

## **Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in The Cage on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2014.**

Attended by Councillors G Booth (Chairman), P Spriggs, J Cook, P Everett & A Kraus. PCSO Dave Russ and 2 members of the public.

### **14/135. To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies had been received from Councillors C Bellamy & G Bellamy and District Councillor D Broker.

### **14/136. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.**

A request was made by Councillor P Everett for a dispensation for Agenda Item Number 14/143 b) as her property adjoins the site of the applicant.

Councillors resolved to grant the request for a dispensation.

### **14/137. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.**

There were no declarations of interest made by Councillors.

### **14/138. Community Police Officers Report.**

PCSO Russ gave a report on the recent Religious Traveller Event held in Wisbech St Mary advising that the event had not resulted in any major incidences. A report was also given on the crimes and incidences reported since the last meeting comprising of a criminal damage at Newlands Road, a theft at Long Drove and an incident of rowdy nuisance at Newlands Road. The Chairman enquired as to why the road traffic accident at John Bends Way was not included in the report. PCSO Russ agreed to look into this.

### **14/139. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.**

The applicant for Planning Application listed under Agenda Item Number 14/143 b) outlined the details of the application and clarified various points regarding the access and the proposals relating to the boundary.

### **14/140. To approve & sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2014.**

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

### **14/141. Matters Arising from the Minutes (For information only).**

The broken window in the bus shelter had been replaced. The repainting work to the Cage would be started in the next week or so.

### **14/142. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.**

Councillor Booth advised that the District Council were preparing proposals to address issues identified by the Planning Advisory Service in their recent review of the planning services department. Suggestions were being made for more planning applications to be determined by delegated powers and changes to District Councillors calling in Planning Applications. Copies of the new local plan were now available.

### **14/143. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.**

a). Miss C Corbett, Planning Application No. F/YR14/0426/F, Agent Martin Williams, erection of a single storey rear extension; conversion of garage to additional living accommodation & creation of a chimney to side of existing dwelling Carling, 21 Fen Road.

Councillors resolved to object to this application as it was over development of the site, would result in loss of amenity for the adjacent property and the proposed chimney could result in fumes entering the windows of the bedroom of the adjacent property.

b). Mr A Mclean, Planning Application No. F/YR14/00427/O, Agent Peter Humphrey Associates, for the erection of a 4 dwellings involving the demolition of 3 The Bank on land north east of 2 The Bank, Parson Drove.

In view of the comments made by the applicant during public participation and subsequent debate by Councillors it was resolved to make no formal comment on the application at the present time as the applicant had agreed to withdraw the application and re-submit it after taking into account concerns expressed by Councillors regarding security, access and damage to the village green.

#### **14/144. Accounts & Finance.**

a) To receive and approve a Receipt & Payments Bank Reconciliation report and a Budget Update Report.

Councillors resolved to accept the reports presented by the Clerk and there were no issues arising from the reports.

b) To consider request received from East Anglia's Children's Hospices for a donation. Councillors resolved to refuse the request for a grant/donation.

c) To consider a request for financial assistance towards event being organised to commemorate the Great War.

Councillors resolved to purchase a large Wreath for the Special Church Service being held on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Clerk to order the Wreath direct from the Poppy Shop as soon as possible and the estimated cost was approximately £25.

d) Councillors resolved to approve payment of Invoice, EON, electricity for The Cage, 71.72.

#### **14/145. Report on progress from the working group on Neighbourhood Planning.**

Councillor Kraus advised that the working group had not held a meeting since the last Parish Council Meeting and therefore no progress had been made.

#### **14/146. Parish Property Risk Assessment.**

a) ROSPA report for the swings on the village green.

A report had been received indicating that the swings were a high risk in their present condition particularly due to movement in the supporting frame. The Chairman had therefore removed the swings from the framework and Councillors agreed to inspect these the following week during the annual inspection of assets.

b) Complaint from a parishioner regarding the trees on the village green.

The Clerk advised that the work on the 3 trees along The Bank would be completed in the very near future but would not include the trees outside the complaint's property. The annual inspection of the trees would be completed with the contractors in a few weeks time to identify any further work required during the next year and should therefore identify any problems with the trees outside the complainants property.

#### **14/147. Chairman's update report on the Affordable Houses on the Exception Site at Church End and the invitation to view the homes.**

The Chairman advised that 5 applications for Shared Ownership had not been progressed due to difficulties in obtaining a mortgage.

One application was still being looked into but if this was also unsuccessful then the properties would be advertised on Homelink as rental properties. An invitation to view the new homes had been received for Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July at 4.00pm should Councillors wish to attend.

**14/148. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.**

a) Letter from Jolliffe Daking setting out the revised terms for the proposed extension to the Churchyard.

Councillors resolved to accept the revised terms as these were also acceptable to the Parochial Church Council.

b) Reply from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding the request for applications under the Local Highways Improvement Initiative 2015/16 by the 12<sup>th</sup> September and advising of additional information required with applications.

The response from the County Council explaining why the applications for next year were required so early this time was noted. The Chairman advised that he had met with the Officer dealing with our application for this year and advised that part of our application will proceed in relation to the extension of the 40mph speed limit at Elbow Lane. We could also perhaps have some traffic calming and additional signage near to the Doctors Surgery and costs for this work were now being looked into. Funding was available for capital projects but very little funding was available for maintenance of the roads and footpaths. The Bellamy Bridge junction had also been discussed when it had been suggested that perhaps the three parishes involved could make a joint application under the Local Highways Improvements Scheme and the Chairman was going to approach Wisbech St Mary and Gorefield Parish Councils regarding this suggestion.

Councillors also discussed applying for a footpath along Sealeys Lane and agreed to make a final decision at the next meeting.

c) Notification from Fenland District Council that a meeting will be held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July to again discuss Street Lighting and Concurrent Functions Grants.

The Chairman confirmed that he would be attending this meeting and a letter had now been received with suggestions on how this matter might be resolved. The District Council were currently suggesting that there be no further reductions to the Concurrent Functions Grant. The District Council would fund half the costs of the street lights identified in category 1 requiring immediate replacement but the Parish Councils would have to fund all of the street lights in category 2 requiring replacement over the next 3 years. Councillors welcomed this change of direction but hoped that some further financial assistance could be provided by the District Council for the cost of the replacement street lights in category 2.

d) Email Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Commissioner requesting the Parish Council lobby the Government over the Deregulation Bill currently going through Parliament in relation to plans to cut red tape for taxi and private hire drivers. Also advising that their Annual Report has now been published and can be viewed on their website.

Information noted by Councillors.

e) Request from Rural Services Network to complete a survey on rural affordable housing. Councillors resolved that the Chairman and Clerk complete this survey.

f) Email from Fenland District Council advising of changes to the way people register to vote. The Chairman explained it would be the responsibility of each individual to register.

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Proof of identity would be required and this would be needed when people moved house in the future. However if people had not moved and FDC data matched DWP data no further action would be required. It is expected that approximately 10% of people would need to register from July 2014.

g) Invitation to attend a Public Consultation Event on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July from 3.00pm to 8.00pm at the Rosmini Centre, 69 Queens Road, Wisbech regarding a proposed Solar Farm development on land off Begdale Road, Begdale, Wisbech. Noted by Councillors.

**14/149. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.**

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

The Clerk was requested to follow up our previous complaints regarding the road flooding at Ingham Hall Gardens and the damaged railings at Swan Bridge and to also report the roadside dropping away at Elbow Lane.

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

There were no new faulty street lights reported at the meeting.

**14/150. Amenities 95 Management Committee Report and to discuss lack of Junior Football referees.**

Councillor Cook advised that the Football Association can provide training courses.

**14/151. To discuss the process for registering a Community Asset.**

The Clerk advised that an application form had to be completed and submitted to the District Council. It was agreed that the Clerk discuss the process with the Officer at the District Council.

**14/152. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.**

Councillor Kraus enquired as to whether a reply had been received from Roddons regarding the request to put the grit/salt bin on the car parking area of the houses formally know as Rookery Homes, Main Road. The Clerk advised that a further letter had been sent last week but to date no response had been received. Councillors resolved to send a further letter advising that if no response was received within the next month then they would assume there was no objection to this request.

**14/153. Any other business (information items only).**

Councillor Kraus advised that vehicles being parked on the roadside by contractors working on the building site near Newlands Road were causing problems for vehicles using Newlands Road. Children were also entering the building site in the evenings as there was no fence erected around the site. Councillors resolved for this matter to be reported to the Planning Department.

The Chairman advised that he had been informed by North Level Internal Drainage Board that there would be some disruption to tenants of the Riverside Garden Allotments in 3 to 5 years time when extensive dredging of the river would be undertaken. Councillors suggested that this matter be included in the Agenda for the next meeting.

**14/154. Dates for future Council meetings.**

The next meeting was confirmed for the 13<sup>th</sup> August at 7.00pm in The Cage.

Subsequent meetings would be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> September, 8<sup>th</sup> October, 12<sup>th</sup> November and 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

Meeting closed at 9.50pm.