

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in The Cage on Wednesday 10th December 2014.

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

14/236. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Councillor Kraus and County Councillor Gillick.

14/237. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests for dispensations.

14/238. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillor Cook declared an interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 14/253 as he is an Officer on the Amenities 95 Committee.

Councillor Spriggs declared an interest in respect of Agenda items Numbered 14/249 as a close family member has applied for the vacant Allotments.

Councillor Booth declared an interest in respect of Agenda Items Numbered 14/246d as he is a Garden Allotment tenant.

14/239. Community Police Officers Report.

No report had been received from the PCSO. The Clerk advised that she had been lead to believe that PCSO Russ had been moved from the rural areas and that PCSO A Bush was to cover our area in future.

14/240. 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.

14/241. To approve & sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 12th November 2014.

The minutes were taken as read, agreed as a true record after minor spelling mistakes were corrected and signed by the Chairman.

14/242. Matters Arising from the Minutes (For information only).

The Chairman advised that he was still waiting for a response to some of his queries regarding the planning permission granted for Planning Application No.F/YR14/0703/F. A response had been received from the Planning Department advising that conditions could not be imposed on the planning permission granted for Planning Application Number F/YR14/0697/O and any agreement regarding a bond or covenant must be made between the applicant and the Parish Council. Councillors were disappointed that this information had not been given to them earlier when they responded to the planning application and it was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Applicant on this matter.

Councillor C Bellamy & G Bellamy attended the meeting regarding the electoral review of Cambridgeshire County Council when it was proposed that the number of Councillors be reduced to 63. Councillors considered that the boundary areas would become too big for rural areas and our area should be this side of the A47.

The Chairman advised that he had been unable to attend the C&PALC Annual General Meeting as planned.

14/243. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

Councillor Booth advised that there was a petition being obtained regarding the Windfall Policy. The review of the Polling Stations had been completed. A public consultation was being undertaken regarding the future of Community House in Wisbech.

14/245. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) 1) R Knight, Planning Application No. F/YR14/0867/F, Agent S Brown, for a first floor rear extension & a detached garage involving the demolition of existing out buildings & the formation of a new access, The Rookery, 74 Main Road, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to request clarification regarding the new access as the details on the plan were insufficient but raised no objections to the proposed rear extension.

a) 2) J Foster, Planning Application No F/YR14/0877/F, Agent Peter Humphrey Associates, erection of a single storey rear extension to existing dwelling involving demolition of stores to the rear and side at Church Farm, 315 Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove.

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

b) Email from the Arboriculture Officer at Fenland District Council regarding our request to fell a Cherry Tree and a Crabapple Tree under Planning Application No. YR14/0848/TRCA. Councillors resolved to agree to the request to delay the felling of the Cherry Tree and Crabapple tree until the Arboricultural Officer had completed a further inspection in the Spring in order to ascertain the condition of these two trees.

c) Notification that the following planning application has been approved.

J Foster, Planning Application No. F/YR14/0764/F, Agent Peter Humphrey Associates, for the erection of a 2 storey 4 bed dwelling with detached 4 bay car port (2 bays for 315 Main Road) and a 1.5m, high front boundary wall involving alterations to existing access and demolition of existing barns and part of the existing dwelling, land west of Church Farm, 315 Main Road, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

14/246. Accounts & Finance.

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

Parson Drove & Murrow Royal British Legion, Remembrance Day Wreath, £20.L.G.A. 1972 s137.

Clerks & Council Direct subscription renewal, £12. L.G.A. 1972 s143.

Clerks quarter year salary & expenses, £1,411.40. L.G.A. 1972 s112.

CPRE, annual membership renewal, £36. L.G.A. 1972 s143

Society of Local Council Clerks, annual membership renewal, £103. L.G.A. 1972 s143

Bowles Tree & garden Services, felling of blue cedar tree, £350. O.S. Act 1906 ss9 & 10.

C&PALC, 3 Councillor Training Sessions, £1050. L.G.A. 1972 s111

Parson Drove Amenities 95 Committee, hire of pavilion for 3 training sessions, £60.L.G.A. 1972 s.111.

b) Letter from Fenland District Council regarding the Precept and Concurrent Functions Grant for 2015/2016.

Information noted and will be discussed at the Budget & Precept meeting on the 7th January 2015.

c) Letter from Fenland District Council providing information and proposed funding for the replacement of some of the Parish Council's streetlights, future maintenance and energy costs. Councillors resolved to respond advising that they did not consider that the financial offer being made was fair in view of the increase in the number of street lights now placed in category 2. If adequate maintenance had been completed in previous years the current number of street lights requiring replacement would not be so high. To request an explanation as to why so many street lights were now placed in category 2 when they had previously been rated in category 3. Also to query the location of some of the street lights after the Chairman and Clerk had conducted a complete check but in the meantime would not accept that 4 street lights located at Springfield Road were the responsibility of the Parish Council.

d) Update Report on the collection of rents for the Riverside Allotment Gardens and Fen Allotments.

The Clerk advised that all of the Riverside Garden Allotment rents had now been paid but there was still one outstanding Fen Allotment rent for £510.

e) To consider a request from Fenland Volunteer Centre for a grant/donation. Councillors resolved to refuse this request.

f) To consider a request from Southea Parochial Church Council for a grant towards the maintenance of the churchyard.

Councillors resolved to give a grant of £500. L.G.A. 1972 s214(6).

14/247. Report on progress from the working group on Neighbourhood Planning.

The Chairman advised that a questionnaire was being drafted ready for distribution in the New Year. Information was being obtained regarding permitted growth within the parish.

14/248. Progress report on negotiations to restart the Citizens Advice Bureau Outreach Sessions.

The Clerk advised that Wisbech St Mary had indicated that they would be interested in joining with Parson Drove in restarting the Outreach sessions and Guyhirn Village Hall would be their location for their sessions. Gorefield Parish Council had not yet responded but Councillors agreed that tentative discussions should be started with CAB to move this matter forward.

14/249. To consider applications received for the tenancy of the 5 acre Fen Allotments.

The Clerk advised that two applications had been received, one for the full 5 acres and the other for the 3 acre plot. The applicant for the 3 acre plot had indicated that he was intending to plant a fruit orchard.

Councillors raised concerns over the density of fruit trees in the middle of the field and the maintenance especially if the applicant gave up the tenancy in the future.

Councillors therefore resolved that this applicant should be offered the tenancy for one acre at the start of the field and the remaining 4 acres offered to the other applicant.

14/250. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Email from Street Scene Officer, Fenland District Council regarding their plans to carry out a series of enforcement patrols relating to their Dog Control Orders and asking if we have any areas of concern where we would like them to patrol.

Councillors resolved to request patrols on the playing field, village green and the footbridge at Swan Bridge.

b) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding the 70th anniversary of the end of World War 2 next summer.

Councillors resolved for this information to be passed onto Mr M Shelley.

c) Letter of thanks from a parishioner for assisting them in obtaining a house on the Exception Site at Church End.

Noted by Councillors. The Clerk was also asked to contact the Housing Association enquiring as to what the green box in front of the development site was for.

d) Email from Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Commissioner advising of the HMIC Annual Assessment Report for Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

Information noted by Councillors.

e) Email from Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Commissioner advising of a survey by Fenland Community Safety Partnership to find out how people living, working or visiting Fenland feel about crime and anti-social behaviour in Fenland.

Councillors resolved to respond regarding the drug problem at one location in the village that is repeatedly reported but no action appears to be taken.

f) Email from Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership & The Wildlife Trust requesting the completion of a questionnaire for any orchards in our parish.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to complete this questionnaire with reference to the community orchard on behalf of the Street Pride Group.

g) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding the challenges that cold winter weather poses for the health and wellbeing of vulnerable groups.

Councillors resolved for this information to be placed on the notice board in the village hall car park and to ask Mr Shelley to pass this information on to the over 60's Club members and the Luncheon Club members. Councillor Everett advised that information packs were also available in the Post Office.

h) C&PALC November Bulletin.

Councillors with email asked for this bulletin to be forwarded onto them. Councillors resolved for the May Elections to be discussed at the next meeting.

14/251. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.

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

The Clerk was asked to enquire if Fen Road had been scanned yet and if so what were the results as the Capital Budgets would soon be discussed.

Councillor Bellamy complained about the bushes at the top of Ingham Hall Gardens obstructing motorist vision when coming out onto Main Road.

Councillors reported that Clough Bridge had been badly damaged again.

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

Councillors reported that the streetlight opposite the Butchers Arms was still on all of the time and street light number CCC4 along Fen Road was not working.

c) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding our 2013/2014 application under the Local Highways Improvement Initiative for the extension of the 40mph speed limit at Church End and the Give Way feature near to the Doctors Surgery.

The Highways Department had confirmed that Elbow Lane was included in the extension of the 40mph speed limit and that they would trial the proposed build out new to the Doctors

Surgery in the New Year.

d) To consider funding the replacement of the wooden fence on the edge of the highway and drain at Bridge Drove.

The Chairman advised that both the North Level Drainage Board and the County Council Highways were refusing to fund repairs to this fence as neither would accept responsibility or ownership.

Councillors resolved to defer any decision on this matter until the next meeting in order that they could visit the location and look at the damaged fence.

14/252. Update report from Councillor Cook on a Christmas Tree for the village green.

Councillor Cook advised that the Christmas tree had been ordered and the lights purchased but in view of recent events at the Swan Inn no more progress had been made on this matter.

14/253. Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

Councillor Cook had nothing to report to the Council.

14/254. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

There were no questions raised by Councillors.

14/255. Any other business (information items only).

The Clerk advised that the Cage Clock would have the annual service completed on Monday 15th December.

A wooden post on the edge of the village green near to the War Memorial had been hit by a passing vehicle and was leaning over. The Clerk was requested to inspect this and arrange for any repairs required to be completed as soon as possible.

14/256. Dates for future Council meetings.

Councillors resolved to hold a Human Resources Meeting at 7.00pm prior to the Budget & Precept Meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday 7th January 2015.

The next full Council Meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 14th January 2015 at 7.00pm in The Cage.

Councillors agreed to discuss and agree on dates for future meetings up to the May election at the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.55pm