

## **Committed Future Expenditure and Planned Projects**

The Parish Council will continue to press the County Council for schemes to tackle speeding traffic and the provision of footpaths to improve pedestrian safety.

An application has been made under the Local Minor Highways scheme for a third section of footpath along Sealeys Lane for 2017/2018 and our application has been successful. We will continue to submit applications in future years to try and get the footpath extended even further.

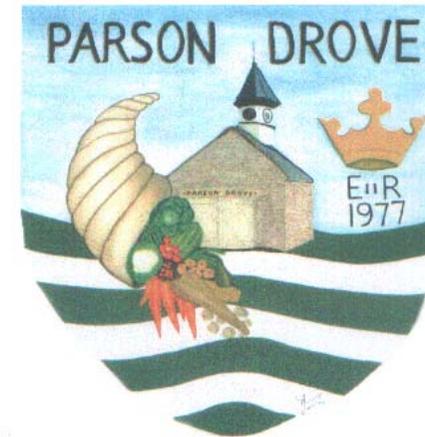
The District Council arranged a survey of the parish street lights two years ago and this has resulted in them suggesting that some will have to be replaced at an estimated cost of over £34,000. The District have offered a small amount of financial assistance towards this cost. The Parish Council still have concerns regarding the accuracy of the information despite numerous attempts to clarify the information provided by the District Council.

Due to the uncertainty and size of this potential expenditure, it has resulted in us having to carefully consider what other projects we can progress.

The Parish Council Precept for 2017/2018 will be increased from £17,330 to £18,565, in monetary terms the increase will result in an increase for a band D household of approximately £3.80 for the whole year although it will be shown as a 9.4% increase on your council tax bill.

During the coming year the Parish Council Notice Board on the village green will be refurbished and the front doors of The Cage repainted.

# **PARSON DROVE PARISH COUNCIL**



## **ANNUAL REPORT 2016/2017**

**WELCOME to the Annual Report of the Parish Council for the 2016/2017 year, detailing the work undertaken.**

**As previously reported we were informed by the District Council that a large number of street lights would need to be replaced. The Council has continued to challenge the information provided and is looking at undertaking an independent survey to confirm which lights need to be replaced. Discussions with the District Council have continued.**

**This past year has seen the resignation of Cllr C Bates and I would like to thank Casey for her contribution to the Council and our community. We have now been joined by Cllr David Markillie who I would like to welcome to the Council.**

**We also welcome input from parishioners during the public forum at the beginning of Council meetings.**

**If you would like to discuss any of the content of the report please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk, or myself.**

**Cllr Gavin Booth, Chairman**

Parson Drove Street Pride Group has continued with litter picks through the village together with the maintenance of the various flower beds, village pond and community orchard. Their efforts were rewarded by achieving a Silver Award in the Anglia In Bloom Competition again this year. We are very grateful to the group and the village volunteers for their efforts to improve and enhance our parish environment.

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group Draft Planning Policies have been submitted to the District Council based on the results of the questionnaire completed by residents. Further consultation will take place on the planning policies, so people will be given the opportunity to comment on the proposals, before it is formally put to a referendum. If anyone would like to assist with the Neighbourhood Plan process, please contact Gavin Booth.

The second section of a footpath at Sealeys Lane was installed by the County Council following our successful application under the Local Highways Improvement scheme for 2016/2017 whereby the Parish Council make a 10% contribution towards the cost of the scheme. We hope to be able to extend this footpath in the coming years to eventually link up with the existing footpath.

## Summary of the Council's Accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017

The main source of income is the precept which is collected through the Council Tax system by Fenland District Council

The Council actively seeks grant funding for its projects and in 2016/2017 we received £656 from Cambridgeshire County Council, £3,807 from Fenland District Council and £3,120 from the Wryde Croft Wind Farm Community Grant scheme towards the replacement of the swings on the village green.

### INCOME

Parish Precept	£ 17,330
Council Tax Support Grant	£ 1,852
Concurrent Functions Grant from District Council	£ 3,807
Grass cutting grant from County Council	£ 656
Recycling Credits	£ 13
Allotments & Gardens Rent	£ 2,791
Bank Interest	£ 42
Cambs Community Grants Scheme	
Wryde Croft Wind Turbine Farm	£ 3,120

**The total income for the year excluding VAT was £29,610**

A copy of the full accounts is available upon request to the Clerk.

### EXPENDITURE

In addition to the general administration costs, professional fees, training and salary costs of approximately £8,667 expenditure on the following areas has also been incurred: -

Grass cutting and grounds maintenance	£ 3,437
Cage maintenance & running costs	£ 1,022
Work to trees on the village green	£ 1,850
Drainage Rates for the Allotments & Gardens	£ 157
ROSPA Inspection of pond & play equipment	£ 150
Remembrance Day Wreaths	£ 35
Boundary posts for extension to Churchyard	£ 600
Contribution to footpath at Sealeys Lane	£ 1,095
Citizens Advice Bureau Outreach Session	£ 79
Replacement swings on the village green	£ 3,436
Maintenance of Bus Shelter	£ 290

*During the year grants have been given to: -*

Southea Parochial Church Council	£700
Murrow Book Café	£ 50

**The total expenditure for the year excluding VAT was £21,570.**

### ***What we did during 2016/2017***

During the last year there have been 13 Parish Council Meetings and all Councillors have attended on a regular basis.

Councillors have attended various meetings, events, information sessions and training on your behalf organised by Fenland District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Association of Local Councils.

Council representatives have also attended meetings of the John Bends United Charities, Leverington Feofees & Amenities 95 Management Committee.

Newsletters have been produced and delivered to each household.

The village green, playing field and roadside grass verges have been cut regularly and flower beds maintained.

We have continued to provide 17.75 acres of allotments and 24 garden allotments.

Some maintenance work has been done to the trees on the village green again during the last year with more work planned during the coming year.

The old swings on the village green were removed following concerns raised over their safety, the Parish Council successfully applied for grant funding from the Wrydecroft Wind Turbine Community Fund and the swings have now been replaced.

### **Who and What is the Parish Council**

The Parish Council comprises of 7 voluntary Councillors who normally serve for a term of 4 years and represent the electorate of the Parish of Parson Drove.

Councillors

**G Booth – Chairman**

**P. Spriggs – Vice Chairman**

**J. Cook**

**J Hunt**

**C Killingworth**

**D Markillie**

**P Williams**

Telephone

**701157**

**700548**

**701324**

The Council employs 1 part-time member of staff who is the Clerk and Financial Officer.

**Mrs Y Reader**

**Sunrise, Back Road, Murrow,  
Wisbech PE13 4JW**

**Email [Theclerk@parsondrove-pc.org.uk](mailto:Theclerk@parsondrove-pc.org.uk)**

**Website [www.parsondrove-pc.org.uk](http://www.parsondrove-pc.org.uk)**

**700501**

The Council normally meets on the second Wednesday of each month with additional meetings when necessary. Agendas are displayed in the notice board on the village green and on the village website. Members of the public are welcome to attend the council meetings and speak for 15 minutes during public participation.