

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in The Cage on Wednesday 18th January 2017.

Attended by Councillors G Booth (Chairman), P Spriggs (Vice Chairman), J Cook, J Hunt, C Killingworth & P Williams.
David Markillie.

17/21. To receive apologies for absence.

There were no apologies.

17/22. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests from Councillors for Dispensations.

17/23. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillor Cook declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 17/26 b) as he is an Officer of the Amenities 95 Committee, when Councillors were considering the amount to allocate to the Budget for grants in view of the Amenities 95 Committee looking to receive grant funding for the refurbishment of the village hall.

17/24. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

There were no matters raised.

17/25. Co-option of a Councillor.

David Markillie had been invited to attend the meeting as he had submitted a letter requesting to be considered for co-opted onto the Parish Council to fill the vacancy following the resignation of Cllr Bates. There had been no other written applications received. Mr Markillie spoke briefly in support of his application for co-option. The Chairman proposed that Mr Markillie be co-opted onto the Parish Council and this was seconded by Cllr Cook and agreed. Mr Markillie completed his acceptance of office and was welcomed to the Parish Council by the Chairman.

17/26. Accounts & Finance

a) To receive and approve a Receipts & Payments Bank Reconciliation report and a Budget up-date report.

Councillors resolved to approve the reports presented by the Clerk.

The Clerk advised that it was anticipated that there would be an underspend under some of the budget headings and Councillors resolved to carry these over to the respective budget headings under allocated reserves for the next financial year instead of being put into the general reserve fund. The only exception was the underspend under the Churchyard Extension project which would be allocated to the future Churchyard maintenance budget heading.

b) To discuss and agree on the Budget and Precept for 2017/2018.

Councillors discussed the budget for 2017/2018 taking into account the allocated reserves and the anticipated financial situation at the end of this financial year resulting in Councillors resolving to set a Precept of £18,565.

Councillors resolved to increase the Clerks salary from £5,400 to £5,520 for 2017/2018.

c) To approve the payment of Invoice received from D A Pest Control for the annual contract for the treatment of moles on the village green, £350. Public Health Act 1987.

Councillors resolved to approve the payment of the above Invoice together with an Invoice received from EON for the electricity in the Cage for £100.22.L.G.A. 1972 s133.

17/27. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

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. (Deferred from the last meeting).

Councillors resolved to respond raising the decision to charge for the Brown Bin service even though from previous consultation as part of the comprehensive spending review electors had not indicated that this was an area where cuts should be made. Councillors also considered that their priorities and the balance of funding was not quite right as they were making cuts to the funding for the Youth Council and organisations like CAB and Wisbech Museum whilst still maintaining their support for local businesses.

Meeting closed 8.55pm.