

PARSON DROVE PARISH COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

Chairman

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Vice Chairman

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Councillors

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J Hunt, Blithe Cottage, Elbow Lane, Parson Drove.

C Killingworth, 6 Common Bank, Throckenholt.

P Williams, Amber House, 338 Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove

Clerk

Mrs Y Reader, Sunrise, Back Road, Murrow. Telephone 700501.

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Precept

The Parish Council Budget for 2016/2017 will be increased to £19,182, which comprises of the Precept of £17,330 and funding of £1,852 received from the Council Tax Support Grant. In monetary terms the increase will result in a Parish Precept increase for a band D household of £4.74 for the whole year although it will be shown as a 13.3% increase on your council tax bill when you receive it.

The Precept has been increased this year as a substantial number of our street lights will require replacing in the next 3 to 4 years. The estimated total cost over the next 4 years to replace these street lights is in excess of £30,000.

Neighbourhood Planning

There were 120 responses to the questionnaire. The main points emerging were as follows, with percentages based on those who responded to that particular question: Around 63% of respondents don't want any increase in planned growth either in Parson Drove or Church End. There are however 34% in favour of growth.

There is an overwhelming response of 90% who want developments of small groups of 10 homes or fewer, although a straight majority of nearly 70% only want single dwellings, conversions or extensions.

In terms of types of occupation 29% are in favour of socially rented affordable housing with 55% being in favour of private ownership.

82% of respondents wanted to keep the open fields between Parson Drove and Church End.

There was a strong desire at 78% of responses in favour of commercial development linked to local employment.

There is a strong preference at 99% in favour of retaining the shops in any plan for the village and 89% want high grade agricultural land retained for farming use.

There will be a presentation of the findings and suggested policies to adopt at the

Parish Assembly Meeting on Wednesday 6th April 2016, 7 pm at St Marks Methodist Chapel.

Trees & Hedges

Residents regularly complain about over grown trees and hedges obstructing the footpaths and obscuring the street lights and road signs. We would be very grateful therefore if home owners could bear this in mind and cut back their trees and hedges if they are likely to be causing an obstruction.

Highway Fault Reporting System

Cambridgeshire County Council has an on-line reporting system for highway problems. The online service is available at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/highwaysfault in addition you are still able to report faults by telephone on 03450455212.

Parson Drove Youth Club

We have been informed by the County Council that as the funding for the Youth Club has run out the last session was held on the 10th February. It is hoped that this will only be a temporary break as some bids have been made for funding but not yet secured. If you are able to assist with funding raising for the Youth Club please contact the Chairman.

Local Minor Highways Improvement Scheme

The first section of footpath along Sealeys Lane was recently awarded funding and the work should be completed in the late Spring. The Parish Council submitted another application to the County Council at the end of 2015 for a second section of footpath for the financial year 2016/2017. As yet we have not heard if this second application was successful.

Improvements to the Bellamy Bridge junction are being looked into by the County Council and one of the options being suggested is altering the road lay out giving priority to Seadyke Bank. If you have any comments to make on this suggestion please either contact the Clerk or any Parish Councillor.

Riverside Allotment Gardens

We still have one small garden allotment vacant. Please contact the Clerk if you wish to apply for the tenancy.

Council Meetings

Parish Council meetings will be held in The Cage starting at 7.00pm on the following dates, Wednesday 9th March, 13th April and 11th May.

Members of the public are welcome to attend all the meetings and have the opportunity to raise any parish matter during Public Participation for a 15 minute period near the start of the meeting.

The Annual Parish Assembly Meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th April at 7.00pm in St Marks Church, Main Road, Parson Drove. Village groups and organisations wishing to apply for a grant during the year are welcome to attend this meeting to give a presentation on their activities and projects in support of their future application for a grant from the Parish Council.