

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th January 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.

14/1. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from County Councillor G Gillick & PCSO Dave Russ.

14/2. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

The Clerk had not received any requests for dispensations.

14/3. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

There were no Declarations of Interest made by Councillors.

14/4. 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 meeting.

14/5. Community Police Officers Report.

An email had been received by the Clerk advising that there had been one crime consisting of a burglary at Main Road and one incident reported since the last report.

14/6. To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held on the 4th & 11th December 2013.

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

14/7. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

Councillor Booth advised that the changes to the Council Tax Benefits had been approved. Some administration services such as housing benefit were being out sourced and the Legal Services department was being reduced as a replacement was not being appointed to the position of Chief Solicitor.

14/8. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) 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.

Councillors resolved to support this application and recommend approval is granted.

b) Mr Woolcott, Planning Application No F/YR13/0923/F, Agent J Burton, for the erection of a two storey 4 bed dwelling with integral garage involving the demolition of the existing bungalow & outbuilding at Rupen, Long Drove, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to support this application and recommend approval is granted subject to the existing access and hawthorn hedge being retained.

c) Mr Woolcott, Planning Application No. F/YR13/0925/F, Agent J Burton, for the erection of a two storey 4 bed dwelling with integral double garage involving demolition of existing mobile home & outbuildings at Leyland Kennels, Long Drove, Parson Drove. Councillors resolved by a majority vote to object to this application as this new dwelling was outside the village centre, on what was originally agricultural land and could set a precedent for further unauthorised mobile homes being replaced with permanent dwellings.

d) Notification from Fenland District Council that the following Planning Application has been granted approval.

Mr & Mrs J Williams, Planning Application No. F/YR13/0784/RM, Agent D Broker, for the erection of a 2 storey 4 bed dwelling with detached double garage on land east of Nicola, Fen Road, Parson Drove.
Information noted by Councillors.

14/9. Accounts & Finance

a). Councillors resolved to approve the following invoices for payment.
Wisbech & District Neighbourhood Watch, replacement signs, £60.L.G.& R.A. 1997 s.31
D A Pest Control, annual contract renewal £350. Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
EON, electricity for The Cage, £76.11 L.G.A. 1972 s.133.
Parish Plan Refresh Questionnaire Prize £50. L.G.A. 1972 s 111

b).Letter from Fenland District Council advising of reductions to the Concurrent Functions Grant for 2014/2015 and for the future.
Councillors resolved to try and obtain support from other Parish Councils strongly objecting to these changes in view of the significant impact it will have on the finances of Parish Councils when the Concurrent Functions Grant is totally withdrawn in 2 years time. Also to respond to the District Council pointing out that there had been no consultation over these changes despite assurances last year that this would be undertaken prior to any changes or decisions made on the future of this grant.

c) To receive and approve a Receipts & Payments Bank Reconciliation & Budget Report. Councillors resolved to approve the reports presented by the Clerk.

d) To consider and agree on final Budget & Precept for 2014/2015.
Councillors resolved to carry forward any underspend from the 2013/2014 Precept and Allocated Cash Reserves to the next financial year.
Councillors also resolved by a majority vote to increase the draft Precept set in December by a further £700 allocated to the maintenance of trees and open spaces in view of the proposed reduction of £1,900 in the Concurrent Functions Grant from the District Council for 2014/2015. The final Precept figure was therefore agreed for £15,000 plus the Council Tax Support Grant of £1,941.

14/10. Allotments & Gardens.

The Clerk and Chairman advised that no response had yet been received from the Tenant adjoining the Community Orchard. The Clerk was asked to contact the Tenant again to try and ascertain their wishes.

14/11. To agree on questions and issues to be discussed on Neighbourhood Planning at the Special Meeting on the 19th February 2014.

The Clerk advised that a representative from Cambridgeshire ACRE had agreed to attend the meeting but as yet representatives from the District Council had not agreed as they would prefer members of the Parish Council to meet with them during the day at Fenland Hall.

Councillors resolved to respond advising that this was not possible as some members are not available during the day. The Clerk was given 3 questions that Councillors wished to ask and this information would be passed onto Cambridgeshire ACRE ready for discussion at the meeting.

14/12. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Letter of thanks from Southea Parochial Church Council for the grant of £500 for maintenance of the churchyard.

Noted by Councillors.

b) Letter from Fenland District Council inviting members to the Annual Twinning Tea Party on Wednesday 22nd January at 5.30pm in the Council Chamber.

Information noted by Councillors.

c) Email from Fenland District Council advising of the Corporate Plan consultation starting on the 6th January 2014.

Noted by Councillors.

d) Email from the Police & Crime Commissioner advising of their proposed increase in the Council Tax for 2014/2015 of 7 pence per week.

Information noted by Councillors.

e) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council advising of the Cycle Legacy – Small Grants Fund as Cambridge will be hosting the third stage of Le Tour De France on Monday 7th July 2014.

Information noted by Councillors.

f) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council advising of drop in events providing information on free & confidential advice about support for adults with long term needs & carers.

Information noted by Councillors.

g) Email from Channel 4 Dragonfly Film & Television Productions Limited regarding a documentary they are making about complaints & customer service.

Noted by Councillors.

14/13. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.

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

Councillors requested that the Clerk report the following issues: _

The damaged fence at the Swan Bridge junction has still not been repaired.

The Main Road near the War Memorial is still flooding after heavy rain as is The Bank outside Numbers 2, 3, 4 and 5.

The drain cover outside the village hall has still not been attended to.

The hedge along Murrow Bank has only been cut back at Parson Drove end and is still obstructing the highway at the Murrow end.

b) Request for a reduction in the speed limit at Throckenholt.

Councillors resolved to write to Cambridgeshire County Council and Lincolnshire County Council requesting a 40mph speed limit at Throckenholt.

c) Report on site meeting with County Council Officers regarding the Bellamy Bridge junction.

The Chairman advised he and the Chairman of Gorefield Parish Council had meet with an Officer from the County Council Highways to discuss this junction but unfortunately the Chairman from Wisbech St Mary was unable to attend due to ill health. The County Council advised that as there was no funding available for major schemes it was unlikely that any improvements would be made at this junction apart from replacing the white line markings. It was suggested that a box junction would be more appropriate at this accident hotspot.

d) Email from Local Highway Improvements Team advising of the panel meeting on Monday 27th January at 2.30pm at Hereward Hall, March and inviting someone to attend to represent our application.

The Chairman confirmed that he would attend this meeting on the Parish Councils behalf.

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

Councillors reported that the street lights at the top of Sealeys Lane and near the bus shelter were still not working. There was also a faulty street light at the entrance to Elbow Lane

14/14. a) Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.**b) Update on proposed work to the Village Hall.**

Councillors resolved to defer this matter to the next meeting.

14/15. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

There were no questions asked by Councillors.

14/16. Any other business (information items only).

There were no matters raised by Councillors.

14/17. Dates for future Council meetings.

The next meetings were confirmed for Wednesday 12th February at 7.00pm and Wednesday 19th February at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed 9.05pm.