

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in The Cage on Wednesday 25th March 2015.

Attended by Councillors G Booth (Chairman), P Spriggs (Vice Chairman), C Bellamy, G Bellamy, J Cook, P Everett & A Kraus. 2 members of the public.

15/77. To receive apologies for absence.

No apologies had been received.

15/78. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests for dispensations.

15/79. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillor Cook declared a Pecuniary Interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 15/94 as he is an Officer on the Amenities 95 Committee.

Councillor Spriggs declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 15/88 as a close family member is the tenant of the Allotments.

Councillor Booth declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 15/92d as he resides at John Bends Way.

15/80. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

The two members of the public spoke regarding their objections to the position of the proposed Give Way build out feature at Church End and outlined the reasons for their objections. A letter of objection from four residents had been sent to the County Council Highways setting out their objections and the Chairman was provided with a copy.

15/81. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 4th March 2015.

The Chairman and Clerk conveyed their thanks to Cllr Kraus for taking the notes at the meeting on the 4th March in view of the absence of the Clerk and subsequently preparing the draft minutes. The minutes were taken as read, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

15/82. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 4th March 2015. (Information only).

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

15/83. Community Police Officers Report.

The Clerk advised that no report had been received.

15/84. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

The Chairman advised that he had nothing to report as a District Councillor.

15/85. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) Mr & Mrs Ibrahim, Planning Application No. F/YR15/0147/F, Agent Ian Gowler, for the erection of a single storey and second storey side extensions to existing dwelling, Lauras View, Station Road, Parson Drove.

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

b) R Knight, Planning Application No. F/YR15/0152/F, Agent Scott Brown, for the erection of a first floor rear extension & formation of a new vehicular access to existing dwelling, The Rookery, 74 Main Road, Parson Drove.

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

c) R Mackay, Planning Application No. F/YR15/0173/F, Agent Morton & Hall Consulting Ltd., for the erection of a 2 storey side extension to existing dwelling Willow Lodge, 31B The Bank, Parson Drove.

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

d) Notification from Fenland District Council that the following Planning Applications have been approved.

1. M Woolcott, Planning Application No. F/YR15/0027/F, Agent Swann Edwards Consultants, for the erection of a 2 storey 4 bed dwelling with integral garage & formation of a new access involving demolition of existing dwelling & outbuilding Rupen, Long Drove, Parson Drove.

2. S Poultney, Planning Application No. F/YR15/0038/RM, Agent Swann Edwards, for the erection of a 2 storey 3 bed dwelling on land east of The Poplars, Back Road, Murrow.

Information noted by Councillors.

15/86. Accounts & Finance

a). To consider a request from Murrow Book Café for a grant/donation.

Councillors resolved to give a grant of £50. L.G.A. 1972 s137.

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

The reports presented by the Clerk were approved by Councillors with no issues arising from the reports other than to reiterate that the under spend in the various budget headings would be carried forward to the allocated cash reserve budgets heading for the next financial year.

c) To consider request from FACT for a grant.(Deferred at last meeting).

Councillors resolved to invite the Manager to attend the Annual Parish Assembly Meeting on the 29th April to give a presentation on the request for a grant and to discuss future transport provision in the parish.

15/87. Report on progress from the working group on Neighbourhood Planning.

Cllr Kraus advised that the draft Questionnaire had been forwarded to Fenland District Council for their comments and it was anticipated that this would be ready for distribution in late April or early May. The Working Group was meeting on Thursday when a programme of dates would be discussed. It was anticipated that the Referendum would be in October but confirmation of the planned timetable would hopefully be relayed to the Council at their next meeting.

15/88. Allotments & Gardens.

To consider a request from the tenant recently allocated the 5 acres of Allotments for a reduction in the rent for this year in view of the poor yield expected this year in view of the condition of the allotments.

Councillors resolved not to implement the planned increase of £30 per acre for this year in respect of the 5 acres recently taken over by the tenant.

15/89. Update report on restarting the Citizens Advice Outreach Sessions in April.

The Clerk advised that Gorefield Parish Council had requested the monthly session of May and Wisbech St Mary Parish Council had requested the June session leaving the April session for Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved not to start their sessions until July as there was insufficient time to advertise a session in April Councillor Cook confirmed that he would be the contact person and attend the quarterly sessions for Parson Drove.

15/90. To review Standing Orders and Financial Regulations in view of changes made to the models by NALC following recent legislation.(Deferred from last meeting)

Councillors reviewed the Standing Orders and resolved to make one change to Section 3 Meetings Generally which was to delete letter K to in view of the right of the press and public to record meetings following the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014.

Councillors reviewed the Financial Regulations and resolved to add two paragraphs under section 1.12 and add one paragraph under section 3.1 to take into account the changes in the model financial regulations issued by NALC in October 2014.

15/91. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Information from C&PALC regarding the Community Work Placement.

Councillors resolved not to take advantage of this scheme at the present time.

b) Letter from BT Payphones Planning Office giving communities the opportunity to adopt the remaining phone boxes.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to enquire as to whether the red telephone box in front of the Swan Inn was available for adoption.

c) C&PALC March Bulletin.

Noted by Councillors.

15/92. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.

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

Councillors reported that the road was dipping at the Main Road junction with Ingham Hall Gardens and a pot hole had reappeared outside St Johns Church, Main Road, Church End.

The Clerk was requested to ask again for the white line to be reinstated along The Bank highlighting the footpath.

b) Information received from the County Council Highways regarding the Local Highways Minor Improvement scheme for 2014 in relation to the extension of the speed limit at Church End and the Give Way feature.

The Chairman advised that he had spoken to the Officer regarding the extension of the speed limit at Church End and the proposed Give Way feature requesting confirmation that the extension of the speed limit included Elbow Lane. Residents objections to the proposed location of the Give Way feature had been discussed and although it had been suggested that this should be moved to outside the Doctors Surgery as originally intended the Officer would not agree to this request as it would create confusion for motorists.

An alternative suggestion of positioning the Give Way feature further out of the village away from residential properties was discussed but the Officer considered that this would not achieve our objective of slowing vehicles down near to the Doctors Surgery and he could not therefore support this proposed change of location for this type of feature. This location could be considered for a traffic calming feature similar to the one outside the school in the future. The County Council Highways Officer also suggested additional new signage near to the Doctors Surgery as part of the scheme for this year. Councillors resolved to postpone the installation of the Give Way feature and to proceed only with the extension of the 40mph speed limit and additional signage.

c) Update report on the Local Highways Minor Improvement scheme 2015 for Bellamy Bridge.

The Chairman advised that a Bridge Engineer had visited the site with the Chairman of Wisbech St Mary Parish Council to start and put together a proposed scheme ready for implementation later in the year.

d) Adoption of John Bends Way.

As it was now over two years since we had last received any update on this matter the Clerk was requested to enquire on the progress of the road being adopted by the County Council.

e) Request received for traffic calming at the entrance to Newlands Road.

In view of persistent speeding at the junction of Main Road and Newlands Road a resident had requested some temporary measures to be installed at the top of the road as he was fearful a vehicle would end up in his garden.

Councillors resolved to request the temporary installation of a sleeping policeman.

f) Complaint received regarding leaves on the footpath outside The Old Farmhouse & The Mulberries.

The Clerk advised that she had contacted the District Council requesting that the footpath be swept and although she had been advised that this had been done last week had subsequently requested that this was looked at again in view of the amount of leaves still evident close to the hedge.

g) Update report from Fenland District Council regarding the replacement of 2 street lights in Springfield Road and Balfour Beatty Inspection Report.

Fenland District Council had advised that the replacement street lights at Springfield Road would be placed on the edge of the footpath over coming any future right of access issues relating to the gardens where the existing streetlights are currently sited.

Our request for more detailed information from Balfour Beatty had been requested by the District Council but not yet received.

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

Councillors advised that the street lights previously reported had still not been repaired.

15/93. Parish Property.

Damaged wooden post on the village green near the War Memorial.

The Chairman advised that a wooden post had been knocked down by a vehicle and the number plate and small section of the vehicle had been retrieved. The Clerk was requested to report this criminal damage to the Police and to arrange for the post to be reinstalled.

15/94. Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

Cllr Cook advised that he had nothing to report other than to advise that the treasurer was ill but they were hoping the accounts would be finalised ready for the Annual General Meeting on the 10th April.

15/95. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

There were no questions asked by Councillors.

15/96. Any other business (information items only).

Councillor Everett advised that UK Power Network were trimming back some trees along The Bank past number 31 The Bank the following day and as a result of this work most of The Bank would be without electricity for the day although not enough notification of this work had been given to the Post Office.

The Clerk advised that she had already received one quotation for the replacement swings on the village green and had met with another company the previous day and would be meeting with a third company next Monday.

The Chairman advised that following a complaint received at the Street Pride Annual Meeting about the Crows and Rooks in the trees on the village green the Clerk was making enquiries as to what action could be taken ready for discussion at the next meeting.

15/97. Dates for future Council meetings.

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 8th April at 7.00pm in The Cage.

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

The Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th May at 7.00pm in The Cage.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm.