

## **Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014 in St Marks Church, Main Road, Parson Drove.**

Attended by Councillors G. Booth (Chairman), P Spriggs (Vice Chairman), C Bellamy, G. Bellamy, J Cook, & A Kraus.

Invited Guests D Horn (F.D.C.) & Representative from Circle Anglia Housing Association.

1 member of the public.

### **14/17. To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies had been received from Councillors P. Everett, D. Broker (F.D.C.) & PCSO Dave Russ.

### **14/18. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.**

There had been no requests by Councillors for dispensations.

### **14/19. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.**

No declarations of interest were made by Councillors.

### **14/20. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.**

Concern was expressed by the member of the public present over the erection of 2 brick pillars on the access road adjoining The Old Farmhouse, Main Road, Parson Drove as it would appear that these had been erected without planning permission within a Conservation Area. Also the reduced width of the access roadway could now cause problems with large vehicles trying to gain access to and from the nursery site.

### **14/21. Community Police Officers Report.**

An email had been received by the Clerk from PCSO Russ advising of 3 thefts and 2 incidences since the last meeting comprising of theft of a caravan at Fen Road, theft of a motor vehicle from John Bends Way and theft of window lintels from a building site at Main Road. There had been a number of scams of persons claiming to be the Police and requesting bank card and pin numbers over the phone and arranging for a courier to collect the card and details. The person's bank account was then shortly cleared of all funds.

Speed watch checks will shortly be carried out in the area of the Doctors Surgery. The next Rural North Forum will be held on the 27<sup>th</sup> February in Station Road, Murrow.

### **14/22. Affordable Housing Lettings Information for Exception Site, Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove.**

A draft Local Lettings Plan had been produced by the District Council and the Housing Association for the Parish Council to consider. Councillors raised some concerns regarding the section relating to the limit of 50% of the units being under occupied by one bedroom and the indication that all of the units would be rented when previous discussions had agreed that at least 2 units would be shared ownership.

The cost of building the units was also discussed and it was agreed that further information would be provided to the Council before the next meeting.

**14/23. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2014.**

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

**14/24. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2014.**

Councillors advised that there had been two more accidents at Bellamy Bridge and requested that this information was given to the County Council Highways Department.

**14/25. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.**

Councillor Booth advised that the District Council would approve the Council Tax at their meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> February. There had been some recent changes to the staffing in the Planning Department. Enquiries had been made about the street cleansing hours and whilst the report confirmed that Whittlesey had more hours than other areas this was because there were more streets to cover. Councillors requested that the mini sweeper visit Parson Drove as this was more successful on the footpaths

**14/26. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.**

a) Mrs H Roberts, Planning Application No. F/YR13/0942/TRTPO, Agent B Roberts, for works to 8 Lime trees & felling of 1 Sycamore Tree covered by Tree Preservation Order at The Old Rectory, 312 Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to recommend approval is granted subject to no objections being raised by the Tree Officer.

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

R Goy, Planning Application No. F/YR13/0031/F for the erection of 5 dwellings comprising of 1 three storey 6 bed dwelling, 2 two storey 4 bed dwellings, 1 two storey 5 bed dwelling & 1 two storey 5 bed dwelling with integral garage on land North of 15 27 Mill Road, Murrow.

Mr & Mrs P Walter, Planning Application No. F/YR13/0906/F, Agent R Boor, for the erection of a single storey rear extension to existing dwelling at 381 Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

**14/27. Accounts & Finance**

a). Councillors resolved to approve the following invoices for payment.

Konica Minolta Business Solutions, photocopier rental & copy charges, £125.72. L.G.A. 1972 s. 111.

Bowles Tree & Garden Services, work to trees on the village green, £3,250. Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10

Anglian Water, half year water rates for The Cage, £14.36.L.G.A. 1972 s 133.

Cambridgeshire County Council, grit bin for Newlands Road, £114.L.G.A. 1972 s 111

Fishlock Stables & Groundworks Ltd., supply & installation of wooden bollards around the village green, £1,212. Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10.

Northborough Tree Services, felling of Lime tree, £720. Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9& 10.

b).Information regarding the reductions to the Concurrent Functions Grant for 2014/2015 and for the future.

Benwick Parish Council had contacted all the Parish Councils regarding the phasing out of the Concurrent Functions Grant by Fenland District Council asking for support in objecting to this decision. Some Parish Councils had responded supporting Benwicks efforts to challenge the changes. Representations had been made at the District Council's Cabinet Meeting but the Cabinet had approved the decision. This matter would now be discussed at the full Council Meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> February and Councillors were asked to attend this meeting to support the Parish Councils who were objecting to the loss of this vital grant.

c) To discuss & agree on a donation to be given to St Marks Church.

Councillors resolved to give a grant of £100 in view of the number of Parish Council Meetings held in the Church during the last year. L.G.A. 1972 s 134.

#### **14/28. Allotments & Gardens.**

As a response had still not been received from the tenant of Garden Number 15A and the outstanding rent had not been paid Councillors resolved for the vacant Allotment Garden to be advertised.

#### **14/29. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.**

a) Email from Fenland District Council advising of further consultation on the proposed Main Modifications and Minor Modifications to the Core Strategy following the public hearing held by the Government Inspector. Also consultation on Resource Use Supplementary Planning Document and Design Quality Supplementary Planning Document.

Information noted by Councillors.

b) Emails from Wisbech St Mary Parish Council and Gorefield Parish Council regarding joint Training Sessions.

As only Wisbech St Mary had indicated an interest Councillors resolved for the Clerk to approach other adjoining Parish Councils.

c) Email from Fenland District Council confirming that 2 representatives will be attending the Parish Council Meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> February regarding Neighbourhood Planning.

Information noted by Councillors.

d) Letter from the Editor of Village Voices.

The request for reports on village activities was noted.

e) Letter from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding events to commemorate the Great War.

Councillors resolved to discuss this matter in detail at the next meeting.

f) C&PALC February Bulletin.

Information noted.

**14/30. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.**

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

Councillors reported pot holes along Main Road near to St Marks Church and the Clerk advised that these had already been reported to the Highways Department. Councillors also reported pot holes at Church End near Woad Mill.

The hedge along Murrow Bank had still not been cut back but the missing signs at Turf Fen Bridge had finally been replaced.

b) Chairman's report on the Local Highway Improvements Team panel meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> January.

The Chairman advised that he had attended the meeting and highlighted several points relating to our application. It had been suggested by a Councillor at the meeting that there should be a sign at the Doctors Surgery. The Clerk was requested to make enquiries as to when a decision is likely to be made on our application.

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

Councillors reported that the street light near the Bus Shelter was still not working all the time. The street light outside number 41 Main Road was on but not illuminating properly. The street light at Elbow Lane was still not working.

d) Pot holes & flooding of footpath and road along The Bank.

The Clerk advised that a reminder had been sent to the Highways Department about the considerable number of pot holes along The Bank and the large areas of the road flooding.

**14/31. a) Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.**

Councillor Cook advised that the Annual General Meeting would be held on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm. The inside of the village hall was being decorated by volunteers on the 15<sup>th</sup> March. The Hiring charges had been increased by 10% and the Football Club had folded but they were looking into hiring out the football field to other football clubs after being approached by the Football Association.

b) Update on proposed work to the Village Hall.

An application had been made for a grant in respect of the proposed new village hall.

**14/32. New gate posts adjoining The Old Farmhouse, 27 Main Road.**

Councillors resolved to write to the District Council asking them to investigate this matter as it would appear that planning permission has not been granted for the erection of these brick posts within the Conservation area.

**14/33. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.**

There were no questions asked by Councillors.

**14/34. Any other business (information items only).**

The Clerk advised that the Internal Audit had been arranged for Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

**14/35. Dates for future Council meetings.**

Councillors resolved to change the date of the April Parish Council Meeting to the 16<sup>th</sup> April in order to give the Clerk more time to prepare the end of year Accounts for approval before the Internal Audit.

Councillors resolved to hold the Annual Parish Assembly Meeting on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed 9.30pm.