

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in The Cage on Wednesday 12th August 2015.

Attended by Councillors G Booth (Chairman), P Spriggs (Vice Chairman), C Bates, J Cook, J Hunt & C Killingworth.
G. Gillick (CCC) & 1 member of the public.

15/179. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Cllr P Williams and District Councillor S Bligh.

15/180. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests from Councillors for dispensations.

15/181. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillor Killingworth declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 15/187 a) as the applicant was her daughter's father in law.

Councillor Cook declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No.15/196 as he is a member and officer of the Amenities 95 Committee.

15/182. Public Participation – to allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

The member of the public had recently moved to Back Road, Murrow and expressed his concern about the speeding traffic along the road, particularly at the junction of Back Road, Silvers Lane and Front Road when the give way signs were often ignored. The Council were asked if they could assist by installing some form of traffic calming measures at this location. The Chairman advised that these concerns had been raised before but in view of the lack of funding allocated by the County Council for any such measures the only option would be to submit an application for changes to the junction under the Local Highways Improvements bids. Councillors agreed that they would consider this location when discussing their application for the financial year 2016/2017.

15/183. To approve & sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 8th July 2015.

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

15/184. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 8th July 2015 (Information only).

The Clerk advised that she had contacted Anglian Water regarding the route for the water supply for the building plot next to The Cage but they were unable to trace an application from the post code and had requested an application number. The Clerk had requested this information from the developer/builder but as he was away on holiday she had not yet received this information.

The storage container sited in front of the building plot had still not been relocated despite our request and the developer had advised that he was checking with the Land Registry regarding his boundary.

15/185. Community Police Officers Report.

The Clerk advised that PCSO Morrison had indicated that she would try and attend the meeting but she had advised that there had not been any significant crimes or incidences in the parish during the last 2 months.

The Chairman raised the matter of the recent road traffic accident along Main Road near to Newlands Road as he had received several complaints on how the police dealt with this incident. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should write to the Wisbech Inspector regarding the lack of speeding enforcement and the loss of the speed watch team carrying out any checks this year.

15/186. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

County Councillor Gillick advised that despite asking for improvements to the Highways in Fenland the response was always no as there was no funding available. The Boundary Review was costing a considerable amount together with the review of waste disposal. Suggestions had been made that funding should be given directly to the Parish and Town Councils in order for them to take on more responsibility for the provision of services within their parish.

District Councillor Booth advised that Cllr W Sutton is the Deputy Leader, Planning Services was now being shared with Peterborough City Council but for the time being Street Cleansing was to remain with the District Council. The District Council had made recommendations on the County Council Boundary Review but their suggested was for splitting the ward of Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary. Funding of £176,000 had been allocated to street lighting for the replacement of Parish street lights classed in category 2 and a letter should have been sent to us advising of this decision.

15/187. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) L A Allen, Planning Application No. F/YR15/0549/F, Agent D Broker, for the erection of a three storey 6 bed roomed dwelling with a two storey detached garage on plot 2 land west of 114 Main Road, Parson Drove.

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

b) P Redman, Planning Application No F/YR15/0613/F, Agent Swann Edwards Architecture Ltd., for alterations to existing garage to incorporate shop area and erection of a single storey extension to the front and a detached storage building to the rear of The Post Office, 7 The Bank, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to support this application although they had some reservations about parking provision.

c) Notification from Fenland District Council that the following Planning Application has been approved.

R Goy, Planning Application No. F/YR15/0373/PNCOU, Agent DLP Planning Limited, for agricultural barn conversion to residential use, land at Bridge Farm, Long Drove, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

d) Notification from Fenland District Council that the following Planning Application has been refused.

Mr Woolcott, Planning Application No. F/YR15/0482/F, Agent Swann Edwards Architecture Ltd., for the erection of a 2 storey 4 bed roomed dwelling with integral garage involving the demolition of existing dwelling and outbuilding at Rupen, Long Drove, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

15/188. Accounts & Finance.

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

Mrs Y Reader, Clerks monthly salary & expenses, £505.34. L.G.A. 1972 s112.

Anglian Water, water rates on the Cage, £16.18. L.G.A. 1972 s133.

Konica Minolta, photocopier quarterly rental and copy charges, £173.65. L.G.A. 1972 s.111.

Rural Cambs Citizens Advice Bureau, July Outreach session, £78.70. L.G.A. 1972 s142.

Fenland District Council, planning application fee for Churchyard extension, change of use from agriculture to burial ground, £192.50. L.G.A. 1972 s214(6).

15/189. Report on progress from the working group on Neighbourhood Planning.

The Chairman advised that the final amendments were being made to the questionnaire and this should be delivered to householders during September.

15/190. To consider requesting the removal of the Recycling/Bottle Banks on the village green.

Councillors were informed that the glass bottle banks earned nothing for the parish in view of the low recycling credits now received by the District Council. Councillor Cook agreed to monitor how much these bottle banks were used and report back to the next meeting.

15/191. Risk Assessment

Report on the annual inspection of trees on the village green and village pond.

A report on the condition of the trees on the village green was presented to Councillors and it was agreed that the Clerk arrange a meeting with the District Council's tree officer to discuss the recommendations made before submitting a planning application for permission to carry out the work suggested.

The Chairman advised that it had been recommended that the fallen branch in the pond be removed as soon as possible as this would root and be more difficult to remove in the future if left. A verbal estimate of £350 had been given and the Clerk was to obtain this in writing. The problem with the telephone wires going to the adjoining property was due to the tree branch growing and damaging the cable. Councillors resolved for the Clerk to write to BT asking them to relocate the cable before it is broken.

15/192. To appoint a Parish Council Representative to attend the Leverington Charity Feoffees meeting on Tuesday 15th September 2015.

Councillors resolved to appoint Cllr C Killingworth to attend the meeting as a representative of the Parish Council.

15/193. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Letter from a parishioner regarding the removal of the iron work on the village green during the annual inspection of assets in June.

Councillor Spriggs advised that the iron work needed to be repaired by a blacksmith and the wooden post also need replacing as it was rotten at the bottom, he would arrange for this to be completed after harvest. The Clerk was requested to write to the parishioner informing him of the position and assuring him that the iron work would be replaced in due course.

b) Letter from Circle Housing regarding the trees planted to the front of John Peck Close, Church End.

In view of the response received advising that the trees would not be removed but looked after under their maintenance programme Councillors resolved to look into the planning conditions imposed and if necessary suggest that this planning condition is removed as clear vision had always been a concern when discussing this joint project.

c) Letter from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding the Public Rights of Way grass cutting for 2015.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to advise the County Council that some of the rights of way have not been cut at all this year even though this should have been completed in July.

d) Invitation from Fenland District Council to attend a VJ Service of Commemoration on Friday 14th August at 2,30pm.

Information noted by Councillors.

e) Letter from the Landlady of the Swan Inn requesting permission to use the village green for their Summer Fun Days on the 29th & 30th August.

Councillors resolved to grant permission for the Summer Fun Days and it was suggested that perhaps some tape could be put up around the village green to deter parking on the grass.

15/194. To report on site meeting held with Elgood & Sons Ltd to discuss improvements to the car parking facilities around the Swan Inn.

The Chairman advised that it had been suggested by Elgood & Sons Ltd., that some markers be put up similar to those already installed at the Brewery to see how this worked. A detailed plan would be provided by Elgoods but had not yet been received.

15/195. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.

a) Highway issues to be reported to Cambridgeshire County Council and a report on responses received from issues raised last month.

A response had been received from the County Council Highways regarding the outstanding pot holes along Elbow Lane advising that they were not deep enough yet to warrant repairs. Councillor Hunt requested that the Clerk respond to the response received questioning the logic of their approach.

A similar response had also been received regarding the pot holes along Harolds Bank.

The Clerk was asked to report again the large pot hole at the top of Sealeys Lane. Councillors also requested that the condition of Murrow Bank be reported together with over grown hedges along Silvers Lane and Highside.

b) Letter from Cambridgeshire County Council Highways regarding the Local Highway Improvement Initiative applications for 2016/2017 and inviting members to attend a workshop on Tuesday 15th September.

The Chairman advised that he would be attending the Open Day as he had received an invite as a District Councillor and Councillor Hunt agreed to attend on behalf of the Parish Council. Councillors resolved to discuss the application for the Local Highway Improvement Initiative at a future meeting and the Chairman suggested that perhaps Wisbech St Mary Parish Council would submit a joint application for the Back Road, Front Road, and Silvers Lane junction as they had also discussed concerns about this junction at their recent Parish Council Meeting.

c) Email response from North Level Internal Drainage Board regarding HGV traffic. North Level Drainage Board had responded advising that the heavy vehicles travelling through the villages were not causing any problems with their drainage system although they were aware of frequent damage being caused to Clough Bridge but this was a matter for the County Council Highways.

d) Letter from the County Council regarding the implementation of further energy savings for street lighting.

Councillors noted that the County Council were not intending to switch off our street lights after midnight although this was being introduced in some Towns and larger villages.

e) Faulty street lights to be reported to Cambridgeshire County Council. There were no faulty street lights reported at the meeting.

15/196. Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

Councillor Cook advised that the committee had received positive comments from the District Council to their pre-planning application for a new village hall. Councillors agreed that the Planning Application should be submitted by the Parish Council.

15/197. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

Councillor Hunt enquired if the Clerk had obtained any quotations for the repairs to the Cage roof as he had obtained one. The Clerk advised that she had not obtained any quotations and the matter would be discussed at the next meeting.

15/198. Any other business (information items only).

Councillor Bates advised that she was holding a Coffee Morning in the Cage on the 16th September 2015 to raise money for the up keep of the Cage.

15/199. To confirm dates for future Council meetings for 2015.

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 9th September 2015.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm