

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in The Cage on Wednesday 14th January 2015.

Attended by Councillors G Booth (Chairman), P Spriggs (Vice Chairman), J Cook, & A Kraus. 1 member of the public.

15/14. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Councillors C. Bellamy, G Bellamy & P. Everett. District Councillor D Broker, County Councillor G Gillick and PCSO A Bush.

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

There were no requests for dispensations.

15/16. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillor Spriggs declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 15/25 as a close family member is an Allotment tenant.

Councillor Cook declared a Pecuniary Interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 15/29 as he is an Officer of the Amenities 95 Committee.

Councillor Booth declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 15/23b as he is an Allotment Garden tenant.

15/17. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

The member of the public present had been invited to attend the meeting to explain in more detail his plans for a fruit orchard relating to his application for a Fen Allotment tenancy. Details were provided to Councillors regarding the proposed maintenance and planting of the orchard together with projected costs. The main area of concern regarding the clearing of the orchard should the tenancy end was also discussed and the applicant agreed to consider the suggestion of a prepaid security bond.

15/18. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 7th January 2015.

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

15/19. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 7th January 2015. (Information only).

The Chairman advised that he had finally received a reply to all of his queries relating to the planning approval granted for planning application number F/YR14/0703/F. The County Council Highways Authority had not raised any objections relating to the access and therefore the application could not be refused on these grounds. The criteria for a road having to be adopted was if 6 or more properties were built as one development on a site but this did not apply for the development of individual dwellings resulting in time of a total of more than 6 properties.

The Clerk advised that she had now received a copy of the correspondence requested from the planning department relating to the covenant and bond for planning application number F/YR14/0697/O and would contact the applicant in order to arrange for this formal agreement to be completed between the Parish Council and the applicant.

The Clerk advised that Gorefield Parish Council had confirmed that they would like to be part of the Citizens Advice Bureau Outreach Sessions but she was still waiting to hear further from the Citizens Advice Bureau on this matter.

15/20. Community Police Officers Report.

PCSO A Bush had emailed a report to the Clerk advising of all the crimes in the parish and surrounding area for the last 2 months. There was only 1 crime of a theft of a quad bike from Long Drove listed for the parish and Councillors requested that the Clerk enquire as to why the incident at the Swan Inn in late November was not included in the report.

15/21. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

District Councillor Booth advised that Carol Pilson is the new District Council Monitoring Officer. Community House in Wisbech would continue to operate following a grant obtained to secure the funding of this facility. Councillor Booth also raised the concern that support for rural deprived areas had greatly reduced since the re-organisation of the Communities Team at Fenland District Council.

15/22. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) R Goy, Planning Application No. F/YR14/1013/PNCOU, Agent DLPP Planning Consultants, for the change of use of agricultural buildings to two 2 bed dwellings and associated building operations south of Bridge Farm, Long Drove, Parson Drove. Councillors resolved by a majority vote to object to this application as they considered that the location was too far out from the centre of the village and contrary to Policy LP 12 Part B of the Local Plan.

b) Notification from Fenland District Council that the following Planning Application has been included in the Agenda for the Planning Committee Meeting on the 14th January 2015. L Allen, Planning Application No. F/YR14/0935/F, Agent D Broker, for the erection of a detached car port to front of existing dwelling at 331 Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove. Information noted by Councillors.

c) Notification from Fenland District Council of the public consultation on the Developer Contributions SPD and requesting the Councils views about what infrastructure is considered to be important and should be included in any development in our area.

Councillors resolved to respond to the consultation requesting that the provision of footpaths in rural areas on road frontage development, even for single dwellings, was included as the funding for footpaths in rural areas by the County Council was non-existent. Also that the provision of street lighting in rural areas was included.

In response to the request for views on what infrastructure is considered to be important and should be included in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan for any development in our parish Councillors resolved to put forward the following:

Footpaths for Fen Road & Sealeys Lane, street lighting, improvements to the Swan Bridge junction, play equipment for juniors on the playing field and a new or major refurbishment of the village hall.

15/23. Accounts & Finance

a). Councillors resolved to approve the following invoices for payment.
D A Pest Control, annual mole control contract, £350.P.H.A. 1987 s 164.
EON, electricity for The Cage, £78.88. L.G.A. 1972 s 133.

b) Report on outstanding Allotment Rents and agree on action to be taken.

The Clerk advised that the allotment rent was still outstanding for one tenant but he had offered to pay £250 this week with the balance being paid next month.

Councillors resolved to accept this offer on the understanding that the total outstanding rent was paid by the end of February 2015.

15/24. Report on progress from the working group on Neighbourhood Planning.

Councillors were advised that there was no progress to report as the last meeting had been cancelled and the next meeting was not until later in the month.

15/25. Allotments & Gardens.

To consider a letter received from an applicant for the Fen Allotments.

Councillors resolved to defer a final decision on this matter until the next meeting but would consider the request for a 2 acre allotment tenancy. The applicant had agreed to measure the area to ascertain if this would be an adequate size for the proposed orchard and he would also confirm the exact number and costs of the trees together with a response to the Councils suggestion of a prepaid bond as financial assurance that the allotment would be cleared at the end of the tenancy. Councillors also agreed that a boundary hedgerow around the 2 acre allotment would not be permitted as indicated to the applicant during the discussion in public participation.

Councillors resolved by a majority vote to inform the other applicant that he could have the tenancy for the remaining 3 acres located in the centre of the field as this would not be acceptable to the Council for use as a fruit orchard.

15/26. To discuss concerns raised over delays by the Pharmacy in preparing repeat prescriptions.

The Chairman advised that this matter had been raised at Wisbech St Mary Parish Council and they had agreed to write to the Pharmacy regarding the delays being experienced by parishioners. It was understood that the Patient Group were also intending to raise their concerns on this matter.

Councillors resolved that a letter supporting parishioners concerns over the delays in obtaining repeat prescriptions should be sent to the Pharmacy.

15/27. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Email from Fenland District Council advising of the consultation from 5th January to 9th February on the Annual Corporate Plan.

Councillors resolved to write to the District Council expressing a view that the consultation document did not include issues or services particularly relevant to rural areas and did not provide adequate opportunities for the inhabitants of rural areas to respond to the consultation.

Councillors also considered that there should be more emphasis on communities and less for tourism and businesses support.

b) Letter of thanks from the Parochial Church Council for the grant of £500 towards the maintenance of the Churchyard.

Noted by Councillors.

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c) Letter from NALC advising of the launch of the new Local Council Award Scheme on the 6th January 2015 and advising that our Quality Council Status expires on the 31st January 2015.

Councillors resolved to accept the offer of a one year free Foundation Level Award under the new scheme and to review again the future options available after the May 2015 elections.

15/28. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.

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

Councillors considered that the recent work completed at Fen Road was poor and the Clerk was requested to obtain a copy of the 3 year Transport Plan to see if Fen Road was included for future works.

Concern was again expressed regarding the damage to Clough Bridge as this had still not been repaired.

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

The street light along Fen Road was still not working, Clerk to report again.

c) Grit Bin opposite Newlands Road.

Councillor Kraus advised that the grit bin had now been re-sited outside Rookery Homes, Main Road as previously agreed.

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

The Chairman explained that he had previously raised this matter with the County Council Highways Authority and North Level Drainage Board but neither authority would accept responsibility for the fence and agree to repair it.

Councillor Spriggs proposed that the Clerk write to both authorities as he considered that it was the responsibility of the County Council to repair this fence as it had been normal practice for safety barriers or fencing to be installed and maintained near drains by the highways authority. Councillor Cook seconded the proposal and after taking a vote it was carried unanimously.

15/29. Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

Councillor Cook advised that the electrical appliances in the village hall and pavilion had been PAT tested.

15/30. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

There were no questions put to the Chairman and Clerk by Councillors.

15/31. Any other business (information items only).

There were no matters raised by Councillors.

15/32. Dates for future Council meetings.

The following dates were confirmed for Council Meetings.

Wednesday 11th February, Wednesday 4th March and Wednesday 8th April 2015.

The Annual Parish Assembly Meeting would be held on Wednesday 29th April at 7.30pm in St Marks Church.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm.