

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 12th April 2017.

Attended by Councillors G Booth (Chairman), P Spriggs (Vice Chairman), J Cook, J Hunt, C Killingworth, D Markillie & P Williams.
Fenland District Councillor S King, Portfolio Holder for Rural Affairs.
Approximately 30 members of the public.

17/68. To receive apologies for absence.

No apologies had been received.

17/69. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests by Councillors for dispensations.

17/70. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillor Cook declared a Personal Interest for Agenda Item No. 17/81 as he is an Officer of the Amenities 95 Committee.

17/71. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

Councillors resolved to suspend Standing Orders No 3e, 3f and 3g in view of the number of parishioners wishing to speak regarding the Planning Application for the Travellers Site at Sealeys Lane Agenda Item No 17/76 b).

The Chairman outlined the current position regarding the District Council's agreement to extend the consultation date deadline to the 21st April and advised that 12 letters of objection had already been sent into the District Council. As a District Councillor the Chairman had requested that the Planning Application be determined by the Planning Committee and this could be on the 24th May at the earliest.

Some members of the public queried why they had not been informed about this planning application and the Chairman advised that the District Council's Planning Department were only required to send out consultations letters to the immediate neighbouring properties. However a resident had delivered leaflets informing Parishioners about the Planning Application.

Parishioners raised the following objections and concerns regarding the proposed traveller's site:-

The road was not wide enough at this location to safely cope with any additional traffic.

There are no footpaths or street lights at this end of the road.

The site is agricultural land and a wild life haven.

The site is too far out from the village centre.

There is a main gas pipe on the site.

There is no need for an additional traveller's site when there are empty places at other sites in the area.

17/72. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 8th March 2017.

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

17/73. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 8th March 2017. (Information only)

The Chairman advised that only 1 person attended the Community Contact Point session held in the Cage earlier in the day. He had suggested that the PCSO attended the Car Show in July or a similar event when the response is likely to be better.

17/74. Community Police Officers Report.

The Clerk had received an email report advising that Speed Enforcement was undertaken on the 14th March and as a result of this 7 speeding tickets were issued with another 12 drivers spoken too. Out of the 19 persons stopped 18 lived in the village or neighbouring village. Two crimes were reported during March, 1 criminal damage to a motor vehicle and 1 interference with a motor vehicle. There have been several burglaries in some of the rural villages and Councillors queried why the 2 burglaries in our Parish had not been included in the statistics provided in the monthly report.

17/75. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

District Councillor Booth advised that a full Council Meeting had been held when he had raised the issue of the proposed Garden Town Development as he considered that the consultation already completed was not wide enough given that only 131 responses had been obtained.

17/76. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) W Lake, Planning Application No F/YR17/0197/CERTLU, Agent K Elener, Certificate of Lawful Use (existing): Use of land as domestic curtilage, Apple Crumble Cottage, 318 Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to make no comment on this application.

b) L Upton, Planning Application No F/YR17/0212/F, Agent G Seaton, for change of use of land to form a travellers site for 3 mobile homes & 3 tourer vans and erection of a 1.2 metre high post & rail fencing on land south of Harrolds Bank, Sealeys Lane, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to object to this application as the site is too far from the centre of the village and is not sustainable and contrary to the NPPF.

The application is also contrary to the following Local Planning Policies:-

The location of the site would have an adverse impact on the character and appearance of the surrounding open countryside and farmland and contrary to Policy LP12(c).

The site location is not in keeping with the core shape and form of the village and will adversely harm the character and appearance of the village and is contrary to Policy LP12(d).

The application does not pay due regard to the local ecology and heritage of adjoining land and is contrary to Policy LP12(g).

The road at this location is narrow with no footpath or street lighting and would put people in danger on the public highway and is contrary to Policy LP12(j).

The site is at risk of flooding and an alternative site could be found. There is a mains gas pipe laid under the site raising serious safety concerns for any occupants.

The availability of pitches table submitted with the application does not appear to include all the local sites and Councillors question the need for an additional traveller site.

In view of the high number of letters objecting to the application it does not have the support of the local community and is therefore contrary to Policy LP12(i).

c) P Rendall, Planning Application No. F/YR17/0225/F, Agent Peter Humphrey Associates, erection of a first floor side extension and a single storey rear extension to existing dwelling, Carousel, 117 Back Road, Murrow.

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

d) D Risley, Planning Application No. F/YR17/0282/CERTLU, No Agent, Certificate of Lawful Use Existing relating to the erection of a detached single garage at 96 Main Road, Parson Drove.

This matter was deferred to the next meeting as although the information was available on the District Council's website and had been for more than a week, no hard copies had been received by the Clerk

e) M Woolcott, Planning Application No. F/YR17/0288/CERTLU, Agent Swann Edwards Architecture Ltd., Certificate of Lawful Use application in relation to the occupation of the existing mobile home as a separate residential dwelling at Leyland, Long Drove, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to make no comment on this application.

f) Consultation on a proposed planning application from Alexandra Designs for a proposed 1 three bedroomed bungalow on land adjacent to Rosewood, Seadyke Bank, Murrow.

Councillors resolved not to support this proposed development as it was considered to be inappropriate due to the small size of the plot and would result in over development.

g) Notification from Fenland District Council that Planning Application No. F/YR17/0019/F, C Hopper, for the variation of condition 13 relating to planning permission F/YR15/0845/F for plot 1 north of 15 -27 Mill Road, Murrow has been approved.

Information noted by Councillors.

h) Letter from Fenland District Council confirming that the possible breach of planning control has already been reported to the District Council and is subject to ongoing investigations in relation to Planning Application No F/YR14/0703/F land north east of Avondale, Fen Road/Swan Gardens, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

17/77. Accounts & Finance

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

Mrs Yvonne Reader, 1 months' salary & expenses, £526.87. L.G.A. 1987 s 112.

Fenland District Council, rates for The Cage, £259.18. L.G.A. 1972 s 133.

North Level Internal Drainage Board, drainage rates for the Fen Allotments & Riverside Garden Allotments, £158.57. S.H. & A A. 1908 ss23, 26 & 42.

EON, electricity for the Cage, £92.78. L.G.A. 1972 s 133.

b) To approve the year end Receipts & Payments Bank Reconciliation report and end of year budget report.

Councillors resolved to approve the reports presented by the Clerk.

c) To approve the completed Governance Statement ready for Internal Audit on the 25th April.

Councillors resolved to approve the Governance Statement completed by the Chairman requested by the Internal Auditors.

17/78. Report on progress from the working group on Neighbourhood Planning.

The Chairman advised that the working group were still completing the revised draft policies.

17/79. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Email from the Landlady of the Swan Inn requesting permission to use the village green on the 23rd April for a tug of war competition and on the 29th & 30th April for a bouncy castle. Councillors resolved to approve this request providing that the Landlady arranged adequate Public Liability Insurance to cover the activities planned.

b) Letter from Stephen Barclay MP concerning complaints received about HGVs driving through the village and asking what action we feel needs to be taken to alleviate the situation. Councillors resolved to respond advising that the County Councils voluntary scheme for major haulage firms was not working but if the County Council would agree to install chicanes in the village this would discourage some of the heavy Lorries passing through. A weight restriction on Swan Bridge and Clough Bridge for Lorries would also help to alleviate the problem if the County Council would consider this.

c) Email from C&PALC advising that they can provide an Outreach Councillor Training Session on Wednesday 7th June starting at 7.00pm for 2.5 hours covering all the topics requested at a cost of £350.

Councillors resolved to accept this offer and hold the training session in the Village Hall. Councillors also resolved to invite neighbouring Parish Councils to attend in order to reduce our costs and the Clerk advised that Wisbech St Mary Parish Council had already indicated that 6 of their Councillors wished to attend.

17/80. Highway & Street Lighting Matters.

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

Councillors reported severe dips in the road at Silvers Lane. The Chairman advised that he had been asked to arrange for horse signs to be erected along Long Drove and had already approached the County Council about this request.

b) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council advising that our application under the LHI scheme for phase 3 of the footpath at Sealeys Lane has been successful. Information noted by Councillors.

c) Update report regarding Parish Street Lighting.

Cllr King advised that the District Council were still looking into the future maintenance contract.

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

The Chairman advised that he had tried to report a faulty streetlight along Sealeys Lane just after 5.30pm but Belfour Beatty did not provide a 24 hour call contact as indicated but they had returned his call the following morning.

17/81. Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

Cllr Cook advised that the Annual General Meeting had been held on the 29th March when the committee had been re-elected for the coming year. The committee had been approached by a Charity called SENSE to site a clothing bank on the premises and it had been agreed to locate this at the back of the village hall.

17/82. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

There were no questions raised by Councillors.

17/83. Any other business (information items only).

Cllr Spriggs advised that one of the Riverside Garden Allotments had not been touched as yet this year by the tenant. The Clerk advised that the tenant had contacted her the previous day and this matter would be included in the Agenda for the next Parish Council Meeting.

District Councillor King advised that there was an Open Meeting with Cambridgeshire's Police & Crime Commissioner on Monday 24th April at 10.00am at the Salvation Army Citadel, West Street, Wisbech.

17/84. Dates for future Council meetings.

The Chairman confirmed that the Annual Parish Assembly Meeting would be held in St Marks Methodist Church on Wednesday 26th April at 7.30pm. Councillors resolved to hold an extra Parish Council Meeting on the same date after the Annual Parish Assembly Meeting. The subsequent Parish Council Meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 10th May at 7.00pm in The Cage.

Meeting closed 9.25pm.