

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in The Cage on Wednesday 7th January 2015.

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

15/1. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Fenland District Councillor D Broker.

15/2. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests for dispensations.

15/3. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillor Spriggs declared a non pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda item Number 15/10 as a close relative is an allotment tenant.

15/4. 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.

15/5. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th December 2014.

The minutes were approved as a true record after inserting the two missing planning application numbers on page 1124, Agenda Item Number 14/242 and signed by the chairman.

15/6. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 10th December 2014. (Information only)

The Chairman advised that he had still not received a response from the District Council to his queries raised regarding permission being granted for Planning Application No. F/YR14/0703/F and had contacted the Chief Planning Officer.

The Clerk advised that she had still not received a copy of the correspondence requested from the District Council relating to the Bond and Covenant following permission being granted for Planning Application No. F/YR14/0697/O.

The Clerk advised that she had contact the Citizens Advice Bureau regarding the restarting of the Outreach Sessions but was waiting for a reply.

Councillor Cook advised that he believed the Christmas Tree was still going to be purchased and planted by the tenant of the Swan Inn.

15/7. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) 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. Councillors resolved to object to this application as they considered the location of the car port would have a detrimental impact on the street scene and would result in an adverse effect on the amenity of the neighbouring property.

b) Mr & Mrs G Cade, Planning Application No F/YR14/0973/F, Agent G Seaton, for the formation of a ménage involving the erection of four 10m high flood lights on land north of Fallowfields, Long Drove, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to support this application and recommend approval is granted as it would not have any adverse effect on neighbouring properties.

c) Notification from Fenland District Council that the following Planning Applications have been granted approval.

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.

Information noted by Councillors.

J Foster, Planning Application No F/YR14/0877/F, Agent Peter Humphrey Associates, erection of a single storey rear extension to existing dwelling involving demolition of stores to the rear and side at Church Farm, 315 Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

d) Notification from Fenland District Council that the following application has been refused. R Knight, Planning Application No. F/YR14/0867/F, Agent S Brown, for a first floor rear extension & a detached garage involving the demolition of existing out buildings & the formation of a new access, The Rookery, 74 Main Road, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

15/8. To receive recommendations from the HR Committee and to consider and agree on the annual review of the Clerks Salary and changes to the Terms & Conditions of employment.

The Clerk left the room whilst this Agenda Item was discussed.

Councillors resolved to increase the Clerks Salary by £250 with effect from 1st April 2015 as previously discussed and agreed and would review the salary again next year.

Councillors resolved to approve the Clerks request for her salary currently paid quarterly to be paid monthly with effect from April 2015.

Councillors agree to increase the Clerks annual expenses allowance to cover computer usage, telephone calls, broadband connection, heating, lighting and storage from £480 to £600 per year.

15/9. Accounts & Finance

a). Councillors resolved to approve the following invoices for payment.

Cambridgeshire ACRE, annual membership renewal fee, £54.L.G.A. 1972 s 143.

T A Blackamore Ltd., annual grass cutting and grounds maintenance, £3,860.66. Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10.

Smith Of Derby Ltd., annual Cage Clock service, £214.80. P.C. A. 1957 s 2.

b).Letter from Fenland District Council regarding Parish Street Lighting.

The District Council had agreed to continue discussions on the funding for the street lights requiring replacement over the next 3 years.

However in the meantime the District Council requested that the Parish Council sign and return an agreement for them to replace the street lights rated in category 1 requiring immediate replacement with no cost to the Parish Council.

Councillors resolved to agree to this request and the agreement was amended by the Chairman indicating that we did not accept ownership of the 4 street lights in Springfield Road as previously advised and the Clerk was instructed to return the agreement with a covering letter reiterating this and requesting a reply to our letter dated 15th December.

c) Letter from Fenland District Council confirming the Concurrent Functions Grant and Council Tax Support Grant for 2015/2016 and requesting the return of the Precept Form by the 6th February 2015.

Information noted by Councillors.

d) To receive and approve a Receipts & Payments Bank Reconciliation & Budget Report. Councillors resolved to approve the reports presented by the Clerk with no issues arising from the reports.

e) To consider and agree on Budget & Precept for 2015/2016.

Councillors resolved to carry forward any under spend on the precept budget headings to the allocated cash reserves budget headings for the financial year 2015 – 2016.

The precept and budget for 2015/2016 was discussed and Councillors resolved for the precept to be increased from £15,000 to £15,300.

A provisional budget and precept for the following 2 years was also discussed and agreed taking into account the high cost of replacing several of the parish street lights over the next 3 to 4 years following the recent inspection of the street lights by Balfour Beatty on behalf of the District Council.

15/10. Allotments & Gardens.

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

Councillors resolved to invite the applicant to attend the next Parish Council Meeting on the 14th January in order to clarify some of information contained in his letter.

15/11. Highway Matters.

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

As there were no urgent matters this item was deferred to the next meeting.

b) Email from Local Highway Improvements Team advising that the road safety team would carry out the trial of the proposed Give Way feature near to the Doctors Surgery on Thursday 15th January 2015.

Information noted by Councillors.

15/12. Any other urgent business (information items only).

Councillor Spriggs advised that he believed there had been some recent complaints over the condition of the churchyard.

15/13. Dates for future Council meetings.

Councillors resolved to hold Parish Council Meetings on the following dates.

Wednesday 14th January 2015.

Wednesday 11th February 2015.

Wednesday 4th March 2015.

The date for the April Meeting would be confirmed at the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 10.10pm.