

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in The Cage on Wednesday 9th November 2016.

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

4 members of the public (Mr G Patrick, Mr L Patrick, Mr A Patrick & Alexandra Patrick).

16/203. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Williams.

16/204. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests for Dispensations from Councillors.

16/205. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

The Chairman declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 16/216 a) as he is an allotment garden tenant.

Councillor Cook declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 16/218 as he is an Officers of the Amenities 95 Committee.

16/206. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

As part of the Community Engagement process Alexandra Patrick outlined the proposal by G Patrick and M Patrick to submit a planning application for the erection of 4 dwellings as listed under Agenda Item Number 16/211 c).

16/207. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 12th October 2016.

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

16/208. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 12th October 2016. (Information only)

Councillor Spriggs advised that a complaint had been made to the District Council regarding the decision to refuse planning application No. F/16/0641/RM and this was being looked into.

Councillor Cook advised that he had been unable to attend the briefing by Cambridgeshire Community Services on health and care provision in Wisbech held on the 19th October. It was reported in the local press that this briefing was very poorly attended by local Town and Parish Councillors.

The Clerk advised that a planning application had been submitted to the District Council for permission to carry out the work to the trees on the village green but the quotation had still not been received from the contactor.

16/209. Community Police Officers Report.

The Clerk had received an email informing us of the crimes in the parish for October advising that there has been 1 crime of a dwelling burglary. Speeding was still an issue in the parish and in order to address this speed enforcement patrols had been undertaken resulting in a number of drivers receiving speeding tickets and others being given words of advice. They are endeavouring to undertake speed enforcement patrols on a monthly basis but are still trying to recruit volunteers for a community speed watch group and anyone interested should contact the Wisbech Police Station via email to Wisbech.npt@cambs.pnn.police.uk.

They continue to attend schools either at the start or end of school times and have also been advised that parents have been parking in front of residents homes restricting access. Residents should report these issues by contacting the Police on 101 or by sending an email to the Wisbech NPT mailbox so that they are aware of any issues that are occurring. Talks are still taking place to find a venue for future Rural Forums however surveys can now be completed online via <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WisbechCommunitySafety>. Results from these surveys will be used to identify the local police priorities for the following 6 months. Councillors commented that they were dismayed that the Police could not find the funding to pay for a venue to hold these Rural Forums and agreed to offer the use of The Cage free of charge.

16/210. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

Fenland District Councillor Booth advised that the charging for the Brown Bin collection had been approved by the Cabinet and would take effect from April 2017. Fenland District Council were holding a meeting on the 17th November to further discuss the proposal of Devolution for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

16/211. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) D Robbins, Planning Application No. F/YR16/0909/TRCA No Agent, to fell a Norway Spruce within a Conservation area, Swan House, Station Road, Parson Drove.

The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council support the application for the felling of the Norway Spruce Tree but object to this being replaced with a hedge due to concerns that this could encroach out onto the village green, the public seat and the footpath. There was no seconder for this proposal.

Councillor Cook proposed that the Parish Council object to the Planning Application in view of the tree being situated in a Conservation Area. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Killingworth and carried by a majority vote. Councillors agreed to request a site meeting with the applicant to discuss fully their intentions regarding a hedge.

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

P Walter, Planning Application No. F/YR16/0848/PNH, No Agent, erection of a single storey rear extension, 381 Main Road, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

c) Proposal by G Patrick & M Patrick, Agent Alexandra Design Service, for erection of 4 detached 3 bedroom dwellings & attached garages on land rear of 218 Main Road, Parson Drove, requesting Parish Council support for the scheme under the Community Engagement criteria.

Councillors resolved to support the proposed development in principle subject to consideration being made into the merits of the proposed recreational area as they considered this area would be better used to provide additional car parking space, an agreement is reached on a Community Contribution and support is obtained from local residents.

Councillors resolved to discuss the Community Contribution at the next Parish Council Meeting.

d) Email from Fenland District Council inviting Councillors to attend a Planning training event on Thursday 3rd November at 6.30pm.

In view of the short notice for this training session only the Chairman was able to attend. The main topics were Flood Risks and the Community Consultation process.

The Clerk was asked to report the clearing of land and siting of caravans on land next to Dragonfly Cottage, Seadyke Bank, Murrow as the Council had not been informed that planning permission had been granted for this site, planning application number F/YR15/0686/F and according to the District Councils website the decision on the planning application was still pending.

The Clerk advised that a letter had been received from Peter Humphrey Associates Ltd, advising of proposed development on three sites and asking for the Council's views as part of the Community Consultation prior to the planning applications being submitted. As this information had not been received in time to be included in the Agenda for this meeting Councillors were informed the matter would be on the Agenda for the next meeting on 14th December, the same day as the Agents were planning to hold a Public Community Consultation event in the village hall.

16/212. Accounts & Finance

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

Mrs Yvonne Reader, 1 months' salary & expenses, £522.36. L.G.A. 1972 s 112.

EON, electricity for the Cage, £52.75. L.G.A. 1972 s 133.

Konica Minolta Business Solutions, quarterly photocopier rental and copy charges, £106.26. L.G.A. 1972 s 111.

CPRE, annual membership fee, £36. L.G.A. 1972 s 143.

b) To consider request from Parson Drove Youth Football Club for assistance to purchase permanent flood lights for the football pitch on the Playing field.

Councillors resolved to respond advising that they would look favourably on this request but felt that this matter should firstly be discussed with the Amenities 95 Committee. Information should also be obtained from the Football Association, an electrical contractor and enquiries made with the District Council regarding obtaining planning permission.

16/213. Report on progress from the working group on Neighbourhood Planning.

The Chairman advised that the draft Policies had been submitted to the District Council and he was still waiting for a formal response from them.

16/214. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Letter from Cllr C Bates advising of her resignation as a Parish Councillor.

The Clerk advised that the District Council had been informed of the vacancy and the required notices had been received and displayed. If no election is called the vacancy can be filled by co-option and it was agreed that this should be completed in January 2017.

Councillors resolved to write a letter of thanks to Mrs Bates.

b) Email from CAPALC inviting members to the Annual General Meeting on the 15th December.

The Chairman confirmed that he would be attending the meeting.

c) Email from Crime Prevention Officer advising that Inspector Davis will be attending the Parish Council Meeting on the 8th February 2017.

Noted by Councillors.

d) Invitation to attend the Cambridgeshire Parish Council Conference on Friday 18th November from 9.00am to 1.00pm at the Burgess Hall in St Ives.

Noted by Councillors.

16/215. Highway & Street Lighting Matters.

Highway issues to be reported to Cambridgeshire County Council.

Cllr Cook advised that Fen Road had no road surface drains or kerbing from Swan Bridge on one side of the road resulting in possible flooding of resident's front gardens and driveways. Councillors agreed for this issue to be raised with the Highways Department.

b) To discuss and agree on application to be made to the County Council Local Highway Projects Team for the Local Highways Improvement Initiative for 2017/2018 as applications must be submitted online by the 30th November 2016.

Councillors resolved to submit an application for phase 3 of the footway provision along Sealeys Lane.

Councillors resolved to proceed with the speed limit extensions along Murrow Bank and The Bank towards Clough Bridge subject to acceptable costings being received which would be funded from the 2017/2018 Precept together with any reserves available at the end of 2016/2017.

c) Emails from Cambridgeshire County Council with information regarding the gritting routes for this winter and the Community Gritting Scheme.

The Chairman advised that from the maps provided it would appear that only the roads linking up to the A47 would be gritted this year.

The Clerk advised that Stewart Macquire had agreed to continue as the volunteer for the community gritting scheme for this year.

d) Request from a Parishioner to approach the County Council regarding Lorries travelling through the village.

The Clerk advised that this was a regular complaint from parishioners but the County Council merely responded each time with a circular with information on their Heavy Goods Vehicle Policy advising that it was difficult to restrict the movement of Heavy Goods Vehicles as they are permitted to use any classification of road for access and deliveries.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to write to S. Barclay M.P. to see if he could assist with this complaint.

e) Request for reflectors to be placed on Telegraph poles along Main Road near the school.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to make enquiries with British Telecom regarding placing reflectors on their poles.

f) Update report regarding Parish Street Lighting.

A response had been received from Cllr King on the questions previously raised but as Councillors had not received this information as it had only just been received it was agreed that this matter should be deferred until the next meeting.

g) Faulty Street lights to be reported to the County Council.
The Chairman advised that the street light near The Old Farmhouse and the Mulberries, opposite Cannon House was still not working.

16/216. Riverside Garden Allotments & Fen Allotments.

To report on the collection of rents for the Riverside Garden Allotments and any issues raised by tenants.

The Clerk advised that there were a few outstanding Garden Allotment rents and if these were not paid by the end of the week reminder letters for payment of the rent would be issued. There were no issues raised by tenants but clarification was required from the applicant for a garden as to whether they required both of the vacant allotment gardens or just one. There was also one small garden allotment still vacant and the Clerk was requested to enquire with the adjoining tenant to see if he wished to take over this small allotment garden as he had previously indicated that he would like a larger allotment garden.

b) To report on the collection of rents for the Fen Allotments and any issues raised by tenants. The Clerk advised that there was one outstanding Allotment rent and if payment had not been received by the end of the week a reminder for payment of the rent would be issued. There were no matters raised by the tenants.

16/217. Concerns raised by a Parishioner on the state of the trees in Springfield Road and weeds on adjoining land.

The Chairman had again received a complaint about the over grown land at the rear of Springfield Road and the poor condition of the Willow tree that was obstructing the light into one of the houses.

The Clerk was requested to contact Fenland District Council with the complaint.

16/218. Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

Cllr Cook advised that WREN had requested some further documentation regarding the ownership of the land before they could progress the grant application for the village hall. The Clerk was requested to provide a copy of the Land Registry Certificate and the Trust Deed as soon as possible.

16/219. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

There were no questions raised by Councillors.

16/220. Any other business (information items only).

Cllr Hunt advised that he would be interested in representing the Parish Council on the John Bends Charity following the resignation of Mr & Mrs Bellamy. The Clerk advised that this matter would be on the Agenda for the next Council Meeting.

Cllr Spriggs commented on the number of leaves along The Bank making it dangerous for pedestrian and asked if the District Council could be requested to sweep along this area. The Clerk advised that it had already been done the previous week but within a couple of days was just as bad again but would request another sweep.

16/221. Dates for future Council meetings.

Councillors resolved to hold an extra meeting on the 18th January 2017 to discuss and agree on the Budget and Precept for 2017/2018. The next meetings were confirmed for Wednesday 14th December and Wednesday 11th January 2017. Meeting closed 9.50pm.