

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in The Cage on Wednesday 13th July 2016.

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

16/126. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Cllr C Bates.

16/127. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests for dispensations.

16/128. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Cllr Williams declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 16/136 c) as she is a Church Warden and member of the Parochial Church Council.

The Chairman declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 16/140 as he is an allotment garden tenant.

Cllr Cook declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 16/142 as he is an Officer of the Amenities 95 Committee.

Cllr Spriggs advised that he would leave the meeting whilst Agenda Item No 16/134 a) was being discussed.

The Clerk declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 16/140 b) as a close relative was mentioned in the letter of complaint and she therefore left the meeting when this Agenda item was discussed.

16/129. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

The applicant for the planning application listed as Agenda Item No. 16/134 a) explained his proposals and clarified some of the information shown on the plans.

16/130. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 8th June 2016.

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

16/131. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 8th June 2016. (Information only)

The Chairman advised that the Speedwatch training for Murrow had been completed but no-one from Parson Drove had attended.

The County Council's replacement street lights had been erected along Main Road but were not yet connected to the electricity supply.

The grass roadside verges along Newlands Road had now been cut.

16/132. Community Police Officers Report.

The Clerk had received an email report from the Police advising that there had been one crime of a theft of a motor vehicle in the parish during June. The Police also advised that there had been a number of shed burglaries in other rural villages as well as thefts of motorbikes. The Clerk was requested to report the recent vandalism resulting in 3 windows being broken in the bus shelter and some large tree branches broken off the trees on the village green.

16/133. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

District Councillor Booth advised that the proposed Devolution for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough had been discussed at the last Council Meeting when some concerns had been raised. The proposal was now going out for public consultation but this would appear to be limited. Councillors resolved to oppose the suggestion of an elected Mayor, they considered that another layer of bureaucracy would result in some of the extra money gained being lost and request that a referendum is held to ascertain the level of support for Devolution otherwise it would not be a democratic decision.

16/134. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

P Boreman, Planning Application No. F/YR16/0435/F, Agent Morton Hall Ltd., erection of a part 2 storey part single storey 5 bed dwelling involving the demolition of existing barns on land north of 23 & 27 Main Road, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to support the application providing that the materials used are sympathetic to the neighbouring buildings and the Conservation Area and recycled materials are used where possible.

b) A Dalsar, Planning Application No F/YR16/0528/F, No Agent, application for variation of condition 10 relating to planning permission F/YR15/0739/F for the erection of a 2 storey 4 bed dwelling with detached double garage with storage above relating to repositioning of buildings, extension to both the house and garage and other minor changes. Plot 1 land west of 114 Main Road, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to object to the application as the proposed garage extension would have a detrimental impact on the amenity of the neighbouring property.

c) A C Bennett Construction Ltd., Planning Application No F/YR16/0534/F, Agent Studio 11 Architecture, for the erection of 4 single storey 3 bed dwellings with integral single garages, involving the demolition of 3 The Bank on land north east of 2 The Bank, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to object to the application as the conditions requested by the Parish Council for the previous Outline Planning Application had not been imposed and therefore concerns over the access being adequate without damage being caused to the village green and trees, particularly during construction had not been resolved. Security for the adjoining Primary School was also raised by Councillors.

d) Notification that the following Planning Application has been approved
Z John, Planning Application No F/YR16/0220/F, Agent D Taylor, erection of a 2 storey 4 bed dwelling involving the demolition of existing dwelling within a Conservation Area, Heathfield House, 30 The Bank, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

16/135. Risk Assessment.

To consider the report on the annual inspection of Parish Council Assets.

The following assets were identified as requiring some attention as stated below:-

The Cage had one dropped roof slate requiring attention, replace rotten wood and paint the external wooden doors and re-stain internal doors.

War Memorial Books need cleaning and repair cracked concrete path.

Bus Shelter, replace 3 broken glass windows.

Notice Board on village green, paint and repair internal wood surround.

Community Notice Board in the Village Hall Car Park, replace front Perspex.

Public Seats, replace bottom rail on seat outside The Cage, repaint seat near the War Memorial and clean the seat at the far end of the village green.

Cllr Hunt agreed to arrange for the Cage roof slate to be rectified.

The Clerk was requested to instruct P Tibbs Ltd to replace the broken windows in the bus shelter and obtain quotations for the work required to the War Memorial, Cage and Notice Boards.

16/136. Accounts & Finance

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

Mrs Yvonne Reader, 1 months' salary & expenses, £518.53. L.G.A. 1972 s 112.

b) To receive and approve the Receipts & Payments Bank Reconciliation Report and Budget Up-date Report.

Councillors resolved to approve the reports presented by the Clerk.

c) To consider quotation received for the boundary posts for the churchyard extension.

A quotation had been received advising that the size of posts requested by the Parochial Church Council would cost £200 more than standard posts as they would have to be specially made. Councillors therefore resolved to enquire with the Parochial Church Council if they would have any objection to the posts being a standard size in order to reduce the cost.

16/137. Report on progress from the working group on Neighbourhood Planning.

The Chairman advised that the working group were approaching Cambridgeshire ACRE for assistance with the technical wording of the Planning Policies as well as the District Council. The assistance obtained from Cambridgeshire ACRE would incur a cost and the working group were in the process of establishing the amount of expenditure requiring approval from the Parish Council.

16/138. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

Emails from Carbon Law Partners, Solicitors, regarding the water supply pipe under the village green.

The water supply pipes had been re-laid from Main Road under the front of the Swan Inn car park and along the side of the Swan Inn to the building plot. The solicitors had previously confirmed that the rights granted in the easement would allow for the water pipes to be laid along the side of the Swan Inn. The water metre and connection by Anglian Water was also in front of the Swan Inn Main Road. This matter would therefore appear to have reached an end but the Clerk would obtain confirmation from the Solicitor.

b) Email from CAPALC advising of a training day on the 15th July.

The Clerk advised that Cllr's Hunt and Williams had requested to attend this training session at a cost of £35 per person and this was approved by the Council.

c) Letter from the Royal British Legion acknowledging our donation of £15 for a Somme 100 Poppy.

Noted by Councillors.

d) Email from a parishioner asking for the trees along The Bank to be cut back and for the road and kerb white lines to be repainted.

Councillors resolved to respond advising that they would soon be looking into what work was required to the trees along The Bank. The request for refreshing the white lines would be forwarded onto the County Council Highways department.

e) Email from Fenland Dementia Action Alliance asking the Parish Council to become a member.

Councillors resolved to respond advising that they were willing to be a member of this group and suggested that an event could be held in the village hall. Information to be forwarded to Cllr Cook to arrange.

f) Email from the County Council regarding our enquiring about all of the grass not being cut on the Right of Way at Elbow Lane.

The County Council had responded advising that this Byway is only cut for the first 466 metres. However there was a possibility that some extra cuts could be added and therefore hopefully this Byway will be cut in the next 6 weeks.

16/139. Highway & Street Lighting Matters.

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

There were no new highway issues raised by Councillors but Cllr Spriggs asked if the hedge along Murrow Bank could be raised again with the North Level Internal Drainage Board.

b) Email from the Local Highway Improvements Team regarding the footpath at Sealeys Lane.

A response had been received advising that the cost of moving the lit road sign in the first section of footpath would be £686.91. A plan had also been received for the second section of footpath. Councillors resolved to accept the proposals for the second section of footpath and to ensure that the cost of moving the lit road sign in the first section was included in this year's LHI scheme.

c) Up-date report on proposed improvements to the junction of Back Road, Silvers Lane, Seadyke Bank and Front Road, Murrow.

The Chairman advised that he had received proposals from the County Council Highways to improve the road markings and signage but they had not included the traffic calming chicane at the top of Back Road as suggested. The Chairman had therefore queried this and was waiting for a further response from the County Council.

d) To agree on highway issues to be raised with Officers from the County Council Highways at the Open Day on Wednesday 20th July.

Councillors attending the Open Day agreed to raise the following issues:-

Road surface and pot holes along Main Road & Johnsons Drove, Parson Drove and Back Road, Murrow.

The cutting of grass verges, hedges and trees at road junctions, particularly the junction of Main Road with Silvers Lane and Johnsons Drove.

Extending the 40mph limit at Murrow Bank and up to Clough Bridge.

The Swan Bridge junction.

e) Complaint received regarding the state of Bridge Drove and the time taken for the County Council to install fencing at the drain edge.

The Bridge Officer from the County Council attended one of our Parish Council Meetings several months ago and advised that the culvert bridge fencing would be repaired but to date this had still not been completed. Councillors resolved for the Clerk to contact the Officer again requesting urgent attention to this outstanding matter.

f) Update report regarding Parish Street Lighting.

The Clerk had received an email from District Cllr King advising that a meeting would be arranged during August to discuss this outstanding matter.

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

Councillors reported that there were a lot of street lights not working but this was due to the work being completed by Balfour Beatty for the County Council and hopefully would be resolved in the near future. Councillors therefore agreed not to report these for the time being.

16/140. Riverside Garden Allotments.

a) To report on the annual inspection of the Fen Allotments and the Riverside Garden Allotments.

Councillors reported that there were no issues arising from the Fen Allotments.

Councillors reported that Allotment Gardens Numbered 7A, 8A, 12 and 13 were untidy and resolved for the Clerk to write to the tenants requesting that they were cleaned up or vacated as soon as possible.

b) Letter of complaint received from a Riverside Garden Allotment tenant and advising of their wish to vacate their allotment garden.

The Clerk left the room whilst this Agenda Item was discussed.

Councillors resolved that when the annual letters are sent out to tenants requesting payment of the rent tenants are reminded that any complaints regarding the condition of neighbouring allotment gardens should be sent to the Parish Council. Clerk to acknowledge the letter received from the tenant advising of the wish to vacate Allotment Garden No 8B. As there was only one applicant on the waiting list for an allotment garden it was resolved to re-let allotment garden 8B immediately.

16/141. To discuss the District Council's Garden Waste Changes in connection with the Brown Bin Collection.

Councillors resolved to respond advising that they considered that the wording of the consultation letter was very poor as it implied that the change was going ahead anyway.

Councillors also resolved to object to the proposals as they considered other areas should be considered in order to save money. Councillors felt that the proposed changes would increase fly tipping in rural areas, concerns had been raised by residents as to what would happen regarding the collection of leaves along The Bank in Autumn and rural areas do not receive many services for the council tax already paid without having to pay an extra £40 for this service.

16/142. Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

Cllr Cook advised that grant applications were being submitted to the District Council under the Rural Capital Grants Scheme, WREN and the Big Lottery for the village hall.

16/143. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

Councillor Killingworth asked if anything could be done regarding a fence erected on the grass verge in front of a house at Sealeys Lane. The Chairman advised that this was a matter for the Highways department at the County Council and the Clerk would therefore report this to them.

16/144. Any other business (information items only).

The Clerk advised that the new swings had been installed on the village green the previous week.

16/145. Dates for future Council meetings.

The next Council Meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 10th August.

Meeting closed 10.00pm