

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in The Cage on Wednesday 9th December 2015.

Attended by Councillors G Booth (Chairman), P Spriggs (Vice Chairman), C Bates, J Cook, J Hunt, C Killingworth & P Williams.
Adam Cobb, C.C.C. Highways Officer.

15/260. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Fenland District Councillor S Bligh.

15/261. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests for dispensations.

15/262. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Cllr Cook declared a Personal Interest for Agenda Item No. 15/276 as he is an Officer of the Amenities 95 Committee.

The Chairman declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No.15/271 as he is an Allotment Garden tenant.

Cllr Williams declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Item No15/270 b) as she is a member of the Parochial Church Council and a Church Warden.

Cllr Spriggs declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Item No 15/273 b) as his son has a County Council Holding tenancy.

15/263. 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.

15/264. Presentation by County Council Officer on the proposals for improvements to the Bellamy Bridge junction.

The County Council Officer advised that there was a budget of £16,000 for the Local Highways Improvement scheme for Bellamy Bridge which was a joint scheme with Wisbech St Mary Parish Council. The three options being suggested by the County Council were explained to Councillors and they were informed that Wisbech St Mary had opted to support option 1 which would entail altering the layout of the crossroads giving priority to and from Seadyke Bank. Councillors did not favour this option and preferred to keep the road layout the same with a reduction in the speed limit to 40mph on each approach road to the junction together with improved road signage and road surfacing. These suggestions would have to be considered by the Safety Audit team and it was agreed that revised proposals would be drawn up for consideration by both Parish Councils.

Whilst at the meeting the Highways Officer advised that the cracks to the brick work at Swan Bridge were being monitored each month and it would appear the bridge had dropped and may need under pinning.

It was also confirmed that the County Council would repair the culvert bridge at Bridge Drove although the Officer still maintained that this was the responsibility of North Level Internal Drainage Board.

15/265. To approve & sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 11th November 2015.

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

15/266. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 11th November 2015 (Information only).

The Clerk advised that a parishioner had volunteered to wind the Cage Clock.

The County Council had advised that the footpath outside Cannon House would be repaired in the New Year.

15/267. Community Police Officers Report.

An email had been received advising that there had been 2 crimes in the parish since last month. Councillor Spriggs advised that hare coursing had been reported to the Police twice. A car abandoned near to St Johns Church for several days had still not been removed and although the Police were aware of the situation they had advised that it was a matter for the District Council and had suggested that the Clerk report it to the District Council requesting that they arrange for it to be removed. Councillors queried why the Police did not report such incidences to the District Council if this was now the authority responsible for dealing with abandon vehicles.

15/268. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

District Councillor Booth advised that the Concurrent Functions grant was to be continued for another year in view of the delay in completing the comprehensive spending review but could not guarantee that it would be continued in future years.

15/269. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) T Jarvis, Planning Application No. F/YR15/1013/O, Agent Peter Humphrey Associates Ltd., for the erection of a dwelling on land west of 117 Back Road, Murrow.
Councillors resolved to object to the application in view of the inadequate road.

b) A Viller, Planning Application No F/YR15/1030/PNC04, Agent Peter Humphrey Associates Ltd., for change of use from agricultural building to a single storey 1 bedroomed dwelling at the Barn North of Rose Villa, Common Road, Throckenholt.
Councillors resolved to support the application.

c) Parson Drove Parish Council, Planning Application No. F/YR15/1055/F, Agent D Broker, change of use from agricultural land to burial ground as an extension to the existing cemetery land north of Emmanuel Church, Main Road, Parson Drove.
The Clerk advised that the North Level Drainage Board had responded as a consultee raising no objections in principle but advising that no burials should occur within 10 metres of any watercourse and suggesting that advice is obtained from the Environment Agency regarding burial depths and sizes to ensure there will be no contamination of groundwater.

d) Notification that an appeal has been lodged to the Secretary of State against the decision of Fenland District Council to refuse Planning Application No F/YR15/0482/F for the erection of a 2 storey 4 bedroomed dwelling involving the demolition of the existing mobile home and outbuildings at Rupen, Long Drove, Parson Drove.
Councillors resolved to write to reiterate their objections to the planning application and request that the appeal is dismissed.

e) Consultation from Fenland District Council on proposed planning pre-application charges. Councillors resolved to respond advising that they supported the proposal to implement charges for this service but in their view the proposed charge for large developments in category 1 was too low. Councillors also agreed to request that Charities, Voluntary Organisations and Parish Councils be exempt from the charges proposed.

f) Consultation from Fenland District Council on the draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan. Councillors resolved to respond commenting on various sections relating to rural areas and in particular infrastructure requirements for Parson Drove

15/270. Accounts & Finance.

a) Councillors resolved to approve the following Invoices for payment:-
 Mrs Y Reader, Clerks monthly salary & expenses, £499.67. L.G.A. 1972 s112.
 Clerks & Councils Direct, annual subscription fee, £12. L.G.A. 1972 s143.
 Hutton Roofing, repairs to the Cage roof, £200. L.G.A. 1972 s133.
 Royal British Legion, Armistice Day wreath £20. L.G.A. 1972 s137.
 Doddington Parish Council, contribution towards independent survey of Parish street lights, £61.85.L.G.A. 1972 s111.
 CPRE, annual membership renewal fee, £36. L.G.A. 1972 s143.
 SLCC, annual membership renewal fee, £103.L.G.A. 1972 s143.
 David Broker Design Services, fees for the planning application for change of use for the extension to the churchyard at Emmanuel Church, £100. L/G.A. 1972 s214 (6).
 Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire Prize, £50. L.G.A. 1972 s111.

b) Letter from Parochial Church Council requesting the annual grant for maintenance of the churchyard.

Councillors considered the request to increase the annual grant from £500 to £750. Councillors resolved to increase the grant to £600 for this year but would give no guarantee that this would be given in future years in view of the uncertainty over the Concurrent Functions grant currently received from the District Council.

c) Letter from Fenland Volunteer Centre requesting a grant. Councillors resolved to refuse this request in view of limited funds available and as priority is given to parish groups and organisations.

d) To receive and approve a Receipts & Payments Bank Reconciliation Report and Budget update report.

The reports were presented by the Clerk and approved by Councillors with no issues arising from the reports or the budget to date.

15/271. Report on the collection of the outstanding Garden Allotment Rents and to consider applications for the vacant Riverside Garden Allotments.

The Clerk advised that all of the outstanding Garden Allotment rents had now been paid. Only two applications had been received from parishioners but there had been 2 applications from Murrow residents. Councillors resolved to offer a tenancy to all of the applicants as this would still leave at least one vacant allotment depending upon whether one of the applicants required a full or half plot. The Chairman agreed to attend a site meeting in the New Year with the applicants and in the meantime to measure and mark out the vacant plots.

15/272. Report on progress from the working group on Neighbourhood Planning.

The Chairman advised that the responses to the questionnaire were being analysed with half already completed.

15/273. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Email from Fenland District Council with information on the Code of Conduct and the use of social media.

Information noted by Councillors.

b) Email from Savills advising of their instructions by Cambridgeshire County Council to undertake a strategic review of the County Farms Estate and inviting the Council to give their views on the importance and value of the estate and how it should be managed in the future. Councillors resolved to respond advising that they considered that all of the agricultural holdings should be retained to provide income in the future.

c) Email from the Wryde Croft Wind Farm Community Fund with the minutes of the Fund Panel Meeting held on the 25th November.

The Chairman confirmed that he had attended the meeting.

d) Emails from the outreach worker of Peterborough & Fenland Office of the Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Commissioner with information on the International Restorative Justice Week and the November Newsletter.

Information noted by Councillors.

e) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council Passenger Transport advising of the Community Transport schemes in the Fenland Area.

Information noted by Councillors.

15/274. Update report on the water supply to the building plot adjacent to The Cage.

Councillors resolved to exclude the public and press in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting) Act 19 as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be discussed.

The Clerk advised that she had contacted the Insurance Company again two weeks ago as no communication had been received from the Solicitors acting on their behalf only to be told that there had been an administrative error and that the information had not been passed onto the solicitors as previously advised.

15/275. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.

Highway issues to be reported to Cambridgeshire County Council.

Councillors reported pot holes along Marshalls Bank, over grown hedges along Sealeys Lane and Harrolds Bridge.

A request had also been received for the extension of the 40mph speed limit from The Laurels up to Clough Bridge.

Councillors reported that the Bridleway along Murrow Bank was impassable and should be reported to the County Council.

Large vehicles were using the public right of way at Green Lane, Church End and cutting up the grass and should be reported to the County Council.

b) Faulty street lights to be reported to Cambridgeshire County Council.
Councillors reported a faulty street light in the traffic island at Swan Bridge, near St Marks Church and opposite the Butchers Arms along Main Road.

The Clerk had received an email complaining about the lack of street lights in the village of Murrow and in particular along Back Road.

The Clerk was requested to reply regarding the lack of street lights along the north side of Back Road as this falls within the parish of Parson Drove and to also forward the email complaint onto Wisbech St Mary Parish Council for them to respond regarding the main village of Murrow.

c) Update on the Local Highway Improvement schemes for Sealeys Lane footpath.
The Chairman advised that he had attended the panel meeting to encourage support for our application for a further section of footpath in 2016/2017. A decision by the County Council would not be made until March 2016. A plan for the first phase of the footpath for this year's scheme had been received too late for inclusion in the Agenda for this meeting but would be considered at the next meeting. The Chairman was making enquiries regarding submitting an application to the District Council for a grant under the Rural Capital Bids scheme.

15/276. Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

Cllr Cook advised that the Committee had now appointed Architects to draw up the plans for the village hall ready for submission to the District Council for planning permission.

15/277. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

Cllr Hunt enquired into the progress of repairing or replacing the swings on the village green. The Chairman advised that grant applications were still being investigated.

Cllr Hunt enquired into the progress of replacing the wooden pole and repairing the iron work removed from the village green in the summer. Cllr Spriggs advised that he was still trying to obtain a replacement post.

Cllr Hunt asked if the Council had ever considered holding a Parishioners Open Surgery where parishioners could raise matters directly with Councillors. The Chairman advised that Open Surgeries were once held at least twice a year but as they were not supported by parishioners they were discontinued.

15/278. Any other business (information items only).

Cllr Cook advised that the Christmas Tree had not been progressed by the Swan Inn as previously indicated and it was now too late for the Council to make alternative arrangements. Cllr Williams advised that she and Cllr Killingworth had attended the recent Planning Training provided by the District Council and this had been very informative.

15/279. To confirm dates for future Council meetings for 2016 and to agree on the date for the 2016/2017 Precept & Budget Meeting.

Councillors resolved to continue with the existing cycle of Council Meetings with meetings being held every second Wednesday of each month for 2016.

Councillors resolved to hold an additional Council Meeting on the 20th January at 7.30pm to agree on the Budget and Precept for 2016/2017.

Meeting closed 10.25pm