

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

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

16/165. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Bates.

16/166. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests from Councillors for dispensations.

16/167. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Cllr Cook declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 16/179 as he is an Officer of the Amenities 95 Committee.

Cllr Hunt declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 16/173 b) and did not participate in the discussions or voting for this Agenda Item.

16/168. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

The member of the public pointed out to the Council that the 40mph speed limit sign at the junction of Back Road, Silvers Lane and Front Road Murrow had 80mph written on it, also that the flashing speeding sign near to Ingham Hall Gardens was not working. The Chairman thanked the parishioners for drawing these matters to the Parish Council's attention and they would subsequently be reported to the County Council Highways department for attention although it had been indicated previously that the flashing speed sign may not be repairable due to the County Council having difficulty in obtaining replacement parts.

16/169. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th August 2016.

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

16/170. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 10th August 2016. (Information only).

Cllr Williams advised that several Church End residents had shown an interest in assisting with the research investigating bats and had given permission for their land to be used.

Subsequently the traps had been put in place for 2 years and we would be kept informed of the progress and outcome of the research.

Cllr Hunt raised that he had declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 16/154 b) and did not participate in the discussions or voting on this planning matter but this had not been recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The Chairman advised that this error should have been raised when approving the minutes of the last meeting at Agenda Item 16/169 but the omission from the minutes was noted.

The County Council had advised that the fence at the culvert bridge at Bridge Road would be removed and not repaired as requested as it was still considered to be the responsibility of the North Level Internal Drainage Board who were refusing to accept responsibility for the maintenance. The Chairman considered that the residents would not be happy at this decision.

16/171. Community Police Officers Report.

The Clerk had received an email advising that there had been 2 crimes during August consisting of 1 criminal damage and 1 attempted burglary. There had been a number of dwelling burglaries in some of the other rural north villages, where jewellery and other items had been stolen. Speeding checks had been carried out during the month at Church End near to the Doctors Surgery.

The North Rural Forum is to be held in October but as the New Horizon Bus is no-longer available Councillors were asked to suggest a location where this could be held.

Councillors resolved to suggest that this event is postponed until November to provide adequate time for advertising and suggested that the Pavilion could be used in which to hold the Forum.

16/172. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

District Councillor Booth advised that the future of the brown bin collection was included in the Agenda for the District Council Meeting on Thursday. 9500 consultation responses had been received and a petition had been signed by 1600 residents, nevertheless the decision on this matter may be taken by the Cabinet. The Police 101 reporting service must be used more if we want more Police in rural areas.

16/173. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

Mr Skinner Planning Application No. F/YR16/0645/F, Agent Brown & Co, change of use from mixed use (A1) to residential (C3) to form additional living accommodation, Snips Hair Fashions, 21 Main Road, Parson Drove.

The Clerk advised Councillors that this planning application had already been approved by the District Council.

b) J Crowson, Planning Application No F/YR16/0709/F, MAP Design Services, erection of a stable block and tack room on land north of Elbow Cottage, Elbow Lane, Church End, Parson Drove.

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

c) W Lake, Planning Application No F/YR16/0715/TRTPO, work to 1 Ash trees, The Cottages, 316 Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to raise no objections to this application subject to approval from the tree officer.

d) J Scrimshaw, Planning Application No. F/YR16/0741/RM, Agent Peter Humphrey Associates., Reserves Matters application relating to the access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale to outline permission F/YR13/0481/EXTIME for the erection of a 2 storey 4 bed dwelling land west of 79 Back Road, Murrow.

Councillors resolved to object to this application as they do not support any further development along Back Road until the infrastructure has been improved in relation to the road and footpaths provision in the interest of highway safety.

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

Mr & Mrs Fewings, Planning Application No. F/YR16/0564/F, Agent Calfordseaden, erection of a single storey rear extension to existing dwelling involving partial demolition of lobby, The Bungalow, Sealeys Lane, Parson Drove.

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.

Information noted by Councillors.

16/174. Accounts & Finance

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

Mrs Yvonne Reader, 1 months' salary & expenses, £509.38. L.G.A. 1972 s 112.

Anglian Water water rates for The Cage, £11.55. L.G.A. 1972 s 133.

Paul Tibbs Ltd., replacement glass in the bus shelter on the village green, £252. L.G.M.P.A. 1953 s4.

b) Letter from Fenland District Council advising of the reductions in the Council Tax Support Grant for 2017/18 and 2018/19 and that it will be totally withdrawn for 2019/2020.

Information noted by Councillors.

c) Email from Fenland Wellbeing Service requesting a grant of £1,000 towards providing their services in Parson Drove once a month.

Councillors resolved to ask for additional information in relation to the need for this service but would consider funding a trial session.

The Clerk advised that the External Auditors report had just been received but arrived too late to be included in the Agenda. However as this report had to be published by the 30th September 2016 Councillors were informed of the two issues raised in the report. The comment regarding the Bank Reconciliation based on the assumption that the Internal Auditor had provided this information was incorrect. The second comment regarding the purchase of land not being included in the Assets figure was also incorrect as this was land purchased for the extension of the Churchyard and ownership of the land was the Parochial Church Council and not the Parish Council.

16/175. Report on progress from the working group on Neighbourhood Planning.

The Chairman advised that guidance was now being sought from the District Council on the draft Planning Policies.

16/176. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

Letter from Emmanuel Southea Parochial Church Council confirming that they are in agreement for the boundary posts to be a custom size.

In view of the response received from the Parochial Church Council Councillors resolved to instruct the contractors to install the standard concrete posts at a cost of £600.

b) Email from the County Council regarding flood risk awareness in communities asking the Parish Council to complete a questionnaire.

Councillors completed the questionnaire confirming that the Parish does not have any problems with flooding.

c) Email from Cambridgeshire ACRE inviting members to attend their Annual General Meeting and Open Afternoon on Tuesday 27th September from 2.00pm to 5.45pm. Information noted by Councillors.

d) Letter from the Local Government Boundary Commission advising that the final recommendations for the Electoral Review of Cambridgeshire County Council has now been completed.

No changes had been made to the Roman Bank & Peckover ward from the previous recommendations resulting in the Parish of Wisbech St Mary being split into two different County Council Wards.

16/177. Highway & Street Lighting Matters.

Highway issues to be reported to Cambridgeshire County Council.

Concerns were raised regarding the road surface along Fen Road and Murrow Bank.

It was reported that vehicles were parking on both sides of the road down John Bends Way making it difficult to access the agricultural land at the bottom of the road. It was suggested that the County Council be asked to provide double yellow lanes for no parking now that the road had been adopted.

b) Email from the County Council Local Highway Projects Team advising that applications under the Local Highways Improvement Initiative for 2017/2018 must be submitted online by the 30th November 2016.

Councillors agreed to discuss this matter further at the next meeting when the second section of footpath along Sealeys Lane had been installed as the information received regarding a further extension of the footpath was unclear as was the information received regarding the extension of the speed limit along Murrow Bank.

c) Email from the County Council Highways Service advising of the Community Highways Volunteering Scheme asking for assistance with siding out, cutting back vegetation, cleaning signs and litter picking.

Councillors resolved to take no action on this matter as most of the work was already being undertaken by the Street Pride Group.

d) Email from the County Council in response to our complaint regarding a fence encroaching onto the highway grass verge at Sealeys Lane.

A response had been received advising that ownership of the area of land in question was being looked into as there was once a drain at this location.

e) Update report regarding Parish Street Lighting following a meeting held on the 31st August and email from Fenland District Council regarding the ownership of the streetlights at Springfield Road.

At the meeting on the 31st August it was suggested by the 8 Parish Councils present to obtain a quotation from two contractors to ascertain what they would charge for the repairs and maintenance of the parish street lights and any replacement street lights required. Once this information had been obtained a decision could then be made as to whether to continue with Balfour Beatty through Fenland District Council or to make our own arrangements with another contractor. Councillors resolved to proceed on this basis and for the Clerk to provide details of the number and category rating of the Parish owned street lights.

The email received from the District Council advised that although we had received a letter in 1999 confirming that the street lights at Springfield Road were owned by the District Council this information was incorrect and as far as they are concerned these street lights are and continue to be owned by the Parish Council.

Councillors resolved to respond advising that they do not accept these findings as the street lights have not been included in our asset register and we cannot find any evidence either in the Council Minutes or correspondence where these street lights were transferred to the ownership of the Parish Council.

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

Councillors reported a faulty street light on Swan Bridge and outside the Old Farmhouse, Main Road.

16/178. Riverside Garden Allotments.

Letter applying for the tenancy of Allotment Garden Number 7A.

Councillors resolved to grant the request for the tenant of Allotment Garden Number 7B to also take over the tenancy for Allotment Garden Number 7A.

The applicant offered Garden Allotment Number 8B would prefer a larger allotment and therefore 8B was still vacant. Councillors resolved to notify the tenant of Allotment Garden Number 12 and 13 that his tenancy would be terminated at the end of October as he had not maintained the allotment all year.

Councillor Spriggs advised that he had cleaned up all the over grown Riverside Allotment Gardens and removed the old shed from Allotment Garden 8A as requested by the new tenant. The numbering posts for the Allotment Gardens were now ready for installation and as soon as the Clerk had provided Cllr Spriggs with a list of tenants with Allotment Garden Numbers Cllr Spriggs would put these in place.

16/179. Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

Cllr Cook advised that the committees grant application to the Wryde Croft Wind Farm Community Fund for £5,000 had been successful.

16/180. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

Cllr Hunt advised that he had made further enquiries with the Highways Officer regarding the cutting of the Public Byway at Elbow Lane and had been advised that the County Council were unable to afford to cut the whole length of the Byway.

16/181. Any other business (information items only).

The Chairman advised that extra funding would be available from the Wryde Croft Wind Farm Community Fund as not everyone who qualified for the discounted electricity scheme had taken advantage of this. There would be approximately £20,000 extra funding available from the Community Fund and village groups and the Parish Council could apply for grant funding.

16/182. Dates for future Council meetings.

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 12th October 2016.

Meeting closed 9.00pm