

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in The Cage on Wednesday 11th January 2017.

Attended by Councillors G Booth (Chairman), P Spriggs (Vice Chairman), J Cook, J Hunt, C Killingworth & P Williams.
Fenland District Councillor Simon King.

17/1. To receive apologies for absence.

No apologies had been received.

17/2. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests for Dispensations.

17/3. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillor Cook declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 17/17 as he is an Officer of the Amenities 95 Committee.

17/4. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

There were no members of the public present.

17/5. Fenland District Councillor Simon King.

Fenland District Cllr King advised members that he is the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Rural Affairs, appointed last year, and has been attending Parish Council Meetings during the year. Parish street lighting has been a major issue during the last year and the District Council needed to know what the Parish Councils intend to do by the end of February regarding future maintenance of Parish street lights. Councillor King confirmed that Parish Councils could stay with Balfour Beatty or make their own arrangements with another contractor who may provide a better service but it was unlikely that the District Council would fund the maintenance if the Parishes opted out of the Balfour Beatty contract. The dispute over the ownership of the streetlights at Springfield Road was raised by Councillors and Cllr King agreed to look into this.

17/6. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th December 2016.

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

17/7. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 14th December 2016. (Information only).

The Clerk advised that only one application had been received for the co-option of a Councillor following the resignation of Councillor Bates. Councillors agreed to proceed with inviting the candidate to attend the Parish Council Meeting on the 18th January 2017. The Chairman confirmed that the applicant for the vacant Riverside Allotment Gardens wished to take over the tenancy for both the vacant allotment gardens and the tenancy agreement was being issued by the Clerk.

17/8. Community Police Officers Report.

An email report had been received advising that there had been 3 crimes in the Parish during December consisting of arson where a car had been deliberately set on fire, a common assault and a theft of a motor vehicle. Hare coursing has been an issue at various rural locations during December and still remains to be a concern.

One or two cars were parking on double yellow lines outside the primary school but following increased patrols this has stopped but if this becomes a problem again to notify them. The next Rural Forum will be held in the Community Centre in Gorefield on the 17th January from 2.00pm to 3.30pm. Councillors expressed the view that this was too short a notice and the Clerk was requested to relay this to the organisers. A future Rural Forum will be held in The Cage at Parson Drove

17/9. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

Fenland District Councillor Booth advised that Kim Sawyer was the new Monitoring Officer. The Council Tax Support grant was staying at the same level as last year. The Polling Station for Parson Drove would continue to be the village hall.

The proposed upgrade of the A47 at Guyhirn was very much more complicated than originally envisaged.

17/10. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

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

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.

Information noted by Councillors, the Clerk advised that the pollarding of the Lime tree outside number 24 The Bank was planned to be completed on the 18th January.

P Boreman. Planning Application No. F/YR16/0627/F, change of use of barn and erection of a single storey extension to the side to form a 3 bed dwelling, Barn West of 27 Main Road, Parson Drove.

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.

Information noted by Councillors.

b) Notification from Fenland District Council that the following Planning Application has been refused.

K Condon, Planning Application No F/YR15/0686/F, change of use of land to form a traveller's site for 4 caravans, erection of 4 wash room/toilet blocks and formation of 1.5 metre high bunding perimeter on land east of Dragonfly Cottage, Seadyke Bank, Murrow.

Information noted by Councillors, no further information had been received regarding possible enforcement action being taken by the District Council in view of 2 caravans already being sited on the land.

c) Email from Peter Humphrey Associates advising of a proposal to build a new dwelling on land west of 117 Back Road, Murrow asking for the Parish Councils informal comments as part of the Community Consultation process prior to the submission of a planning application. Councillors resolved to not support this proposal in view of the inadequate road.

d) Email from Peterborough City Council advising of further consultation on the Draft Local Plan and requesting any comments by the 9th February 2017.

Information noted by Councillors.

17/11. Accounts & Finance

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

Mrs Yvonne Reader, 1 months' salary & expenses, £509.48. L.G.A. 1972 s112.

T.A. Blackamore Ltd., annual grass cutting and grounds maintenance charges, £3,704.66.

Open Spaces Act 1905 ss 9 & 10.

b) Confirmation that the Government will not be applying referendum principles to Parish Council Precepts for 2017/2018.

Information noted by Councillors.

17/12. Report on progress from the working group on Neighbourhood Planning.

The Chairman advised that the working group had completed some amendments to the draft Policies and was now arranging to have a meeting with the District Council to discuss other issues raised by them.

17/13. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Email from the County Council advising of a consultation on their Corporate Energy Strategy and asking for any comments by the 31st January 2017.

Councillors resolved to respond advising that they were not in favour of Biomass as the transportation of maize from rural villages was very disruptive and there was a lack of infrastructure to accommodate the large vehicles. Also there was no financial benefit to the local community unlike with the Wryde Croft Wind Farm.

b) Letter from the Parochial Church Council thanking the Parish Council for the grant of £700 towards the maintenance of the Churchyard.

Noted by Councillors.

c) Email from Fenland District Council advising of the Pride in Fenland Awards for 2017 asking the Parish Council to help promote nominations.

Noted by Councillors.

d) Email from CAPALC asking for a nomination to attend the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Place on the 23rd May 2017 as the Cambridgeshire Association had been allocated 4 places.

Councillors resolved to nominate Mr A E Sanderson.

e) Letter addressed to Cllr Spriggs from N Bowditch, Storm Bay Developments Ltd.

Councillors resolved to take no action on this matter.

f) Email from Fenland District Council advising of a consultation on proposals to introduce a Public Spaces Protection Order to replace the Dog Control Orders.

Councillors resolved to query why the fenced play area on the playing field was not listed as being an area where Dogs will continue to be banned. They also considered that dogs should be on leads in all public open spaces.

g) Email from Fenland District Council advising that the Annual Business Plan and Budget consultation starts on the 5th January and ends on the 7th February 2017. Questionnaires are available on the website, paper copies are available in the Hubs, Leisure Centres, Business Centres, Business Reception, Community House, Oasis and Rosmini Centres.

Councillors resolved to defer this matter until the next meeting on the 18th January.

17/14. Highway & Street Lighting Matters.

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

There were no new highway issues raised but Councillors expressed their concern over the large dips in the road at Church End and the cracking of the road surface along Murrow Bank.

b) Update report regarding Parish Street Lighting.

This matter was discussed at length with Councillor King under Agenda Item No 17/5 and the Chairman advised that a meeting with other Parish Council representatives was being arranged for later in the month to discuss the way forward.

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

There were no new faulty street lights reported at the meeting.

17/15. Annual review of the Parish Councils Standing Orders.

Councillors resolved to amend the Standing Orders to take into account the change made to the Financial Regulations in relation to the new limits for contracts.

17/16 Annual review of the Parish Councils Financial Regulations.

The Clerk advised that revised draft Financial Regulations had been issued by NALC in view of the changes to the Procurement regulations. Councillors resolved to amend the Financial Regulations to reflect the new limits for contracts.

17/17. Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

Councillor Cook advised that a grant application was being submitted to WREN for the refurbishment of the village hall.

17/18. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

There were no questions raised by Councillors.

17/19. Any other business (information items only).

There were no matters raised by Councillors.

17/20. Dates for future Council meetings.

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 18th January at 7.30pm to agree on the Budget and Precept for 2017/2018. The next full Council Meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 8th February 2017.

Meeting closed 9.05pm.