

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in The Cage on Wednesday 14th December 2016.

Attended by Councillors G Booth (Chairman), P Spriggs (Vice Chairman), J Cook, J Hunt, C Killingworth & P Williams.
3 members of the public (Mr G Patrick, Mr A Patrick & Alexandra Patrick).

16/222. To receive apologies for absence.

There were no apologies.

16/223. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests for dispensations.

16/224. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillor Cook declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 16/238 as he is an Officer of the Amenities 95 Committee.

Councillor Spriggs declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item 16/230a) as the applicant is his son, and Personal Interests in respect of Agenda Item Numbers 16/230 d and e) as his son is a tenant for farm land owned by the applicants.

Councillor Booth declared a Personal Interests in respect of Agenda Items Numbered 16/236 a) as he is an Allotment Garden tenant and 16/237 as he is Chairman of the Street Pride Group.

Councillors Williams declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 16/231 b) as she is a Church Warden.

16/225. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

The Agent acting for Mr G Patrick and Mr M Patrick confirmed that the draft plans for the erection of 4 dwellings on land to the rear of 218 Main Road, Parson Drove had been amended to replace the open space area with additional parking spaces as suggested by the Parish Council at the previous meeting.

There had not been any further concerns raised by parishioner regarding the proposed development.

16/226. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th November 2016.

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

16/227. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 9th November 2016. (Information only)

The Clerk advised that no election had been called by parishioners following the resignation of Cllr C Bates. The vacancy could now be filled by co-option and notices had been displayed asking for candidates wishing to be considered for co-option to contact the Clerk in writing by the 4th January 2017.

16/228. Community Police Officers Report.

An email had been received reporting on the crimes in the parish during November advising that there had been 1 criminal damage and 1 burglary other than a dwelling. Speed checks had been completed along Main Road, Parson Drove and along Murrow Bank resulting in a total of 6 tickets being issued, 5 for speeding and one for having no M.O.T. A number of drivers were also given words of advice.

The Police had also confirmed that they wished to use The Cage for the Rural North Forums and are liaising with the District Council to arrange a suitable date.

16/229. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

District Councillor Booth advised that there was a Fenland District Council meeting the following day when amongst other things the Cambridgeshire Flood Policy report and the Council Tax Support Grant would be discussed.

16/230. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

A Spriggs Planning Application No. F/YR16/1012/F, Agent D Broker, for the erection of 4 two storey 3 bed dwellings with detached double garages to plots 2 and 4, on land north of 9 Riverside Gardens, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to support the application and recommend approval is granted.

b) Parson Drove Parish Council, Planning Application No F/YR16/1042/TRTPO, works to 4 Lime trees covered by TPO WR/15/2/465/2 on the village green, Parson Drove.

Councillors noted this application.

c) Notification from Fenland District Council that the following Planning Applications have been approved.

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.

Chairman's feedback report on site meeting with the applicant.

The Chairman advised that he had met with the applicant on site to discuss concerns over the hedge encroaching out onto the public seat and the village green. The applicants indicated that they wished to work with the Parish Council. They intended to reduce the height of the fence and after felling the Norway Spruce Tree plant a small privet hedge which would be well maintained and this should therefore not cause any problems.

D Gilbert, Planning Application No F/YR16/0862/F, No Agent, erection of a 2 storey 4 bed dwelling involving demolition of existing dwelling in a Conservation Area, Heathfield House, 30 The Bank, Parson Drove.

Noted by Councillors.

d) 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, to discuss the Community contribution to the Parish Council and any further feedback received from the Community Engagement process.

The Chairman advised that Wisbech St Mary Parish Council had prepared a Policy for Community Contributions based on the number of bedrooms per dwelling. Councillors resolved to use a similar Policy for determining the amount for the Community Contribution and on this basis it was agreed that a Community Contribution of £5,000 should be made. After much discussion on the best use of the Community Contribution it was resolved that this should be used to either implement highway features to reduce speeding or improve village amenities. The applicants indicated that a Community Contribution of £5,000 would be acceptable to them together with the suggested projects.

e) Letter from Peter Humphrey Associates advising of a proposal by Cambridgeshire County Council to develop on three areas of land comprising of 6 plots on land west of 201 Main Road, 8 plots on land south of 267 Main Road and 4 plots on land south of 15 – 17 Fen Road and asking for the Parish Councils views and comments as part of the Community Consultation process.

Councillors resolved not to support any of the 3 sites being proposed for development as sites 1 and 2 were considered to be important open spaces within the village which should be retained. This view was confirmed recently by parishioner's responses to the consultation on the emerging Neighbourhood Plan. Site 3 was considered to be unacceptable as development on this site would result in back land development and Councillors expressed serious concerns over highway safety issues at the Swan Bridge junction in view of the high number of accidents already occurring at this junction.

16/231. Accounts & Finance

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

Mrs Yvonne Reader, 1 months' salary & expenses, £511.72. L.G.A 1972 s 112.

Anglian Water, water rates for the Cage, £12.09. L.G.A. 1972 s133.

Clerks & Councils Direct annual subscription renewal, £12. L.G.A. 1972 s 143.

Smiths of Derby Ltd, annual service of village clock in the Cage, £228.00. P.C.A. 1957 s2.

Parson Drove Royal British Legion, Remembrance Day Wreath, £20. L.G.A. 1972 s 137.

Society of Local Council Clerks, annual membership renewal fee, £93.L.G.A. 1972 s 143.

Fishlock Stables & Groundworks Ltd., installation of boundary concrete posts for the churchyard extension, £720. L.G.A. 1972 s214 (6).

Crowson & Ward Ltd., administration supplies, £23.88. L.G.A. 1972 s111.

Cambridgeshire County Council, contribution to the LHI scheme, first section of footway at Sealeys Lane, £1095.46. L.G. & R.A. 1997 s 30.

Cambridgeshire ACRE, annual membership renewal fee, £54.L.G.A. 1972 s 143.

b) Letter from Southea Parochial Church Council requesting the annual maintenance grant for the churchyard.

Councillors resolved to give a grant of £700, this was an increase from £600 allocated in the budget as there was an underspend of over £300 in the Churchyard extension budget which Councillors agreed to vire to the churchyard maintenance budget. L.G.A. 1972 s 214(6).

c) Letter from Fenland District Council confirming that the Council Tax Support Grant for 2017/2018 would be £1,235, the Concurrent Function Grant for 2017/2018 would be £3,807 and requesting our completed Precept Form by the 8th February 2017.

Information noted by Councillors

d) To consider quotations received for work to the trees on the village green.

Three quotations had been received, one for the general maintenance for the removal of deadwood for £1,200 one for the pollarding of the Lime tree outside 24 The Bank for £650 and one for 3 Limes trees to be reduced in size by 30% for £2,250.

Councillors resolved to proceed with the general maintenance work for £1,200 and the pollarding of the 1 Lime tree for £650 but to delay the work to the 3 Limes until the next financial year.

16/232. Report on progress from the working group on Neighbourhood Planning.

The Chairman advised that a response had now been received from the District Council on the draft Policies. In view some of the comments made by the District Council the working group would need to amend the Neighbourhood Plan and also arrange a meeting to discuss some of the matters raised.

16/233. To elect two Council Representatives to serve on the John Bends Charity following the resignation of Mr & Mrs C Bellamy.

Councillors resolved to nominate Councillor Hunt and Councillor Williams to serve on the John Bends Charity as Parish Council representatives.

16/234. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

Email from Fenland District Council in response to our complaint regarding the overgrown land and the condition of the Willow tree at Springfield Road.

The response received from the District Council advised that this matter was being looked into but to date no action appeared to have been taken. The Clerk was requested to send a reminder.

b) Email from Fenland District Council advising of BT's intension to remove several red telephone boxes in the district.

It would appear that this proposal did not include the red telephone box at the front of the Swan Inn therefore no action was required by the Parish Council.

c) Email from Fenland District Council asking the Parish Council to help with advertising for Visiting Officers across Fenland for 5 weeks 3 to 4 times a year to collect information in relation to the registration of electors under the Individual Elector Registration system. Request noted. Posters to be displayed on the Notice Board and request that this is included in the next issue of Village Voices.

d) Email from the Community Protection Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council asking us to raise awareness about No Cold Calling Zones.

Noted by Councillors and request to be included in the next Parish Council Newsletter.

16/235. Highway & Street Lighting Matters.

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

The road surface at Church End is cracking and although some repairs have been completed there is still a serious risk of pedestrian tripping. The hedge along Murrow Bank has still not been cut back and the road surface along Murrow Bank is also poor in places.

b) Confirmation from the County Council Local Highway Projects Team that our application for a further section of footpath at Sealeys Lane under the Local Highways Improvement Initiative for 2017/2018 has been received.

Information noted by Councillors. The panel are due to meet on the 8th February to discuss the applications.

c) Email response from the County Council Highways regarding our complaint about the surface water from the road flooding gardens and driveways along Fen Road.

The response suggested that an application be made under the LHI bids as no funding was available to address this problem. This suggestion was not possible as the Parish Council can only make one application under the LHI bids each year and this had already been done for the continuation of the footpath along Sealeys Lane.

d) Email from the County Council Highways regarding our complaint about heavy goods vehicles travelling through the village.

The response received acknowledged the concerns about the impact of Lorries and other large vehicles travelling through the villages. As a result the County Council are encouraging haulage companies to sign up to a voluntary code of conduct to include inappropriate and excessive speeds, inappropriate behaviour by their drivers and to adhere to agreed HCV routes as appropriate.

e) Complaints received from parishioners regarding none of the roads being gritted during the recent cold spell.

The Chairman advised that following pressure from several District and County Councillors the County Council had agreed to include most of the roads in the gritting programme.

f) Email received regarding Swan Bridge junction following the recent serious accident.

Councillors raised concerns over how the accidents were being recorded as there were far more accidents occurring at this junction than the County Council have recorded. The County Council's suggestion that improvements are made to the junction under the LHI scheme is not feasible as the scheme only covers projects costing up to £10,000 and a much larger scheme would be required to address the problems at this junction. Councillor Spriggs advised that the damaged railings at the footbridge had not been replaced in the same position and were subsequently ineffective in the current place.

g) Information received from Fenland District Cllr S King regarding Parish Street Lighting, deferred from the last meeting and email received from Fenland District Council regarding ownership of the street lights at Springfield Road.

Councillors resolved to respond advising that this matter should be investigated formally as their response was not acceptable as these street lights were not included in our asset register and a letter had been sent by the District Council in 1999 confirming their ownership.

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

There were no new faulty street lights to report.

16/236. Riverside Garden Allotments & Fen Allotments.

a) To report on the collection of rents for the Riverside Garden Allotments and update report on the vacant Garden Allotments.

The Clerk advised that all rents had now been paid apart from Mr Thomas who owing to ill health was not in a position to pay the rent and had not used his Garden Allotment for more than a year. Councillors therefore resolved to forgo the outstanding rent of £60 in view of the exceptional circumstances. The Chairman had not yet been able to clarify the position regarding the re-letting of Mr Thomas's 2 Allotment Gardens. The Clerk advised that Mr Forsey had agreed to take over the other remaining vacant small Allotment Garden.

b) To report on the collection of rents for the Fen Allotments.
The Clerk advised that all the Fen Allotment rents had now been paid.

16/237. To consider a request by the Street Pride group following a request by a parishioner to place Beehives on the Community Orchard.

Councillors resolved to agree to this request after considering the risk assessment but agreed for the need to liaise with the Alderman Primary School when the children were planning to visit the Community Orchard so that they were aware of the risks.

16/238. Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

Councillor Cook advised that a new grant application was being made to WREN in February 2017.

16/239. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

There were no questions raised by Councillors.

16/240. Any other business (information items only).

Councillor Spriggs advised that he had received a letter from Mr Bowditch, Stormbay Developments Ltd and Councillors agreed for this to be included in the Agenda for the next meeting.

16/241. Dates for future Council meetings.

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 11th January 2017 and an additional meeting would be held on Wednesday 18th January to agree on the budget and Precept for 2017/2018. Councillors also agreed to complete the co-option of a replacement Councillor to replace Councillor C Bates at the meeting on the 18th January.

Meeting closed 10.10pm.