

## **Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in The Cage on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2014.**

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

Cllr G Gillick (CCC) & Cllr D Broker (F.D.C.). 1 member of the public.

### **14/217. To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies had been received from Councillor Kraus, Councillor Everett & PCSO D Russ.

### **14/218. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.**

There were no requests from Councillors for Dispensations.

### **14/219. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.**

Councillor Cook declared an interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 14/232 as he is an Officer on the Amenities 95 Committee.

Councillor Spriggs declared an interest in respect of Agenda items Numbered 14/226c and 14/228b as a close family member is an Allotment tenant.

Councillor Booth declared an interest in respect of Agenda Items Numbered 14/226c and 14/228b as he is a Garden Allotment tenant.

### **14/220. Community Police Officers Report.**

An email had been received from PCSO Russ detailing the crimes and incidences in the parish since the last meeting advising that there had been one crime of theft of a motor vehicle. There had been a number of oil thefts in rural area over the past few weeks and PCSO Russ recommended that PIR sensor security lights covering the area of oil tanks or alarms that activate when the oil level dramatically decreases would help to protect this valuable commodity.

### **14/221. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.**

The parishioner present at the meeting thanked the Council for getting the roadside grass verges cut following his letter of complaint and reiterated his request for the hedge to be cut back along the footpath up to Clough Bridge. A request was also made for the Parish Council Minutes to be displayed on the Community Notice Board outside the Village Hall and it was agreed that the Clerk would action this request.

### **14/222. To approve & sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 8th October 2014.**

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

### **14/223. Matters Arising from the Minutes (For information only).**

Questionnaires had been sent out with Village Voices and an article had been included in the November issue regarding the County Councils Bus Review project.

The Chairman had attended the Local Highways Improvement Panel Meeting to give a presentation on our application for a footpath along Sealeys Lane and the joint application with Wisbech St Mary Parish Council for improvements to the Bellamy Bridge junction. A decision on all applications will be made by the County Council at a meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

**14/224. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.**

Councillor Broker advised that there were still some major concerns over the districts street lights, Balfour Beatty were conducting another survey and information would be available in the New Year. The District Council were looking into the possibility of moving premises and transferring to the County Council premises at Hereward Hall.

Councillor Gillick advised that the County Council were looking at various options to reduce their expenditure and reductions were very likely to be made on the winter road gritting programme, street lighting illumination periods and roadside grass verge cutting being cut back from 3 to 2 cuts per year.

Councillor Gillick was organising a petition for traffic calming schemes in the villages and requested the Chairman attend a meeting to give a presentation on this issue.

Councillor Booth advised that Alan Pain, District Councils Monitoring Officer was leaving at the end of February 2015. The Local Development Plan may be looked at again in order to clarifying the windfall policy.

**14/225. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.**

a). 1. Mr T Jarvis, Planning Application No. F/YR14/0825/PNCOU, Agent Peter Humphrey Associates, for the change of use of agricultural buildings to a 2 bed dwelling and workshop barns land west of Carousel, 117 Back Road, Murrow.

Councillors resolved to object to this application in view of the inadequate road.

a) 2. Parson Drove Parish Council, Planning Application No F/YR14/0848/TRCA, felling of 1 Birch Tree, 2 Crabapple Trees and 1 Cherry Tree and works 3 Maple Trees, 2 Hornbeam Trees, 1 Lime Tree and 1 Norway Maple Tree within a Conservation Area on the Village Green, Parson Drove.

Application noted.

a) 3. Parson Drove Parish Council, Planning Application No F/YR14/0849/TPOCA, works to 3 Lime Trees, 2 Horse chestnut Trees, 7 Plane Trees and 1 Oak Tree subject to a Tree Preservation Order on the Village Green, Parson Drove.

Application noted.

b) Notification that the following planning applications have been approved.

1. Mr A Viller, Planning Application No. F/YR14/0703/F, Agent Peter Humphrey Associates, for the erection of a single storey dwelling with integral garage on land north east of Avondale, Fen Road, fronting Swan Gardens, Parson Drove.

The Chairman had raised various questions as to why this application had been approved and the decision made by delegated powers but as yet had not received a response to all of the queries raised.

2. T Gray, Planning Application No F/YR14/0763/F, Agent K Elener, for the insertion of a 2 bay window and door canopy to the front elevation, erection of a single storey rear extension including raising the roof involving the demolition of the existing rear lean to extension, garage and outbuildings to existing dwelling of Rosewood, Seadyke Bank, Murrow.

Noted by Councillors.

3. Mr A Mclean, Planning Application No. F/YR14/0697/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.

As the planning permission did not include any conditions relating the Covenant and Bond as requested by the Parish Council and agreed by the applicant the Clerk was requested to make enquiries with the Planning Officer regarding this omission.

c) Update from Fenland District Council regarding the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and developer contributions in Fenland.

The District Council had looked into implementing the Community Infrastructure Levy but had decided that this was not the most appropriate or efficient route to take and therefore they would continue to use Section 106 agreements.

Councillors resolved to respond advising that they did not agree with this decision as Section 106 agreements would not assist Parish Councils with funding or provide funding for improving the districts infrastructure.

#### **14/226. Accounts & Finance.**

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

Konica Minolta Business Solutions, quarter years photocopier rental and copy charges, £114.13. L.G.A. 1972 s111.

Anglian Water, water rates for The Cage, £15.25. L.G.A. 1972 s133.

Crowson & Ward Limited, administration supplies, £20.33. L.G.A. 1972 s111.

b) Update report regarding future Concurrent Functions Grant from Fenland District Council. The Chairman advised that representatives from 5 Parish Councils had attended the Fenland C&PALC Meeting in October. Representatives from the Parish Councils at this meeting were of the opinion that the distribution of the Concurrent Function Grant should remain unchanged.

The Chairman proposed that the distribution of the concurrent function grant should stay the same as it was considered to be fair and based on services provided by our Parish. Councillors agreed unanimously to this proposal. Clerk to inform Fenland District Council.

c) Report on the collection of rents for the Riverside Garden Allotments and Fen Allotments. The Clerk advised that all rents had been paid except for 1 Fen Allotment Tenant and 4 Riverside Garden Allotment Tenants. Councillors agreed for reminder letters to be sent to the tenants if the rents were not received in the next few days.

#### **14/227. Report on progress from the working group on Neighbourhood Planning.**

The Chairman advised that the working group were putting together the questionnaire for distribution in the New Year. Grant funding was now available again and Cambridgeshire ACRE were being asked to assist with putting together a grant application.

#### **14/228. Parish Property.**

a) Seadyke Pit.

The Clerk advised that the owner of the adjoining property had raised some concerns regarding the alleged sale of this land and possible unauthorised encampment. Assurances had been given by the Clerk to the parishioner that the land had not been sold and Councillors agreed to be vigilant regarding any possible unauthorised use.

b) Riverside Garden Allotments & Fen Allotments.

The Clerk advised that there had been no issues raised by tenants.

c) War Memorial.

The Chairman advised that a parishioner had volunteered to clean and repaint the railings around the War Memorial. Councillor resolved that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr W Sivyer.

d) Trees on the village green.

A further 5 Rowan trees had been planted by the Street Pride Group to replace the trees damaged in the spring by UK Power Network that had been planted to replace the Lime Trees felled last year.

e) Swings on the village green.

The Clerk advised that she had meet with one contractor to discuss the cost of replacing the swings on the village green and a quotation would be provided shortly. Other contractors were also being approached to provide quotations and the possibility of grant funding for the project was being investigated.

**14/229. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.**

a) Information regarding the Wryde Croft Wind Farm.

Information had been received regarding the recent RES meeting to discuss the community benefits package and to introduce Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, the organisation that has been appointed to administer the Community Benefit Fund. Noted by Councillors.

b) Guidance notes received from Fenland District Council regarding the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014.

Councillors resolved to follow the guidance issued by the District Council.

c) Letter from a parishioner complaining about the over grown grass verges between Clough Bridge and the centre of the village and the over grown hedge from Clough Bridge and The Yews.

Since receiving the letter of complaint the roadside grass verges had been cut and the over grown hedge had already been reported to the Highways Authority in September.

d) Letter from the Local Government Boundary Commission advising that they have commenced an electoral review of Cambridgeshire County Council and the consultation begins on the 28<sup>th</sup> October and will end on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015. Email from Cambridgeshire County Council inviting Councillors to attend a presentation to explain the review process to be held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 2.30pm at Fenland Hall.

Councillors C Bellamy and G Bellamy agreed to attend the meeting at Fenland Hall on the 19<sup>th</sup> November on behalf of the Parish Council.

e) Invitation to attend C&PALC Annual General Meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> November.

The Chairman advised that he hoped he would be able to attend the meeting.

f) Invitation from Cambridgeshire ACRE to attend a Fenland Parish and Market Town Forum on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 2.00pm at The Eastrea Centre, Coates Road, Eastrea.

There were no Councillors able to attend this meeting.

g) Response from North Level Internal Drainage Board regarding the access track in front of Riverside Gardens to the Allotment Gardens.

The Clerk advised that there appeared to be no legal agreement allowing tenants to use the access track along the drain to access the Riverside Allotment Gardens and North Level Drainage Board were not prepared to enter into any such formal agreement.

A letter from North Level Drainage Board dated 5<sup>th</sup> July 2004 confirmed that they had no objections to our tenants using the track to access the Allotment Gardens and the recent email stated they were happy for our tenants to continue to use this access track but they were not prepared to spend any money on improving the condition of the track. The recent email also confirmed that the tenant who farmed the land adjoining the Allotment Gardens had a right of access along the drain access track.

h) Letter from Lee Bolton Monier-Williams, Solicitors advising of the amendment requested to the wording of 12e of the transfer document by the Parochial Church Council regarding the Churchyard Extension.

Information noted by Councillors.

**14/230. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.**

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

Councillors advised of pot holes along Marshall Bank, Harolds Bridge and Sealeys Lane and dips in the road surface at Elbow Lane and Highside.

Overgrown hedges and trees at Elbow Lane and The Bank towards Clough Bridge.

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

Street Light FPC 14 was still on all of the time.

The street lights at Swan Bridge and outside Yucca House, Church End were 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.

Councillors resolved to request that the proposed build out near the Doctors Surgery, Church End be trialled at the location being suggested by the County Council before any final decision is made on the exact location in view some reservations raised.

d) Concerned raised by a resident of The Bank regarding safety of pedestrians using the footpath.

Councillors resolved to make enquiries with the Highways Department into the possibility of introducing an advisory speed limit of 20mph and the costs involved.

**14/231. Update report from Councillor Cook on a Christmas Tree for the village green.**

Councillor Cook advised that the cost of purchasing a Christmas Tree and lights was estimated to be £140 for the tree and £100 for the lights. The landlords of the Swan Inn had agreed to plant the tree and install the electricity cabling free of charge.

Councillors resolved to agree to the purchase of the tree and lights for a total cost of £240 subject to the landlords of the Swan Inn planting the tree, installing the electricity cable and providing the electricity supply. Councillor Cook agreed to liaise with the landlords to progress the project.

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**14/232. Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.**

Councillor Cook advised that the pest control contractors were still treating the area previously identified as having a problem with rats every 3 months. The Christmas decorations were being put up in the Village Hall on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

**14/233. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.**

There were no questions asked by Councillors.

**14/234. Any other business (information items only).**

Councillor Spriggs advised that he believed the building plot next to the Cage had been sold.

**14/235. Dates for future Council meetings.**

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 7.00pm in The Cage.

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015, 7.00pm in The Cage.

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015, 7.00pm in The Cage.

Councillors agreed to hold an additional meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015 in order to set the budget and precept for 2015/2016.

Meeting closed at 9.55pm