under the Local Highways Improvement Initiative 2015/16 by the 12th September.

Councillors resolved to respond enquiring as to why the applications had to be submitted so early this time. It was also agreed that it was difficult to complete an application for next year until we were informed as to what exactly would be completed this year as only part of our last application was successful.

c) Invitation from North Level District Internal Drainage Board for 2 Councillors to attend an Open Evening on Monday 7th July from 6.00pm until 8.00pm to celebrate the 260th anniversary of the first meeting of the North Level Commissioners.

Councillors resolved that the Chairman and Councillor Cook would attend this event on behalf of the Parish Council.

d) Invitation from the Chairman of Fenland District Council & Rev. Nigel Whitehouse to attend a Commemoration Service on Friday 27th June at St Marys Church Whittlesey at 12.00 noon in recognition of the Great War and I support of Armed Forces Day 2014. Information noted by Councillors.

14/130. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.

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

Councillors reported that trees were overhanging the footpath near to Springfield Road and that the footpath at this location was in urgent need of repair.

Although several sections of The Bank had been resurfaced a section near to 1 and 2 The Bank had not been completed resulting in the road flooding at this point. The white line for the footpath and pedestrian markings had not been renewed and therefore Councillors considered that the work had not been completely finished.

b) Road flooding at Ingham Hall Gardens.

The Chairman advised that the drain cover was dangerous in its present state and the road still floods. This on going problem had been reported on several occasions without being resolved satisfactorily.

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

The Chairman advised that FPC 14 was on all the time and that the street light at the top of Sealeys Lane was not working.

d) Letter from Fenland District Council regarding the survey on the Parish Street Lights and information on the streetlights requiring replacement.

From the information received so far from the District Council following the survey conducted by Balfour Beatty it would appear that 8 street lights are considered to be in urgent need of replacement with another 12 in the next three years. Confirmation should be received by the end of June.

The Chairman had discussed this matter with the Leader of the District Council and Officers in view of the financial implications particularly if the Concurrent Functions Grant is totally withdrawn over the next 2 years as originally proposed. A meeting had also been held last Friday with representatives from several Parish Councils to discuss the future of the Concurrent Functions Grant and the changes being implemented on the funding of street light maintenance. At this meeting it was agreed that after the Leader and Officers had reconsidered the options available to them that a further meeting would be held to discuss how this matter would be resolved.

e) Wooden barrier at footbridge.

Councillors resolved to obtain quotations for the wooden barrier between the Allotment Gardens roadway and the footbridge to be repaired.

The Chairman & Councillor Spriggs to attend to this.

f) Letter from a parishioner regarding the re-surfacing of Main Road.

A letter of complaint had been sent by a Parishioner to the County Council Highways department regarding the recent resurfacing work completed along Main Road in relation to the kerbing and road drains. Councillors resolved to support this letter of complaint.

14/131. Amenities 95 Management Committee Report & to discuss concerns raised regarding the use of the football pitch.

Councillor Cook advised that the leaking roof in the Village Hall had been repaired.

The committee had agreed for Thorney Football Club to use the football pitch and pavilion for the coming season whilst their own facilities were being updated. A Parson Drove Sunday Youth Football Team had been established and it was hoped that this would provide potential future players for Parson Drove Football Club following their recent disbandment.

14/132. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

Councillor Cook enquired if the Chairman and Clerk were aware of the opportunity to buy community assets under the Localism Act. The Chairman advised that he was aware of this legislation whereby a Parish Council could register a Community Asset with a right to bid in order to purchase the asset if it was likely to be lost.

14/133. Any other business (information items only).

The Clerk was requested to get the epicormick growth trimmed back around the trees on the village green and chase up the treatment of the moles.

Councillors also advised that complaints had been received about the Riverside Allotment Gardens access roadway being cut up by the tenant of the Drainage Board land at the bottom of the allotments. The Clerk was requested to inform the Drainage Board of the situation.

14/134. Dates for future Council meetings.

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 9th July and Councillors were reminded that the annual inspection of assets would undertaken on the 16th July.

Meeting closed 9.55pm