

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in The Cage on Wednesday 8th October 2014.

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

14/194. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Councillor Everett & PCSO Dave Russ.

14/195. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests for dispensations.

14/196. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillor Booth declared a Pecuniary Interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 14/205 b) as he is an Allotment Garden tenant. and left the room when this matter was discussed.

Councillor Booth declared a Non Pecuniary Interest in respect of Agenda items Number 14/204 and 14/209 as he is a member of both of these groups.

Councillor Spriggs declared a Pecuniary Interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 14/205 a) as his son is an Allotment tenant and left the room when this matter was discussed. Councillor Spriggs declared a Non Pecuniary Interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 14/202 a) as he resides at Riverside Gardens.

Councillor Cook declared a Non Pecuniary Interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 14/209 and 14/213 as he is a member of both these organisations.

14/197. Community Police Officers Report.

PCSO Russ had sent an email to the Clerk detailing the crimes and incidences since the last meeting advising that there had been 2 crimes consisting of theft of a motor vehicle and theft of a cycle and 3 incidences consisting of two rowdy nuisances by youths and one noise complaint about a farmer ploughing at night.

The next North Rural Forum will be held in Tydd St Giles on Thursday 11th March 2015 when the Horizon Outreach vehicle will be located at the village hall from 12 noon to 5.00pm.

14/198. 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.

14/199. To approve & sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th September 2014.

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

14/200. Matters Arising from the Minutes (For information only).

The Clerk advised that UK Power Network had advised that any parish council street lights position on the old poles currently being replaced by UK Power Network would be transferred onto the new poles.

14/201. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

Councillor Booth advised that the Districts Building Control Services will be outsourced in the future. Proposed changes to procedures for when a District Councillor calls in a Planning Application have been amended so that the request is now considered by the Chairman of the Planning Committee, the Chief Planning Officer and the Legal Officer.

Proposed changes to the Delegated Powers for Planning Officers allow them to determine applications for up to 10 dwellings and now been amended to no more than 2 dwellings.

Councillor Gillick advised that he was pursuing his request for traffic calming measures but would not be obtaining a petition for Parson Drove as we already had the evidence following the refresh of the Parish Plan. This information would be presented to the next County Council's Infrastructure Meeting and Councillor Gillick invited the Chairman to attend to make representations to the committee. Councillor Gillick would also be inviting Wisbech St Mary Parish Council to attend this meeting.

Councillor Gillick was attending a meeting to discuss transport issues relating to Kings Lynn Hospital.

14/202. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) 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.

Councillors resolved to object to this application and recommend refusal as the proposed development was outside the curtilage and development footprint of the village and contrary to Policy LP12. The access was unacceptable as it was a track and had only recently been gravelled. The proposed dwelling was over development for the site and provided inadequate amenity space. If approved it would set a precedent and would also bring the number of dwellings using Swan Gardens up to 6 and therefore the road should be made up to an adoptable standard.

b) 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.

Councillors resolved to support this application and recommend approval is granted as the proposals would improve the property and street scene.

c) 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.

Councillors resolved to support the application and recommend approval is granted but raised concerns regarding the windows on the west elevation resulting in loss of amenity to the neighbouring property.

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

C Delaney, Planning Application No. F/YR14/0643/F, No Agent, for the erection of a 2m high (max height) fence & gates to front boundary of existing dwelling (retrospective) at The Mulberries, 23 Main Road, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

e) Notification by email that the file on the Old Farmhouse, 27 Main Road, Parson Drove regarding the brick pillars has been closed by the District Council now that the pillars have been reduced to 1 metre and are therefore permitted development.

Information noted by Councillors.

14/203. Accounts & Finance.

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

Bowles Tree & Garden Services, staining of wood on the bus shelter, £180. L.G.M.P Act 1953 s 4.

Information Commissioners, Data Protection Registration renewal, £35. L.G.A. 1972 s 111.

PKF Littlejohn LLP, External Auditors Fees, £240. Accounts & Audit Regulations.

EON, electricity for The Cage, £33.11. L.G.A. 1972 s 133.

b) Information from Rural Cambs Citizens Advice Bureau regarding costs to restart the outreach sessions at Parson Drove.

In view of the substantial increase in the cost per session Councillors resolved to approach Wisbech St Mary and Gorefield Parish Councils to see if the sessions could be held for all three of the parishes in order to share the costs.

c) Payments received. Cheque for £125 from UK Power Networks compensation for damaged trees on the village green and BACS from Fenland District Council £8,470.50 second half of Precept. Noted by Councillors.

d) To receive and approve a Receipts and Payments Bank Reconciliation & Budget Update Report.

Councillors resolved to approve the reports presented by the Clerk.

e) Update on quotation for fence at Swan Bridge.

The Clerk advised that a written quotation had still not been received and therefore it was agreed that the Clerk would look into this.

f) Letter from Fenland District Council regarding the future of the Concurrent Functions Grant.

The Chairman advised that this matter had been included in the Agenda for a meeting on the 16th October organised by C&PALC in the hope that most Parish Councils would attend the meeting to discuss and agree on a way forward. Failing this it was anticipated that the District Council would continue with the existing allocation of this grant to the parishes with no further reductions subject to District Council approval. The information regarding the street lights requiring replacement had still not been received despite several requests for this to be resolved.

g) Notification from the External Auditors that the Annual Return for the Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2014 has been approved with no issues arising.

Information noted by Councillors and the Chairman thanked the Clerk on behalf of the Council for achieving this result.

h) Letter from Fenland District Council advising that future Recycling Credits will be paid yearly instead of quarterly in June 2015 for recycling credits from April 2014 to March 2015. Information noted by Councillors.

i) To approve the purchase of a Wreath for the Remembrance Day Service.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to order a wreath from the Royal British Legion.

14/204. Report on progress from the working group on Neighbourhood Planning.

Councillor Kraus advised that 30 people attended the public meeting held on the 25th September including members of the working group, Parish Councillors and District Councillors. The meeting was also supported by Rachel Brown from Cambridgeshire ACRE and Gareth Martin Senior Development Officer from Fenland District Council. The next meeting of the working group will be held on the 23rd October when the main item for discussion will be the questionnaire to be distributed through the village as soon as possible.

14/205. Parish Property.

a) Annual review of the Fen Allotments Rent.

Councillor Spriggs and the Clerk left the room before discussions began.

Councillor Kraus proposed that the rent be increased from £95 per acre to £125 per acre for tenants with more than 2 acres and for tenants with 1 or 2 acres for the rent to remain at £85 per acre. This proposal was seconded by the Chairman and approved by a majority vote with 4 votes in favour and 1 against.

b) Annual review of the Riverside Garden Allotments Rent.

The Chairman and Clerk left the room before discussions began.

Councillor Kraus proposed that the rent be increased from £25 to £30 for a full garden. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Cook and agreed unanimously.

14/206. To discuss complaints received about the condition of the access roadway to the Riverside Garden Allotments.

Councillor Spriggs advised that there were large holes and ruts in the access roadway caused by tractors using the roadway to access the fields beyond the Parish Council's Garden Allotments. The holes and ruts were filling up with water and could cause damage to the adjacent wall in front of 1 to 6 Riverside Gardens and it was making it difficult for some tenants to access their Allotment Gardens.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to write to North Level Drainage Board advising them of the problems and request that they make arrangements for the access road to be made up to improve the situation.

14/207. A report from the Chairman on the meeting held on Monday 15th September to discuss the Cambridgeshire Future Transport subsidies bus review project.

The aim of this exercise was to save money on subsidies given to provide bus services.

Questionnaires had been supplied by the County Council and the Chairman was hoping that these could be delivered with Village Voices. Drop in Sessions were also being held to obtain as many views as possible.

14/208. Emmanuel Churchyard Extension.

a) Letter from Lee Bolton Monier-Williams Solicitors acting for the Ely Diocesan Board of Finance enclosing the transfer document for the Emmanuel Churchyard extension and requesting that this is signed by the Parish Council and returned to them.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman signed the transfer document and this was witnessed by the Clerk in order that it may be returned to the Solicitors.

14/209. Request from the Street Pride Group for a letter required for a grant application, confirming that the Parish Council have authorised the group to improve the flower beds in the parish.

Councillor Spriggs proposed that a letter confirming that the Parish Council had previously given permission to the Street Pride Group for them to improve and maintain the flower beds to further enhance the village. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Kraus and carried unanimously.

14/210. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Information regarding a meeting to discuss the Community Benefit scheme for the Wryde Croft Wind Farm.

Unfortunately the Chairman and Vice Chairman could not attend this meeting but the Council would receive information on the matters discussed and agreed at the meeting in due course.

b) Notification from C&PALC of the Fenland Associations Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday 16th October at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber at Fenland Hall, March when the allocation of the Concurrent Functions Grant from Fenland District Council will be discussed and agreed.

The Chairman advised that he would be attending the meeting.

c) C&PALC September News Bulletin.
Information noted by Councillors.

14/211. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.

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

There were no new highway issues raised.

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

It was reported that the street light on Swan Bridge was not working and FPC 14 was still on all the time.

c) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council, regarding the application under the Local Highways Improvement Initiative 2015/16 for Bellamy Bridge.

A joint application had been submitted by the Clerk but there was some confusion as to whether the joint application would be processed or if it would be changed to just Wisbech St Mary Parish Council as only one application per parish was allowed.

The panel meeting to discuss the applications was being held on the 24th October and the Chairman would attend to make representations on both the footpath for Sealeys Lane and improvements to Bellamy Bridge.

Information had also been received for this year's application regarding the extension of the 40mph speed limit at Church End and a build out near to the Doctors Surgery. Councillors agreed to the proposals being put forward for the extension of the speed limit subject to this also including Elbow Lane. It was suggested that the proposed location for the build out would need to be moved further east but the Chairman and Vice Chairman agreed to visit the site before responding.

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d) Maintenance of the roadside verges.

A parishioner offer to cut the verge at the top of John Bends Way and in front of the Bowling Green.

The Chairman advised that the grass verge at the top of John Bends Way and near to the litter bin was over grown and therefore a parishioner had offered to maintain this. It was agreed that the parishioner would need to become a member of the Street Pride Group in order for this offer to be accepted to ensure insurance cover was in place. The Clerk advised that the last road side verge cut of the season was still to be completed by the contractor.

14/212. Request by Councillor Cook for the Parish Council to consider providing a Christmas Tree for the village green.

Councillors resolved to defer any decision on this matter until Councillor Cook could provide more information regarding costs involved.

14/213. Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

Councillor Cook advised that extra gravel had been laid on the front car park of the Village Hall. In view of recent anti social behaviour a quotation was being obtained for CCTV at the front of the Village Hall.

14/214. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

Councillor Cook asked the Chairman if he was aware that the Independent Living Fund was being withdrawn and if he considered that this was acceptable. The Chairman advised that he was aware of this but understood that it was a decision by Central Government and the County Council and not under the jurisdiction of the District Council.

14/215. Any other business (information items only).

Councillor Spriggs advised that a wooden post on the village green would appear to have been removed near to 20 and 21 The Bank. The Clerk agreed to look into this matter.

14/216. Dates for future Council meetings.

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 12th November in The Cage.

Meeting closed 9.55pm.