

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

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

16/47. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Cllr P Williams.

16/48. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests for dispensations.

16/49. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Cllr Cook declared a Pecuniary Interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 16/62 as he is an Officer of the Amenities 95 Committee.

16/50. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

The member of the public present complained that the Notices on the Community Notice Board outside the Village Hall were out of date, the Parish Council Minutes were not detailed enough and should give a verbatim report. The process for co-option onto the Council last year was not carried out as he had previously been informed by the Clerk.

The Precept had been increased considerably over the last 4 years and several items, including the following items of expenditure were a waste of money: - Speed Limit extension at Church End, Doctors Surgery signs and footpath joining John Bends Way. The parishioner felt that the Parish Council should not fund any improvements to the Bellamy Bridge junction as he did not believe it was in the parish of Parson Drove.

He was concerned about the amount of vandalism in the village and horses being ridden on the footpaths. The footpath at the front of John Bends Way had not been completed in accordance with the planning permission granted and the County Council were not likely to adopt this and the road until it had been attended to.

The Chairman advised that he had spoken to the District Council regarding the footpath at John Bends Way and had been informed that the developers had not broken any planning conditions imposed in the planning permission granted. The Parish Council were enquiring with the County Council to find out when the road would be adopted. The Parish Council Minutes were not a verbatim report of Council Meetings but recorded items discussed and decisions made by Councillors.

16/51. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th February 2016.

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

16/52. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 10th February 2016. (Information only)

The Clerk advised that one application had been received for the vacant Riverside Allotment Garden. The Chairman advised that the tenant who had originally requested Allotment Garden Number 15 A now wished to take Garden Number 8 A.

Councillors agreed to this change and resolved to let Allotment Garden Number 15 A to the new applicant David Markillie.

The Youth Club had submitted a grant application for funding from the Wryde Croft Community Fund.

16/53. Community Police Officers Report.

The Clerk had received an email reporting on the crimes in the Parish during the last month. There had been 1 criminal damage, 1 theft, 1 burglary and 1 criminal damage to a vehicle. The North Rural Forum had been held in February and the key concern raised was speeding in the villages and they would therefore endeavour to encourage local community groups to set up speedwatch groups. The next forum would be sometime in October 2016.

16/54. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

District Councillor Booth advised that the Council Tax had been set resulting in an increase of 1.98% representing a monetary increase for Band D of £4.60. The Business Plan to identify future cuts had been agreed. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan had been adopted and our comments had been taken on board resulting in the plan being amended accordingly. Devolution of Local Powers is progressing at a great pace in respect of Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

16/55. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

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

J Cook, Parson Drove Parish Council, Planning Application No. F/YR16/0016/F, erection of a single storey extension, alterations to windows, insertion of roof lights & relocation of gas tank with 1.8 security fence to existing village hall, 63 Main Road, Parson Drove.
Information noted by Councillors.

Email from Fenland District Council attaching guidance about what they consider should be included in a pre-application consultation exercise in the event that the village threshold of 10% (15% Growth Villages) as specified in Policy LP12 of the Local Plan are exceeded and a Position Statement on the number of dwellings built or approved to be built in each village since the start of the Local Plan period in April 2011.

Councillors resolved to ask for clarification on the exact location classed as the village of Parson Drove on which the housing numbers are based and to raise concerns over the low threshold required demonstrating community support for a new development which would appear to supersede the Parish Councils views.

16/56. Accounts & Finance

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

Mrs Yvonne Reader, 1 months' salary & expenses, £490.98.L.G.A. 1972 s 112.

Fenland District Council, Election May 2015 charges, £231.08.L.G.A. 1972 s101.

Open Spaces Society, annual membership renewal fee, £45. L.G.A. 1972 s143.

Anglian Water, water rates for The Cage, £12.66.L.G.M.P. A 1976 s144.

Crowson & Ward Ltd., office consumables, £34.73.L.G.A. 1972 s111.

b) To consider quotations received for the annual grass cutting and grounds maintenance contract.

Three quotations had been received for £2,870, £3,217 and £3,750 respectively. Councillors resolved to continue with the existing contractor and accept their quotation for £3,217 as they considered their service to be good value for money and a good quality of work is delivered.

c) To consider whether or not to continue with the Citizens Advice Outreach Sessions. The Clerk advised that although 3 sessions had been held during the year no one had attended any of these sessions. Councillors therefore resolved not to continue with this service but would consider giving an annual grant to the Citizens Advice Bureau as several parishioners had visited the Wisbech Office or obtained advice over the telephone.

d) Request from Murrow Book Café for a grant/donation. Councillors resolved it give a grant of £50. L.G.A. 1972 s 137.

16/57. Report on progress from the working group on Neighbourhood Planning.

Councillors were provided with a written report advising of the outcomes of the responses from the questionnaire. This information would now enable the Policies to be prepared. A presentation by the group would be made at the Annual Parish Assembly Meeting on the 6th April.

16/58. To adopt revised Risks Assessments.

Councillors resolved to adopt the revised Risk Assessments prepared and presented to the meeting.

16/59. To consider and adopt revised Equal Opportunities Policy, new Dignity at Work Policy and new Child & Adults at Risk Safeguarding Policy.

Councillors resolved to adopt the revised Equal Opportunities Policy and the new Dignity at Work Policy presented.

Councillors resolved to adopt the new Child & Adults at Risk Safeguarding Policy after making minor amendments as it was noted that this did not normally apply to the Parish Councils activities but the Policy was required for the Grant Application for the swings.

16/60. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

Email from Cambridgeshire County Council with information on the bus service review in our area.

Councillors were disappointed to note that the shuttle service from Guyhirn had not been included as requested.

b) Email from Fenland District Council advising of changes to the recycling banks. Information noted by Councillors.

c) Email from Local Government Boundary Commission advising that the review of Cambridgeshire County Council has now been completed.

Councillors expressed their dissatisfaction at the outcome of this review as the District Ward of Parson Drove & Wisbech St Mary had been split with Parson Drove and Murrow being in the Roman Bank & Peckover Division and Guyhirn & Wisbech St Mary in the North March & Waldersey Division

d) Letter from Clive Gibson Conservative Candidate for North March and Waldersey Division asking for the opportunity to attend one of our Parish Council Meetings to introduce himself formally and gain a better understanding of local issues.

Councillors resolved to refuse this request as Parson Drove will not be in the North March and Waldersey Division as it will be in the Roman Bank and Peckover Division.

e) Letter of thanks from St Marks Methodist Church for the donation of £50.
Noted by Councillors.

f) Emails from Mr Bowditch, Stormbay Developments regarding the easement for the water supply pipe and advising of their intention to lay a footpath from the front gate of the new house to join the existing footpath and advice received from Solicitors, Carbon Law Partners. 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 resolved not to accept the offer made and to proceed with obtaining an independent valuation for both the laying of the water pipe and the footpath across the village green.

g) Email from Anglian Water advising of their launch of a campaign called Pollution Watch.
Information noted by Councillors

h) Email from Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group advising of workshops being held during March to enable residents to get involved in shaping local health services.

Information noted by Councillors.

i) Email from Fenland District Council advising that they are considering whether all private rented properties in Wisbech Town should require a license to operate, called a Selective Licensing scheme.

Councillors resolved to respond stating that in their view all private rented properties should be included in the scheme not just those in Wisbech.

16/61. Highway & Street Lighting Matters.

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

Email from Parishioner complaining about over hanging trees and bushes over footpaths and parking outside the school.

Councillors resolved to ask the Police to attend the school to deal with the complaint regarding parking.

The Chairman advised that the repairs to the footpath outside Cannon House had now been completed.

The Clerk was requested to report over grown hedges along Main Road, Elbow Lane and Murrow Bank. Also to report pot holes along Fen Road, Long Drove, Silvers Lane and Harrolds Bank.

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

The County Council were not proceeding with this scheme as the cost would be in excess of the LHI scheme budget in view of various complications. Minor road signage would be completed at no cost to the parish for the time being. As this scheme was not now going to be progressed under the LHI bids for 2015/2016 Councillors resolved to enquire if the funding could be allocated to the second phase of the footpath extension along Sealeys Lane in view of the application for 2016/2017 not being successful.

c) Emails from the Local Highway Improvements Team regarding the first section of footpath for Sealeys Lane and notification that our application for 2016/2017 for a second section of footpath was not successful.

Councillor Bates advised that complaints had been received that the new section of footpath was not wide enough on the bend for wheelchairs and pushchairs in view of the positioning of the signage. The Clerk was requested to report this to the County Council.

Councillors queried why the scoring for the second section of footpath was considerably less than the score given for the first section of footpath under the successful application for 2015/2016.

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

Councillors reported a faulty street light outside Snips, Main Road, Parson Drove.

e) Update report on emails from Cllr S King regarding Parish Street Lighting.

It was agreed that this information be circulated to all Councillors.

16/62. Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

Cllr Cook advised that the planning permission had now been received for the village hall and the Committee were now waiting for the tenders in order that grant applications could be made.

16/63. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

The Clerk was asked if a response had been received from the County Council regarding the adoption of John Bends Way and she advised that a reply had not yet been received.

16/64. Any other business (information items only).

Councillors were informed that 2 boys on bikes with a dog were calling at people's houses asking about cars and acting suspiciously. The Chairman stressed that it was important that all such incidences were reported to the Police.

The Chairman advised that a parishioner had advised him that he had complained to the County Council, requesting an apology after receiving a letter regarding mud being left on the road at John Bends Way when in fact the parishioner contacted by the County Council was no longer the tenant of the land. The Chairman advised that he would refer this matter to the John Bends Charity at their next meeting.

16/65. Dates for future Council meetings.

The Chairman confirmed the date for the Annual Parish Assembly Meeting to be held in St Marks Church at 7.00pm on Wednesday 6th April.

The next Parish Council Meeting would be held on Wednesday 13th April at 7.00pm in The Cage.

Meeting closed 9.40pm