

## **Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in The Cage on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016.**

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

### **16/1. To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies had been received from Fenland District Councillor S Bligh.

### **16/2. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.**

There were no requests for dispensations.

### **16/3. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.**

Cllr Cook declared a Personal Interest for Agenda Item No. 16/14 as he is an Officer of the Amenities 95 Committee.

### **16/4. 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.

### **16/5. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015.**

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

### **16/6. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015. (Information only)**

The Chairman advised that he had informed the residents that the culvert bridge along Johnsons Drove would be repaired by County Council Highways but the work had not yet been completed.

### **16/7. Community Police Officers Report.**

The Clerk had received an email advising of the crimes reported in the parish during December consisting of 2 criminal damage to a motor vehicle, 1 shed burglary, 1 theft of a motor vehicle and 1 criminal damage. In view of the value of the tools stolen from the shed advice was given on measure that could be taken to try and prevent this. The Horizon Outreach Vehicle will be visiting Parson Drove on the 10<sup>th</sup> February at 1.45 for an hour. Concerns were raised that the Police did not appear to be investigating crimes even when evidence was available in relation to the recent criminal damage of motor vehicles and the incident reported recently in the village.

### **16/8. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.**

County Councillor Gillick advised that the street lights were now being turned off at 2.00am instead of midnight although this did not apply to our parish. It was expected that the Council Tax would be increased by 1.9% even though some Councillors were requesting a 4% increase. Information was given to Councillors on the planned Highways Maintenance programme for the following 3 years. As Back Road, Murrow did not appear to be included in the programme plan as previously indicated the Clerk was requested to query this omission.

District Councillor Booth advised that Cllr Bligh was asking for assistance in providing a joint response from District Councillors, Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary Parish Councils to the residents of Back Road, Murrow on the outcome of her recent survey.

There were no changes made to the proposed Pre Planning Application fees following the consultation. The comprehensive spending review was still being looked at but more savings needed to be made than first envisaged in view of the Governments cuts to funding.

**16/9. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.**

Notification from Fenland District Council that the following Planning Application has been refused.

T Jarvis, Planning Application No. F/YR15/1013/O, erection of a dwelling on land west of 117 Back Road, Murrow.

Information noted by Councillors.

**16/10. Accounts & Finance**

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

Mrs Yvonne Reader, 1 months' salary & expenses, £501.56. L.G.A. 1972 s112.

Cambridgeshire ACRE, annual membership renewal fee, £54. L.G.A. 1972 s143.

Smith Of Derby Ltd., annual Cage Clock service, £220.80. P.C.A 1957 s2.

D A Pest Control, annual contract for treatment of moles on village green, £360. PHA1987 s 164.

b) Letter from Fenland District Council with information on the amount of Concurrent Functions Grant and Council Tax Support Grant for 2016/2017.

Information noted by Councillors and this would be taken into account when setting the budget and precept at the Council Meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

c) To consider a verbal 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 in February.

Councillors resolved by a majority vote to agree to fund this, estimated to cost £32, but required the request in writing.

**16/11. Report on progress from the working group on Neighbourhood Planning.**

The Chairman advised that the analysis of the responses received was still being completed and it was now unlikely that the Referendum would be held in May as previously indicated.

**16/12. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.**

Letter from Thomas Clarkson Academy replying to our request for the school bus pick up point to be moved at Church End.

Councillors resolved to suggest that the pick-up point was moved to St Johns Church and request that Thomas Clarkson Academy contact the children affected and the bus company.

b) Email from Fenland District Council advising of their Business Plan and Budget consultation and attaching a questionnaire for completion and return by the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016. Councillors commented on the lack of information provided in the consultation documents relating to the budget.

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 the following two Agenda Items.

c) Letter from Carbon Law Partners advising of their Terms of Engagement and Terms of Business and requesting the Councils acceptance of these.

Councillors resolved to accept the Terms of Engagement and Terms of Business set out in the letter from Carbon Law Partners.

d) Email from Solicitors, Carbon Law Partners, advising on the Deed of Grant in relation to the building plot and the laying of the water supply pipe.

Councillors considered the advice from the Solicitors and suggested an independent valuation should be obtained regarding the granting of any rights to lay the water pipe over the village green. It was ascertained that the developer does not have any such rights under the Deed of Grant.

### **16/13. Highway Matters.**

Highway issues to be reported to Cambridgeshire County Council.

Councillors advised that the roadside edges were falling apart along Bridge Drove, there was damage to the grass verges along Marshall Bank and there were pot holes along Marshall Bank and Harrolds Bank.

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

The project officer advised that he was still waiting for the Road Safety Audit but once this had been received a joint meeting between Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary Parish Council could be arranged to discuss the joint scheme.

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

Councillors resolved to respond advising that they were happy with the proposed location of the section of footpath but would like the width of the footpath reduced from 1.5 metres to 1.2 metres as this would result in a larger section of footpath being provided in the first stage. The Chairman advised that he had contacted Fenland District Council regarding making an application under the Rural Capital Bids scheme but had been advised that if the applications already submitted were progressed then there would be no grant funding left under this scheme for any further applications.

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

It would appear that the street light outside St Marks Church had been removed by the County Council and Councillors therefore requested information was obtained on when they were going to replace it. Councillors reported that the street light outside the Butchers Arms, Main Road was not working.

e) Letter from Fenland District Council, Cllr S King, regarding Parish Street Lighting and update report on the independent survey.

As Councillor King's letter suggested we contact Balfour Beatty direct Councillors resolved to contact them requesting the exact details as to why the Category 2 street lights required replacing within the next 3 years. Councillors also resolved to write to Fenland District Council sending a copy of the letter found in the Parish Council archives dated in 1999 confirming that the street lights at Newlands Road and Springfield Road were the responsibility of the District Council and not the Parish Council.

The Chairman had meet with the representative from Skanska whilst they were completing the independent survey of our 5 street lights and their findings did not confirm Balfour Beatty's findings. The Chairman was attending a meeting with other Parish Councils and Fenland District Councillor King on the 29<sup>th</sup> January to discuss the findings of the independent survey and would enquire as to what would happen regarding future maintenance of our street lights if we did not authorise Balfour Beatty to replace the Category 2 lights within the next 3 years.

**16/14. Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.**

Councillor Cook advised that the Planning Application for the village hall had been submitted to Fenland District Council and a letter would be sent to the Parish Council requesting reimbursement of the Planning Application Fee of £192.50 as the Amenities Committee had already paid this.

**16/15. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.**

Councillors asked when the wooden fence was going to be repaired in the traffic island at Swan Bridge. The Clerk advised that she would raise this with the County Council Highways.

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

There were no matters raised by Councillors.

**16/17. Dates for future Council meetings.**

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm in The Cage to set the budget and precept for 2016/2017.

The next normal monthly meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 7.00pm in The Cage.

Meeting closed 9.15pm