

## **Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19<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, P. Everett & A Kraus.  
D Broker F.D.C. Invited guests Emma Naylor & Gary Garford (F.D.C.) & Rachel Brown Cambridgeshire ACRE. 3 members of the public.

### **14/36. To receive apologies for absence.**

There were no apologies received.

### **14/37. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.**

There were no requests for dispensations.

### **14/38. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.**

Councillor Cook declared a non pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 14/41. Reason as he lives along Fen Road.

Councillor Spriggs declared a non pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 14/41. Reason his son farms lands to the rear of the dwelling.

### **14/39. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.**

There were no matters raised by the members of the public present at the meeting.

### **14/40. Neighbourhood Planning.**

Presentation by Emma Naylor from Fenland District Council Planning department followed by a question and answer session.

Emma Naylor gave a presentation outlining the process of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan and various questions were raised by Councillors and members of the public.

The key points raised and discussed were:-

Confirmation that the process should be lead by the Parish Council but a working group could be set up including members of the public who were prepared to assist with the plan as it involved a lot of work.

Considerable consultation and engagement with residents was vital as the final stage of a Neighbourhood Plan was a referendum which the District Council would arrange and pay for but in order for the plan to be adopted you must have a majority vote of 50%.

A Neighbourhood Plan should take into account the National Planning Policies and the District Councils Core Strategy and cannot conflict with any of these policies. The District Council were hopeful that their Core Strategy would be adopted in April 2014.

A Neighbourhood Plan can be very detailed including specific housing sites together with housing density, numbers and mix but in any event should take into account availability of land for development and whether it would be cost effective and practical for development.

A Neighbourhood Plan needs to include a transport assessment, flood risk assessment, environmental and sustainability policies and must be based on sound criteria.

Grants of up to £7,000 are available from Locality but the average grant awarded so far has been £4,000.

The cost of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan varies considerably depending on the size of the Parish, the expertise of the working group and the amount of assistance required from a Planning Consultant. The average cost ranged from £12,000 to £15,000 for plans already completed for a Parish the size of Parson Drove. However very few plans have been completed and those that have been accepted by the Central Government Inspector had obtained expert planning assistance.

Cambridgeshire ACRE had a copy of a completed Neighbourhood Plan for a village for Councillors to study after the meeting and advised that they were looking into providing advice for Parishes producing a Neighbourhood Plan but this would not be provided free of charge.

Councillors resolved to discuss this matter further at the next Parish Council Meeting.

#### **14/41. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.**

a) Miss C Corbett, Planning Application No. F/YR14/0069/F, Agent M Williams, for the erection of a single storey rear extension; conversion of garage to additional living accommodation; creation of a chimney to the side of the existing dwelling and erection of a detached double garage with hobby room over, at Carling, 21 Fen Road, Parson Drove. Councillors resolved by a majority vote to object to this application and recommend refusal as it was considered to be over development of the site and the erection of the double garage was out of keeping with the existing street scene.

#### **14/42. Accounts & Finance**

a). Councillors resolved to approve the following invoice for payment.  
Open Spaces Society, annual membership fee, £45. L.G.A. 1972 s 143.

b) Request for a grant from Murrow Book Café.  
Councillors resolved to give a grant of £50. L.G.A. 1972 s 137.

Meeting closed 9.30pm.