

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in The Cage on Wednesday 8th April 2015.

Attended by Councillors G Booth (Chairman), P Spriggs (Vice Chairman), C Bellamy, G Bellamy, J Cook & P Everett (arrived late). County Councillor G Gillick.

15/98. To receive apologies for absence.

No apologies had been received.

15/99. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests by Councillors for a Dispensation.

15/100. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillor Cook declared a Pecuniary Interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 15/114 as he is an Officer on the Amenities 95 Committee.

Councillor Booth declared a Pecuniary Interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 15/107 d) as he is an Officer on the Youth Club Committee.

15/101. 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.

15/102. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 25th March 2015.

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

15/103. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 25th March 2015. (Information only).

The Clerk advised that the Manager for FACT had agreed to attend the Annual Parish Assembly Meeting on the 29th April to discuss their request for a grant and future transport provision within the parish.

The Clerk advised that a response had been received from the County Council regarding the adoption of the road at John Bends Way advising that this matter was still unresolved in view of outstanding remedial work to be completed by the developer. Councillors agreed to respond requesting a date when this work would be completed and the road adopted. To also query why the bond had not been used to complete the long outstanding work and to point out that there were now two pot holes at the top of the road.

The Clerk advised that Fenland District Council had been out and swept the footpaths along Main Road again in view of our complaint but the over grown hedge in front of the Old Farmhouse was obstructing the footpath causing problems for the sweeper.

15/104. Community Police Officers Report.

The Clerk had received an email giving a report of crimes and incidences up to the 14th March advising that there had been 4 crimes.

15/105. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

Fenland District Councillor Booth advised that there had been no full council meetings since the 26th February.

County Councillor Gillick advised that he was pressing for further traffic calming schemes to be implemented in the surrounding villages but lack of funding was preventing any real progress.

15/106. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) P Humphrey, Planning Application No. F/YR15/0223/F, Agent Peter Humphrey Associates, for the formation of a new vehicular access to existing field on land east of Dragonfly Cottage, Seadyke Bank, Murrow.

Councillors resolved to respond to the application pointing out that any new access should be an agricultural access as this was agricultural land and the application did not include a request for change of use for the land.

b) Notification from Fenland District Council that the following Planning Application has been withdrawn.

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.

Information noted by Councillors.

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

N Bowditch, Planning Application No. FYR15/0045/F, Agent Peter Humphrey Associates, for the erection of a 2 storey 4 bed dwelling with detached double garage on land south west of the Swan Inn, Main Road, Parson Drove.

The Clerk advised that the access to the building plot had not been changed as requested by the Parish Council during the consultation period. The Agent had stated that the applicant preferred to access the plot over the Swan Inn car park which was owned by Elgood & Son Limited. Councillors therefore resolved to write to the Agent pointing out that the applicant's assumption that the car park area at the side of the Swan Inn was owned by Elgood & Sons Limited was incorrect and that the only access to the building plot was over land owned by the Parish Council and this is why an Easement had been granted giving access over the village green.

d) Notification from Fenland District Council that the appeal to the Planning Inspectorate for Planning Application F/YR14/0867/F, R Knight, for the erection of a first floor rear extension and detached garage involving the demolition of existing outbuildings and formation of a new access has been allowed.

Information noted by Councillors.

15/107. Accounts & Finance

a). To approve the Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2015 & Section 1 of the Annual Return.

Councillors resolved to approve the Accounts presented by the Clerk subject to amendment to the Supporting Statement regarding the amounts shown for the Gardens & Allotments annual rents.

b) Councillors resolved to approve payment of the following Invoices.

Fenland District Council, yearly rates on The Cage, £240. L.G.A. 1972 s133.

C&PALC Membership Fees for 2015-16, £326.39. L.G.A. 1972 s143.

North Level Internal Drainage Board, Garden & Allotment Drainage Rates, £156.88. Small Holdings & Allotments Act 1908 ss23, 26 & 42.

Mrs Y Reader, 1 month's salary & expenses, £501.30. L.G.A. 1972 s112.

c) Letter from Lee Bolton Monier-Williams requesting a cheque for £3,000 for the purchase of the land to extend the Churchyard.

Councillors resolved to approve this payment in order to progress the churchyard extension project. L.G.A. 1972 s214.

d) Request from Parson Drove Youth Club for a grant.

Councillor Spriggs, Vice Chairman, chaired the meeting for this Agenda Item and the Chairman did not participate in the discussions or voting on this matter.

Councillors resolved to give a grant of £500 for this year, and to respond advising that an annual grant could not be guaranteed but they would consider giving a grant each year in the future to assist with the continuation of the Youth Club.

15/108. Report on progress from the working group on Neighbourhood Planning.

The Chairman advised that the draft questionnaire had been forwarded to Emma Naylor, Neighbourhood Planning Officer, for approval.

15/109. Update report on restarting the Citizens Advice Outreach Sessions.

The Clerk advised that the monthly sessions would start in Gorefield in May, Guyhirn in June and Parson Drove in July. Citizens Advice Bureau had produced some poster advertising the sessions up to January 2016 and these would be forwarded to the Editor of Village Voices and displayed on the various Notice Boards through out the three parishes. Each respective Parish Council would receive an Invoice for their sessions.

15/110. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Reply from the Cambridgeshire Police Shrievally Trust on the number of parishioners visited during 2014.

As only 4 parishioners had been visited during 2014 it was agreed that notices should be displayed in the parish promoting the scheme.

b) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council attaching notes taken at the meeting held on the 24th February regarding the provision of Public Transport.

Information noted by Councillors.

c) Email from the County Council advising of changes with effect from 1st May on the way the work regarding the Rights of Way will be delivered.

Information noted by Councillors. Councillor Everett advised that the Right of Way Public Footpath sign was missing along Main Road and the Clerk was requested to report this.

d) Information received from C&PALC on the Local Government Transparency Code 2014 and the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Councillors resolved to continue with the current arrangements for Internal and External Audit as the anticipated Income and Expenditure for the coming year was in excess of the £25,000 threshold.

15/111. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.

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

Councillors reported pot holes at the top of Ingham Hall Gardens. The road flooding outside the Bowling Green at Main Road due to the drains being silted up.

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 signage for the Doctors Surgery.

The Chairman advised that the slow signs on the road had already been completed and the Doctors Sign outside the Surgery would be erected shortly. The speed limit extension notices had been published and if no objections were received this would be completed very shortly. The Chairman advised that he had received a request from a resident for no speed limit signs to be put up near the junction or along Elbow Lane as it was felt this would encourage drivers to travel at this speed. Councillors agreed to request that no speed limit signs be installed near the junction and at the very least further down the road.

c) Response received from the County Council Highways department regarding our request for traffic calming at the entrance to Newlands Road.

A response had been received from the County Council Highways advising that our request for temporary speed bumps at the top of Newlands Road could not be installed without consultation and could cause disturbance with noise and vibration.

Councillors agreed to defer this matter until after the Parish Council Elections when they would have to undertake a consultation exercise with the residents.

d) Email received from the County Council regarding future development along Back Road, Murrow and a letter from Fenland Highways regarding the condition of Back Road, Murrow.

Councillors resolved to write to the Chief Planning Officer at Fenland District Council requesting a specific planning policy for Back Road, Murrow as suggested by the County Council in their response. Councillors also agreed to enquire if there was a minimum acceptable road width before development could be approved.

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

Councillors reported that there was an intermittent fault on column number FPC10 outside 115 Main Road.

15/112. Parish Property.

a) Update on the damaged wooden post on the village green near the War Memorial.
The Clerk advised that the damaged wooden post on the edge of the village green was classed as a road traffic accident. The Clerk had met with PCSO Morrison to complete the required statement in order for them to investigate further.

b) Update on the refurbishment or replacement of the swings on the village green.
The Clerk advised that she had met with four companies to discuss the refurbishment or replacement of the swings on the village green and was now waiting for all of the quotations.

15/113. To consider complaint received regarding the Rooks and Crows in the trees on the village green and agree on any action to be taken.

The Clerk had made enquiries with a local Pest Control Company who advised that unless the Rooks and Crows were damaging either livestock, crops, growing timber or fisheries or were creating a Health & Safety problem it would not be legal to take any action. The Chairman advised that he would inform the complainant of this outcome.

15/114. Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

Councillor Cook advised that the Treasurer was now out of hospital. The Annual General Meeting would be rescheduled but as yet no date been arranged.

15/115. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

There were no questions raised by Councillors.

15/116. Any other business (information items only).

Councillor Everett advised that a considerable amount of bread was being left on the village green and some residents were concerned that this would attract vermin. It was agreed that this should be mentioned in the next newsletter.

The Chairman presented Councillor's Cyril Bellamy, Grace Bellamy and Patricia Everett with a framed Certificate in recognition of their years of service to Parson Drove Parish Council as Councillors and thanked them for all their efforts over the years.

15/117. Dates for future Council meetings.

Annual Parish Assembly Meeting – Wednesday 29th April at 7.30pm in St Marks Church.
In view of the elections the May Council Meeting would be held on Wednesday 20th May at 7.00pm in The Cage.

Future Meetings to be agreed by the new Council at the May Parish Council Meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm.