

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16th April 2014 in The Cage, Station Road, Parson Drove.

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

14/74. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from G Gillick (C.C.C) & PCSO Dave Russ.

14/75. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests for dispensations.

14/76. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

There were no declaration of interests made by Councillors.

14/77. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

Two members of the public spoke about the problems they were having in trying to register for Shared Ownership for the new development of affordable houses. They had been told that there were no properties available in Parson Drove for Shared Ownership. Two members of the public also raised concerns that although they had registered for renting and had been residing in the Parish for more than a year the information being received back indicated that there were a long way down the list and stood little chance of being successful in their bid.

14/78. Community Police Officers Report.

The Clerk had received an email advising that there had been 5 crimes since the last report consisting of 2 burglaries, 2 thefts and 1 criminal damage. There had also been 1 incident relating to a white transit seen acting suspiciously. Councillors had also seen a white truck acting suspiciously in the last few nights which the Clerk was requested to report to PCSO Russ.

The next North Rural Forum will take place on the Horizon Outreach vehicle on Thursday 21st August in Guyhirn.

14/79. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

Councillor Booth advised that the Core Strategy had been approved with some minor changes made. The Street Pride had held an event in conjunction with the District Council regarding Dog Fouling when 9 pieces had been found on the playing field.

14/80. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

Information on permitted development within a Conservation Area.

The Planning Department had advised that there were no special rules pertaining to permitted development within a Conservation Area.

14/81. Accounts & Finance

a). Councillors resolved to approve the following invoices for payment.
 Fenland District Council, rates for The Cage, £235.50. L.G.A. 1972 s. 133
 C&PALC, annual membership fees, £445.40. L.G.A. 1972 s 143
 North Level Internal Drainage Board, Gardens & Allotments, drainage rates,
 £153.76. Small Holdings & Allotments Act 1908 ss 23, 26 & 42.
 EON, electricity for The Cage, £90.91. L.G.A. 1972 s.133.
 NALC, Local Council Review renewal subscription, £17. L.G.A. 1972 s 143

b) To approve the Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2014, the Annual Return Section 1 and completed the Corporate Governance Questionnaire for Internal Audit on the 23rd April 2014.

Councillors resolved to approve the Accounts presented by the Clerk and the completed Annual Return Section 1.

Councillors resolved for the Chairman to sign the completed Corporate Governance Questionnaire completed at the meeting.

c) To approve the second phase of works to the trees on the village green.

Councillors resolved to approve the second phase of work to the trees on the village green relating to the extensive crown reduction of three trees opposite No 1 and 2 The Bank.

14/82. Report on progress from the working group on Neighbourhood Planning.

Councillors were advised that the working group had held a couple of informal meetings and had set out their aims and objectives. Communication with the public was being looked at with plans to set up Facebook and website in addition to some form of paper information. There were no costs for the Parish Council at present but the working group will report back when any costs need to be considered.

14/83. To discuss location of grit/salt bin at Newlands Road.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to approach Roddons Housing Association for permission to re-site the salt/grit bin on the car park area of Rookery Homes.

14/84. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Letter of thanks for the grant of £50 from Murrow Book Cafe.

Noted by Councillors.

b) Email from Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group advising of a public consultation on proposals to improve older people's healthcare & adult community services for residents across Cambridgeshire & Peterborough.

Information noted by Councillors.

c) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council advising of a series of drop-in events to be held on 1st April, 6th May and 3rd June at Wisbech Library, 1.00pm to 4.00pm to provide free & confidential advice & support to adults living with a long term illness or disability, older people struggling with an age related condition and anyone providing unpaid support to adult family members or friends.

Information noted by Councillors.

d) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding grass cutting on public rights of way for 2014.

Information noted by Councillors.

e) Proposed dates for 3 Councillor Training sessions provided by C&PALC.

Councillors resolved to delay the proposed training originally scheduled for June and July until September and October.

14/85. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.

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

The Clerk was requested to report the brick work cracking on Swan Bridge, a pot hole at the top of Swan Bridge.

A large branch was reported to be sticking out onto the road at Elbow Lane and as this was on land belonging to John Bends Charity it was agreed that this be reported to the John Bends Charity Clerk.

Concerns were raised regarding a farmer reversing onto the road near the Swan Bridge junction when leaving land adjacent to the Riverside Allotment Gardens and the potential for the access roadway being cut up during bad weather in view of the size and weight of his agricultural vehicles. Councillors requested that the Clerk make enquires with the North Level Drainage Board on the rights of access for the roadway.

b) Email from the County Council providing further information on our application under the Local Highway Improvements scheme.

Councillors were advised that the only part of our application that had been approved was the extension of the existing 40mph speed limit to Elbow Lane. The Chairman advised that he would be meeting with the Officer at Cambridgeshire County Council Highways to discuss this once their final budget allocation had been approved.

c) Re-surfacing work along Main Road.

The Chairman advised that the re-surfacing work was now complete and that Church End was not going to be re-surfaced in the near future. Councillors advised that the footpath work had not been completed satisfactorily and that the drain covers needed to be raised. Concern was again expressed about the pot holes and road flooding along The Bank.

d) Request for ditches to be cleared out along Sealeys Lane.

The Chairman advised that trees were growing out of the ditch behind the houses at Sealeys Lane and residents were concerned about flooding if the ditch was not cleared out.

Councillors resolved to report this to the County Council Estates Department as this land was part of a County Council Small Holding.

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

Councillors reported that the street light outside St Marks Church was not illuminating properly.

The Clerk advised that the email received from the County Council regarding payment for the street light energy costs of £631.63 was sent to us in error and should have been sent to the District Council. A response to our query on the number of parish owned street lights had still not been received.

14/86. Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

Councillor Cook advised that the grant application for funding towards a new village hall had not been successful. The football field was not being used by any football club at the present time.

14/87. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

Councillor Cook enquired if the Parish Council could assist with mud being left on the road at John Bends Way and stones being thrown up hitting cars caused by the gravel access to the rear fields. Councillors agreed to raise this matter at the next John Bends meeting.

Councillors enquired if any further information had been received regarding the planning applications for the proposed development on Delamores Nursery site. The Chairman and Clerk agreed to request an up date from the Planning Department.

14/88. Any other business (information items only).

The Clerk advised that the swing seat on the village green had been tampered with on Tuesday 15th April when 2 nuts had been removed resulting in the seat falling apart when a child was on the swing. A relative of the child had seen the culprits tampering with the swing and it was therefore agreed that the Clerk pass this information onto PCSO Dave Russ for further investigation. The swing seat was repaired on the same day and from the information given to the Clerk the child was not injured other than a small bump to the back of the head.

In view of the information relayed to Councillors during Public Participation regarding problems with registering for a property on the Exception Site at Church End Councillors agreed to forward this information onto the Housing Association and the District Council. Councillors also agreed to request an urgent meeting with the Housing Association and the District Council to discuss these issues and ascertain what actions would be taken to rectify the problems being experience by applicants in order to resolve this matter. The Chairman also agreed to contact and meet with Dan Horn at the District Council to discuss the matters that had been raised in Public Participation, to ensure they were being dealt with as a matter of urgency.

14/89. Dates for future Council meetings.

Special Meeting to be held on Friday 25th April at 7.00pm in The Cage to discuss the Exception Site allocation problems and agree on what action to be taken.

Annual Parish Assembly Meeting Wednesday 30th April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Annual Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 14th May at 7.00pm in The Cage.

Meeting closed 9.30pm.