

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in The Cage on Wednesday 10th February 2016.

Attended by Councillors G Booth (Chairman), P Spriggs (Vice Chairman), J Hunt, C Killingworth & P Williams.

16/26. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Bates & Cook and County Councillor Gillick.

16/27. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests for dispensations.

16/28. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Cllr Killingworth declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 16/34 a) as the applicant was her daughters father in law.

16/29. 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.

16/30. To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held on the 13th & 20th January 2016.

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

16/31. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 13th & 20th January 2016. (Information only)

The Chairman advised that Cllr P Davis from Wisbech St Mary Parish Council had been selected to attend the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

16/32. Community Police Officers Report.

The Clerk had received an email reporting on the crimes in the Parish for the last month consisting of 2 shed burglaries and 1 theft. There had been a number of shed burglaries in the rural Wisbech areas and the Police advised of their interest in a Green Volvo V70, registration number P225MLR.

16/33. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

Cllr Booth advised that the County Council had still not agreed on their Council Tax increase for this year as they were still looking into where savings could be made. The next District Council Meeting was at the end of February when it was likely that the Council Tax would be increased by 1.99%. Cllr Booth had attended a seminar to look at future budget savings and possible options being considered were the future of the New Horizon Bus, the running costs of the Leisure Centres, charging for brown bin collections, cuts to grants to CAB, Wisbech Museum and other groups, reducing costs on parks and open spaces and ending the Youth Council. Although car parking charges were not being introduced at present this could change in 3 years' time. Cllr Booth had complained about the lack of information given on the latest budget consultation.

16/34. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) L.A. Allen, Planning Application No. F/YR16/0025/F, Agent D Broker, erection of a 3 storey 6 bed dwelling with detached garage on land west of 114 Main Road, Parson Drove. Councillors resolved to support the application and recommend approval is granted.

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

Parson Drove Parish Council, Planning Application No. F/YR15/1055/F, change of use from agricultural land to burial ground as an extension to existing churchyard on land north of Emmanuel Church, Main Road, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

c) Notification from Fenland District Council that the Planning Appeal 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 bed roomed dwelling involving the demolition of the existing mobile home and outbuildings at Rupen, Long Drove, Parson Drove has been dismissed.

Information noted by Councillors.

d) Notification from Peterborough City Council of the consultation until the 25th February 2016 on a new Peterborough Local Plan.

Information noted by Councillors.

16/35. Accounts & Finance

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

Mrs Yvonne Reader, 1 months' salary & expenses, £510.24. L.G.A. 1972 s112.

Konica Minolta Business Solutions, photocopier rental and copy charges, £120.59. L.G.A. 1972 s111.

Citizens Advice Rural Cambs, January Outreach Session, £78.70. L.G.A. 1972 s142.

b) Confirmation of request from Fenland District Council for the Parish Council to pay for the Village Hall hiring charges for the Golden Age Surgery to be held on the 24th March.

The Clerk advised that the village hall hiring charge of £32 quoted by Cllr Cook at the previous meeting was incorrect and Cllr Cook had apologised for this error. The correct charge will be £75. Councillors resolved to fund the revised village hall hiring charges.

c) To consider giving a donation to St Marks Methodist Church for the use of the Church for the 2015 Annual Parish Assembly Meeting.

Councillors resolved to give a grant/donation of £50 for the use of the Church for meetings during the last year. L.G.A. 1972 s111.

d) Confirmation from Internal Auditors of the date for the Internal Audit for the year ending 31st March 2016 and information on the future External Auditors.

The Clerk advised that the Internal Audit would take place on the 19th April. The information regarding future External Audit from 2017 were noted.

16/36. Report on progress from the working group on Neighbourhood Planning.

The Chairman advised that the responses to the questionnaire had now been collated and a report of the findings would be made to the Parish Council at the next meeting.

16/37. To review the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

Councillors reviewed the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and resolved to make no changes for this year.

16/38. To review and adopt Risks Assessments.

Councillors reviewed the Risks Assessments and resolved to make minor changes to the Risk Assessment for Council Assets relating to the street lights. Councillors resolved to amend the Risks Assessment for Finance relating to the risk of fire at the Clerk's house.

16/39. To receive a report from the Chairman on the allocation of the vacant Riverside Allotment Gardens.

The Chairman advised that following a meeting with the applicants the Garden Allotments numbered 10, 11 and 15A had been allocated to the new tenants. There was however still one small Garden Allotment vacant and it was agreed that this should be advertised again.

16/40. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

Email from Fenland District Council advising that they have recently updated and refreshed their Equalities Policy and enquiring if we are thinking of doing likewise and if so if we require any assistance.

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council's Equalities Policy had not been up dated for several years and therefore Councillors resolved that this should be completed.

b) Email from Fenland District Council with an update on Connecting Cambridgeshire. Information noted by Councillors.

c) Email from Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Commissioner with information on illegal waste dumping in Cambridgeshire and a poster raising awareness. Information noted by Councillors.

d) Cambridgeshire County Council Issue 3 News Bulletin. Information noted by Councillors.

e) Emails from Solicitors, Carbon Law Partners, regarding the building plot and the laying of the water supply pipe.

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 for this Agenda Item.

Councillors considered the recent offer of a payment of £300 from the developer but resolved not to accept this and to proceed with obtaining the independent valuation.

16/41. Highway & Street Lighting Matters.

Highway issues to be reported to Cambridgeshire County Council.

Councillors reported pot holes at Long Drove and the fence had been broken again around the triangle at the Swan Bridge junction.

b) Email from the Local Highway Improvements Team with an update on the Bellamy Bridge scheme.

This matter was deferred to the next meeting as information on the Safety Audit had still not been received from the County Council.

c) Email from the Local Highway Improvements Team regarding the section of footpath for Sealeys Lane.

The Officer advised that due to recommended guidelines they were unable to reduce the width of the footpath in order to provide a longer section of footpath as requested.

d) Faulty Street lights to be reported to the County Council.

There were no faulty street lights reported.

e) Update report on meeting with Cllr S King, regarding Parish Street Lighting and the independent survey findings.

The Chairman reported on the recent meeting with Cllr King, representatives from Skanska and representatives from several Parish Councils, advising that the information provided by Skanska was much better than the information received from Balfour Beatty. Cllr King took on board the questions raised at the meeting and would respond when he had obtained the answers.

16/42. To discuss complaint received from parishioners regarding the shed and trailer on land at the top of Springfield Road.

Councillors resolved to write to Roddens Housing Association advising of complaints received from Parishioners.

16/43. Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

No report was received due to the absence of Cllr Cook.

16/44. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

There were no questions raised by Councillors.

16/45. Any other business (information items only).

Cllr Williams advised that she had been approached by residents who were anxious regarding recent information received advising that the FACT mini buses would cease to operate in the village due to lack of funding. The Clerk was requested to make enquiries with FACT but it was likely that there had been a misunderstanding and even though the grant funding from the County Council was being reduced the service would continue with users perhaps having to pay more for the service.

The Chairman advised that he had received a letter advising that Parson Drove Youth Club had ceased from the 9th February 2016 due to lack of funding. It was hoped that this would only be temporary as applications for funding were being made.

16/46. Dates for future Council meetings.

The next meetings were confirmed for Wednesday 9th March, 13th April and 11th May 2016. The Annual Parish Assembly Meeting would be held on the 6th April at 7.00pm in St Marks Church.

Meeting closed 9.30pm