

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in The Cage on Wednesday 13th August 2014.

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

14/155. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Councillor P Everett and D Broker (FDC).

14/156. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests for dispensations.

14/157. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

There were no declarations of interest made by Councillors.

14/158. Community Police Officers Report.

An email had been received advising of the crimes and incidences since the last meeting comprising of 4 crimes of which 2 were theft and 2 criminal damage. There was 1 reported incident relating to youths riding around on mini mottos. Councillors reported that quad bikes were riding over crops. It was also noted that there had been a number of thefts of railings and gates in rural areas. Councillors were reminded of the North Rural Forum on the 21st August when the Horizon Outreach vehicle would be located in High Road, Guyhirn.

14/159. 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.

14/160. To approve & sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th July 2014.

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

14/161. Matters Arising from the Minutes (For information only).

The Chairman advised that the event organised to commemorate the Great War had raised £260 which would be shared between the Royal British Legion and Help the Heroes.

The Chairman and Councillor Cook had attended the event organised for the Exception Site for Affordable Houses at John Peck Way, Church End but they had been unable to view the properties as they were now all occupied.

The Chairman had attended the meeting called by the District Council to discuss the way forward regarding the Concurrent Functions Grant and Street Lighting issues. Some Parish Councils would prefer to see the Concurrent Functions Grant totally withdrawn providing the District Council takes over full responsibility for Parish Street Lights. Whereas other Parish Councils wanted the Concurrent Functions Grant to continue and to receive some financial assistance from the District Council towards replacing the Street Lights in Category 2. The District Council had indicated that they would not be prepared to take over the responsibility for Parish Street Lights but would consider the comments made at the meeting and arrange another meeting in due course.

14/162. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

Councillor Booth advised that the Supplementary Planning Document had been approved by the District Council. The motion to revert back to Committees was withdrawn but this matter could be discussed again in the future.

14/163. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a). T Jarvis, Planning Application No. F/YR14/00548/PNCOU, Agent Peter Humphrey Associates Ltd., for change of use of agricultural buildings to 2 bed dwelling and workshop at Barns land west of Carousel, 117 Back Road, Murrow.

Councillors resolved to object to this application in view of the unsuitability of Back Road, Murrow for any further development.

b). Notification that the following planning application has been withdrawn.

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.

Information noted by Councillors. The Chairman advised that a meeting had been held with the applicant and his agent attended by himself, Councillor Spriggs and the Clerk. It had been emphasised at this meeting to the applicant and his agent that Councillors could not predetermine any application as a result of this meeting which was being held purely to discuss the options available to the applicant on how the village green might be protected from possible damage, to provide adequate access to the site and security for adjoining properties. The applicant and Agent indicated that they would explore the possibility of a bond to protect the village green and once they had addressed the issues raised we understand that the application will be resubmitted.

14/164. Accounts & Finance.

a) Councillors resolved to approve the following Invoices for payment:-

Paul Tibbs Ltd., replace window in Bus Shelter, £90. L.G.M. P.A. 1953 s4.

Konica Minolta Business Solutions, photocopier rental and copy charges, £220.96. L.G.A. 1972 s111

Anglian Water, water rates on The Cage, £14.88. L.G.A. 1972 s111

Bowles Tree & Garden Services, work to 3 trees on village green and painting of Cage Clock Tower, £2,450. Open Spaces Act & P.C.A. 1957 s2

GBSG Ltd., annual alarm check on The Cage, £88.02. L.G.A. 1972 s111.

14/165. Report on progress from the working group on Neighbourhood Planning.

Councillor Kraus & Councillor Booth advised that an information sheet was being prepared to be delivered with the September issue of Village Voices advising of a public meeting being held on Thursday 25th September in the Village Hall. It was agreed that the Clerk would photocopy the information sheet and this would therefore be funded by the Parish Council.

Cambridgeshire ACRE had quoted a figure of £5,000 to carry out the completion of the Neighbourhood Plan and whilst some donations had been promised towards the project this would not be sufficient to cover the whole cost. It was hoped that some grant funding might be available in the new financial year and it was suggested that the Parish Council could contribute towards the cost of Neighbourhood Planning in view of there being some funding available from the Parish Plan budget. It was agreed that an application should be made to the District Council for the Neighbourhood Plan Designated Area.

14/166. Parish Property Risk Assessment.

a) To report on the annual inspection of assets and agree on any action to be taken.

The following areas were identified as requiring some attention:-

Painting of the War Memorial Railings

Staining of the fascia and window frames of the bus shelter.

Painting of the front doors of The Cage.

Complete refurbishment of the Parish Council Notice Board on the village green. The swings on the village green had already been removed in view of the concerns raised by ROSPA following their annual inspection. Councillors discussed the possibility of repairing the swings or replacing them and it was agreed for the Clerk to obtain a quotation for their replacement before any final decision was made.

14/167. Riverside Allotment Gardens & Fen Allotments.

To report on the annual inspection and agree on any action to be taken.

Councillors agreed that the condition of Riverside Allotment Garden Number 15A was very impressive and for a letter of praise be sent to the tenant.

The Fen Allotments numbered 1, 2, 6, 7 and 8 were once again very poorly maintained with a considerable amount of weeds growing in the crops. Councillors therefore resolved to inform the tenant that his tenancy would be terminated on the 31st October 2014 as several reminders had been issued in previous years with a final notice being given in September 2013.

14/168. To receive a report from the Chairman on the meeting recently attended regarding the construction timescale and information on the Community Benefit scheme for the Wryde Croft Wind Farm.

The Chairman advised that he and Councillor Spriggs had attended a meeting when details of the construction programme and the Community Benefit Scheme had been given. The Community Benefit Scheme comprises of two sections, the first is the local electricity discount scheme and it is estimated that this pot will be in the region of £75,000. The other section is the community benefit fund which is administered by the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation. Organisation can apply for funding from this fund for projects that will benefit those living and working within the boundary. A further meeting will be arranged and it was indicated that parishes qualifying would be invited to appoint one representative to serve on the community benefit fund panel although this may not be until Spring 2015.

14/169. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Letter from Lee Bolton Monier-Williams Solicitors acting for the Ely Diocesan Board of Finance confirming the revised terms agreed and requesting payment for the estimated costs of £1,630 before they proceed with the Emmanuel Churchyard extension.

Councillors resolved to approve the request for payment of £1,630 in order that this matter may be progressed.

b) Letter from Circle Housing Roddons confirming their agreement for the grit/salt bin to be sited on the car park area of the Main Road Bungalows.

Councillor Kraus agreed to attend to this matter and relocate the grit/salt bin.

c) Notification from Fenland District Council of a Fenland Street Trading Policy Consultation ending on the 5th September 2014.

Councillors resolved to request for all the streets/roads in our parish to be included in the policy and to request that ice-cream vans are not excluded from requiring to obtain a license.

d) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council advising of the Cambridgeshire Future Transport programme and requesting a representative from the Parish Council attend a meeting on Monday 15th September, 2 – 4 pm at Fenland Hall.

The Chairman advised that he would be attending the meeting.

e) Request from Leverington Charity Feoffees for a Parish Council Representative to attend the Education Meeting on Tuesday 16th September at 7pm at Leverington School. Councillors resolved that Councillor Kraus would attend the meeting to represent the Parish Council.

f) Email from Cambridgeshire ACRE inviting Councillors to attend a celebration of 90 years of community action and the AGM on Tuesday 23 September 4.00pm at The Manor Barn, Washpit Lane, Harlton, Cambridge. The Chairman advised that he would be attending the meeting.

g) Invitation from CPRE to attend a Summer Evening in the grounds of Farm Hall, West Street, Godmanchester from 5 pm to 8pm on Saturday 23rd August, cost £17.50 per person. Invitation noted and no Councillors indicated that they wished to attend.

h) Email from Fenland District Council with information on the changes to Individual Electoral Registration. Information noted by Councillors.

i) Email from The Police & Crime Commissioner with information on the report from the Chief Constable on Burglary results for the County during the last 12 months. Information noted by Councillors.

j) Email from Neighbourhood Watch regarding a Neighbourhood Watch Sign at 9 Riverside Gardens. Councillors resolved to take no action on this matter.

k) C&PALC July Bulletin. Noted by Councillors.

14/170. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.

a) Highway issues to be reported to Cambridgeshire County Council. The Chairman had taken photographs of the road flooding at Ingham Hall Gardens where it joins Brewery Close and forwarded these onto the Highways Department as no action had been taken following our previous requests. The Bowling Green along Main Road was flooding partly due to the roadside drain being full of rubbish. Trees along Elbow Lane were obstructing the highway. There were pot holes along Marshalls Bank and Johnsons Drove.

b) Faulty street lights to be reported to Cambridgeshire County Council. The Clerk was requested to report the street light opposite the Butchers Arms.

c) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council, reminder for applications under the Local Highways Improvement Initiative 2015/16 by the 12th September. The Chairman advised that Gorefield Parish Council would be discussing the proposal to submit a joint application for the Bellamy Bridge junction at their meeting on the 1st September. Wisbech St Mary Parish Council had already indicated that they agreed to this proposal. Councillors resolved to also make an application for the provision of a footpath along Sealeys Lane starting from the Main Road.

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d) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council advising of changes to the Winter Gritting Volunteer Scheme.

Councillors agreed for this information to be sent onto the two parish volunteers.

e) Complaint concerning the obstruction of Silvers Lane by over hanging trees and bushes. Councillors agreed for this complaint to be forwarded onto the County Council Highways Department.

f) Complaint from a resident at Riverside Gardens regarding the over grown river bank. This was noted and it was envisaged that the North Level Drainage Board would be attending to this in the near future.

14/171. Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

Councillor Cook advised that an alarm system was being installed in the disabled toilet.

14/172. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

There were no questions asked by Councillor.

14/173. Any other business (information items only).

Councillors were reminded of the Councillor Training in the Pavilion on Monday 8th September 6.30pm for 7.00pm start.

14/174. Dates for future Council meetings.

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 10th September 2014.

Meeting closed 9.40pm