

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

Attended by Councillors G Booth (Chairman), P Spriggs (Vice Chairman), C Bates, J Cook, J Hunt, & C Killingworth.
1 member of the public.

15/220. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Cllr P Williams & Cllr S Bligh (FDC).

15/221. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests from Councillors for dispensations.

15/222. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Cllr Cook declared a Personal Interest for Agenda Item No. 15/236 as he is an Officer of the Amenities 95 Committee.

Cllr Booth declared a Personal Interest for Agenda Item No.15/231 a) as he is a member of the Youth Club Committee.

15/223. Public Participation – to allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

Mr Edwards from Swann Edwards Architecture explained the changes incorporated in Planning Application F/YR15/0845/F and the reasons for the changes. He answered questions raised by Councillors on the application and requested Councillors supported the application.

15/224. To approve & sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th September 2015.

The minutes were taken as read, agreed as a true record after inserting the word “meeting” on page 1174 item number 15/207, and signed by the Chairman.

15/225. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 9th September 2015 (Information only).

The Clerk had written to the contractor regarding the repairs to the Cage roof but as yet the work had not been completed.

The hedges from the Yews up to Clough Bridge Farm had been cut back by the County Council.

The two bottle banks on the village green had been removed as requested by the District Council.

15/226. Community Police Officers Report & letter from Inspector Will Davis.

The letter from Inspector Davis advised that police officers would not be able to attend future Parish Council Meetings but would provide monthly reports.

The monthly report for September advised that there had been 1 crime in the parish of criminal damage.

Councillors requested the Clerk inform the Police of a speeding motorcyclist early every morning and their concerns that an accident might occur owing to a car being left parked all night on Fen Road near to the entrance to Swan Gardens.

15/227. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

District Councillor Booth advised that the Planning Services was being shared with Peterborough City Council.

A questionnaire had been sent out to Fenland residents on the spending review for 2016/2017 but it would appear that some areas had been left out. He had requested information on the waiting times for telephone enquiries in view of some complaints about the delays.

15/228. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) Mr A Daiser, Planning Application No F/YR15/0739/F, No Agent, for the erection of a 2 storey 4 bedroomed dwelling with detached double garage with storage above, plot 1 land west of 114 Main Road, Parson Drove.

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

b) Mr C Smith, Planning Application No F/YR15/0763/TRTPO, work to a weeping ash tree and a sycamore tree at St. John The Baptist Church, 317 Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to raise no objections to the application subject to approval by the Tree Officer.

c) R Goy, Planning Application No F/YR15/0845/F, Agent Swann Edwards, Architecture, erection of 5 two storey dwellings comprising of 3 five bedroomed and 2 four bedroomed dwellings with double garages, on land north of 15 – 27 Mill Road, Murrow.

Councillors welcomed the change for one of the dwellings to be a two storey dwelling instead of a 3 storey dwelling as included in the original application but resolved to object to the planning application due to the drain now being left open because of concerns over safety for future occupants and pedestrians.

d) Report on meeting with the tree officer from Fenland District Council regarding suggested work to trees on the village green.

The Clerk advised that the District Council Tree Officer would not support an application for the pollarding of the 3 Lime trees and would only agree to a 30% reduction of the 3 Limes and 1 Horse Chestnut. He had also requested photographs showing the extent of decay in the centre of the Lime tree and a written report from the tree contractor to support the recommendation that the tree outside 24 The Bank needed felling. The contractor had been present at the site meeting when this tree was discussed and had agreed to provide the requested information.

e) To agree to appoint an Agent to complete the planning application for the extension of the churchyard.

The Clerk advised that she had submitted a Planning Application for the change of use but before the District Council were prepared to consider the application they required a Heritage Statement, Biodiversity Statement, detailed Location and Site Plan. The cost to provide this information would be approximately £100. Councillors resolved to instruct Architect, D Broker to undertake this work on behalf of the Parish Council.

15/229. Accounts & Finance.

a) Councillors resolved to approve the following Invoices for payment:-
Mrs Y Reader, Clerks monthly salary & expenses, £503.75. L.G.A 1972 s112.
Crowson & Ward, administration supplies, £58.70. L.G.A. 1972 s111.
Information Commissioner, Data Protection renewal fee, £35. L.G.A. 1972 s111.
PKF Littlejohn LLP, external audit fees, £120. Accounts & Audit Regs 2011.
EON, electricity for The Cage, £35.71.L.G.A. 1972 s133.

b) To consider quotation received to remove fallen branch from the village pond.
A written quotation for £350 had now been received and Councillors resolved to accept this quotation and instruct the contractor to complete the work.

c) To report on the Annual Return Section 3 from the External Auditor.
The Clerk advised that the External Auditor had not raised any issues for the financial year ending 31st March 2015.

15/230. Report on progress from the working group on Neighbourhood Planning.

The Chairman advised that a questionnaires had been delivered to every household in the parish and it was anticipated that these would be returned or collected by volunteers at the end of October or early November.

15/231. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Letter from the County Council regarding Parson Drove Youth Club.
The County Council advised that there was only sufficient funds to continue the Youth Club until 8th February. Councillors agreed to support any further grant applications made by the Youth Club as a reference if required.

b) Email from East Anglian Air Ambulance enquiring if the Parish Council give grants/donations to charities.
Councillors resolved to reply advising that they only give grants to local charities and organisations.

c) Email from Fenland District Council advising of a Safety Advisory Group Training Event on the 21st October at 4.00pm in The Boat House Conference Centre, Wisbech.
Information noted by Councillors.

d) Email from RES advising that they will shortly be launching the local electricity discount scheme at Wryde Croft Wind Farm.
Information noted by Councillors.

e) Email from Fenland District Council advising of a CAPALC Meeting followed by a Planning Training session for Parish Councillors on Thursday 26th November at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at Fenland District Council, March.
Information noted by Councillors and Cllr Killingworth confirmed that she wished to attend the Planning Training session.

15/232. Letter from the Developer & update report on water supply to 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 Anglian Water had agreed not to connect the water supply until agreement had been reached with the developer.

The Clerk had requested legal advice from NALC (via CAPALC) and the Council's Insurers had also been contacted.

Councillors resolved to take no action until advice had been received from the legal department at NALC and our Insurers.

15/233. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.

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

Councillor Bates advised that she had reported some pot holes down Silvers Lane.

Councillor Hunt advised that all the pot holes along Elbow Lane had now been repaired.

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

Councillors advised that the street light on Swan Bridge and in the traffic island were not working.

c) Email from Fenland District Council regarding the parish street light replacements and funding. Email with information received on the independent survey.

Councillors resolved to reply to the email from Fenland District Councillor S King asking for an answer to some of the questions raised as his response did not really answer all of the questions raised.

The Chairman had now been provided with a comprehensive document detailing the criteria used for assessing the condition of the street lights but as yet he had not been able to study the whole document.

The Chairman had also raised this matter at the full District Council Meeting but had not received a positive response.

The Clerk advised that 5 of the parish street lights in category 2 were being surveyed by the contractors conducting the independent survey at a cost of £61.87.

d) Email reminder from the County Council advising that applications for the Local Highway Improvement scheme for 2016/2017 must be submitted by Monday 2nd November.

The Chairman advised that he had been informed that our application for a footway along Sealeys Lane was now being progressed for 2015/2016 as one of the original schemes had been withdrawn. The Chairman was meeting a Highways Officer on Friday 16th October on site to discuss the scheme.

Councillors therefore resolved to submit an application for 2016/2017 to extend the footway along Sealeys Lane as a footway could not be provided for the entire road in one year due to the cost involved and the limit for each scheme in any one year being £10,000.

The Clerk was asked to enquire on the progress of the Bellamy Bridge scheme.

e) Information from District Councillor Bligh on the questionnaire distributed along Back Road, Murrow.

Councillor Bligh was unable to attend the meeting but had delivered a folder at the start of the meeting containing the returned questionnaires. As the responses had not been evaluated showing the results of the questionnaire this matter was deferred to a future meeting in order for the Clerk to prepare a report on the responses received.

The Chairman advised that Wisbech St Mary Parish Council were submitting an application under the LHII scheme for 2016/2017 for improvements to the Back Road, Front Road, and Silvers Lane junction and had asked for support from Parson Drove Parish Council.

Councillors resolved to support Wisbech St Mary's LHII Bid for improvements to this junction.

15/234. To approve the ordering of the Remembrance Day wreath.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to order the Remembrance Day Wreath.

15/235. Christmas Tree on the village green.

The Chairman advised that the Landlady of the Swan Inn was arranging for the Christmas Tree to be purchased and planted on the village green as agreed last year at a cost of £240.

15/236. Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

Councillor Cook advised that he had nothing to report to the Council.

15/237. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

Councillor Bates asked who was responsible for the allotments along the river bank as she had received a complaint from a resident of Riverside Gardens. The Chairman advised that these were not Parish Council allotments and were owned by the Drainage Board.

15/238. Any other business (information items only).

Councillors reported that 2 porta-cabins had been sited at Avondale, Swan Gardens and the Clerk was asked to enquire with the District Council if planning permission had been granted for these.

15/239. To confirm dates for future Council meetings for 2015.

The next meeting was confirm for Wednesday 11th November at 7.30pm in The Cage.

Meeting closed at 9.35 pm