

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

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

15/200. To receive apologies for absence.

No apologies had been received.

15/201. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests for dispensations.

15/202. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillor Booth declared a Pecuniary Interest in respect of Agenda Item No.15/212 a) as he is a Garden tenant and left the meeting at the appropriate time.

Councillor Spriggs declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 15/212 b) as his son is an allotment tenant.

Councillor Cook declared a Pecuniary Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 15/216 as he is an officer of the Amenities 95 Committee.

15/203. Public Participation – to allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

The member of the public present raised the problem of overgrown hedges and trees obstructing the footpath up to Clough Bridge particularly from the Yews to Clough Bridge Farm and requested that these be cut back. The Chairman advised that this was a matter for the County Council but requested that the Clerk report the problem to them.

15/204. To approve & sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 12th August 2015.

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

15/205. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 12th August 2015 (Information only).

The Chairman advised that the parishioner who had raised the query regarding the reinstatement of the iron work and post outside his property on the village green would be prepared to contribute towards the cost of repairs.

Councillor Hunt advised that the grass on the Public Rights of Way at Elbow Lane had now been cut.

15/206. Community Police Officers Report.

An email had been received with a report on the crimes and incidences in the parish during the last month advising that there had been four crimes, three of criminal damage to parked vehicles and a theft from a vehicle. The North Rural Forum will be held in Newton on the 18th September at 4.00pm when the police priorities will be set for the next 6 months. The Horizon Bus will be in Newton on the same day from 12 noon to 4.50pm. and will be in Parson Drove on Tuesday 15th September from 10.00am to 11.00am for parishioners to raise any concerns. Councillors considered that if there was a Police presence in the village in the evenings this would help to deter further criminal damage to vehicles.

15/207. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

District Councillor S Bligh introduced herself to Councillors and apologised for not attending a Parish Council before. She advised that a good response had been received from residents in respect of the questionnaires recently delivered along Back Road, Murrow following complaints received about speeding traffic. Whilst Councillor Bligh had not completed the analysis of the results it would appear from early indications that the suggestion of the road being one way was the most favourable option. Discussions took place on the long history of complaints and problems relating to this road, worsened by the increased development over the last 10 years and the Parish Council's endeavours to obtain improvements. The Clerk agreed to provide Councillor Bligh with some past information on this matter. Councillor Bligh advised that she would provide the Parish Council with the results of the questionnaire once finalised and expressed a view that Wisbech St Mary and Parson Drove Parish Councils should work together to try and resolve this matter possibly by making an application under the Local Highways Improvement scheme.

The Parish Council requested Councillor Bligh support them with their efforts to obtain a favourable response from Fenland District Council regarding Parish Street Lighting, which she confirmed she would help.

District Councillor G Booth advised that the District Council were preparing a Spending Review Consultation which would be issued to all householders shortly.

15/208. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) K Codona, Planning Application No. F/YR15/0686/F, Agent Peter Humphrey Associates Ltd., change of use of land to form a travellers site for 4 caravans, erection of 4 wash room/toilet blocks, bin store and formation of a 1.5 metre high bunding to site perimeter on land east of Dragonfly Cottage, Seadyke Bank, Murrow.

Councillors resolved to object to the application as it was considered to be in the open countryside, not sustainable and concerns over flooding.

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

L A Allen, Planning Application No. F/YR15/0549/F, Agent D Broker, for the erection of a three storey 6 bedroomed dwelling with a two storey detached garage on plot 2 land west of 114 Main Road, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

15/209. Accounts & Finance.

a) Councillors resolved to approve the following Invoices for payment:-
Mrs Y Reader, Clerks monthly salary & expenses, £490.35. L.G.A. 1972 s.112.
GBSG, Cage alarm service, £88.02. L.G.A. 1972 s.133.

b) To consider quotation received for repairs to the Cage roof.

The Clerk had only been able to obtain one quotation for £200 and Councillors therefore resolved to accept this.

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

Councillors resolved to approve the reports presented by the Clerk and there were no issues arising from the reports requiring attention.

15/210. Report on progress from the working group on Neighbourhood Planning.

The Chairman advised that the questionnaires were now ready for printing and distribution to every household in the parish. Councillors resolved to approve a payment of £50 prize for the lucky ticket holder returning the completed questionnaire.

15/211. To consider requesting the removal of the Recycling/Bottle Banks on the village green.

Councillor Cook reported that he had monitored the use of the bottle banks since the last meeting and in view of the small amount of use and the lack of financial return now received Councillors resolved to request that the District Council remove them from the village green.

15/212. Riverside Gardens & Fen Allotments.

a) To review the rents for the Garden Allotments.

The Clerk and Chairman left the room whilst this matter was discussed as they are tenants and the Vice Chairman, P Spriggs, chaired the meeting.

Councillors resolved to leave the rents unchanged for the next year.

b) To review the rents for the Fen Allotments.

The Clerk left the room whilst this matter was discussed as she was a tenant.

Councillors resolved to leave the rents unchanged for the next year.

c) To consider letter received from a tenant of the Garden Allotments asking for their garden to be reduced in size otherwise this wished to vacate the garden.

Councillors resolved to agree to the Garden Allotment being halved as requested by the tenant and to offer the vacated half Garden Allotment to the applicant on the waiting list.

15/213. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Invitation from Cambs ACRE to attend the launch event for Fens Leader Programme 2015-2019 on Monday 28th September 2.00pm to 7.00pm at Doddington Village Hall.

Invitation noted by Councillors.

b) Invitation from Cambs ACRE to attend their AGM on Monday 21st September at 3.30pm at Mepal Outdoor Centre.

Councillor Cook advised that he wished to attend the meeting on behalf of the Parish Council and the Amenities 95 Committee.

15/214. Update report on water supply to building plot adjacent to The Cage.

The Clerk advised that the developer had now laid the water supply pipe over the village green behind the Cage but not as far back as was suggested and without any prior warning.

The developer had advised that he was not prepared to pay the requested sum of £500 towards any future maintenance issues but had offered to pay £100. Anglian Water had confirmed that the responsibility of the water pipe from the highway over Parish Council land to the building plot was a private issue between the developer and the Parish Council and this information had been passed onto the developer.

Councillors were concerned that the water pipe had been laid too close to the Cage and might interfere with the existing Cage drainage and considered that the offer of £100 towards future maintenance issues was not adequate.

Councillors therefore resolved to write to the developer advising that the water pipe had been laid without prior warning and too close to the Cage and before agreement had been reached on a payment for future maintenance, to advise that the request for £500 remains and offer to meet on site to discuss a way forward.

Councillors also resolved to contact Anglian Water requesting that the water supply was not connected to the building plot as negotiations were still on going and until the issue of a maintenance payment had been resolved and agreement reached on the exact location of the water supply pipe.

15/215. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.

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

It was reported that the wooden railing in the triangle was broken.

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

The street light near the bus shelter had still not been repaired.

c) Letter from Fenland District Council regarding the parish street light replacements and funding.

The chairman advised that he had attended a meeting where several Parish Councils had been represented to discuss the current offer now being made by the District Council. The view from this meeting was that an independent assessment on the condition of the street lights should be obtained and Councillors resolved to support this proposal and approved expenditure up to £500 for an independent survey. The recent information received from the District Council advised that more of our street lights had now been classed as category 2 therefore requiring replacement in the next 3 years and the cost to the Parish Council had increased but the contribution from the District Council had been reduced.

Councillors resolved to respond asking for further clarification on the need to replace the category 2 lights and why the cost had increased by so much

d) Email from District Councillor S Bligh advising of a resident questionnaire being distributed along Back Road, Murrow.

This matter had been discussed earlier in the meeting when District Councillor Bligh had been present.

15/216. Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

Councillor Cook advised that the bookings clerk had moved out of the village so this task was now being undertaken by another committee member together with himself for the time being.

15/217. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

Councillor Killingworth asked if we could request that the school bus pick up point is moved to a better location away from the persistent puddle along Main Road.

Councillor Spriggs asked if we could make enquiries into having the Cage registered for marriages.

15/218. Any other business (information items only).

The Clerk advised that she was meeting with the District Council Tree Officer on Monday 21st September to inspect the trees recommended for works by the tree contractor.

Councillor Spriggs requested that additional heating for the Cage be looked into before the onset of winter.

15/219. To confirm dates for future Council meetings for 2015.

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 13th October 2015.

Meeting closed at 10.10pm