

## **Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in the Cage on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2017.**

Attended by Councillors G Booth (Chairman), P Spriggs (Vice Chairman), J Cook, J Hunt, C Killingworth, & D Markillie.  
Cllr S King (CCC) & 5 members of the public.

### **17/151. To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies had been received from Cllr P Williams.

### **17/152. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.**

There were no requests for Dispensations from Councillors.

### **17/153. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.**

Cllr Cook declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No.17/167 as he is an Officers of the Amenities 95 Committee.

Cllr Killingworth declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 17/163 a) as she is related to the applicant.

### **17/154. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.**

A local resident advised that they had contacted Cllr Cook regarding the number of vehicles parked on the village green on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July but were concerned that this had resulted in some negative comments being directed at them.

Another resident raised the poor condition of the wooden footbridge over the drain along Murrow Bank and as this was a Public Byway it was agreed that the mater should be reported to the County Council. The resident also raised the outstanding issue of the fence on the North Level drain at Johnsons Drove advising that he had been promised by North Level that this would be repaired a few weeks ago. The Chairman advised that in the past when approached by the Parish Council the North Level Drainage Board had refused to accept responsibility for this and would not agree to complete any repairs.

### **17/155. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2017.**

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

### **17/156. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> July 2017. (Information only)**

The Chairman advised that he had been in contact with the Housing Association regarding the complaint raised by the resident at Riverside Gardens at the last meeting and had been advised that they would look into the matter.

### **17/157. Community Police Officers Report.**

The Clerk had received an email advising that as the Police website was not currently kept up to date with the crime figures we would continue to receive a monthly report advising of the crimes and incidences in the Parish. There had been 2 dwelling burglaries reported during July in the parish and several had occurred in Wisbech and the surrounding area. There had also been reports of domestic heating oil thefts. The next Community Safety Partnership would be held in The Cage at Parson Drove on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 2.00pm attended by Rosie Cooke from Fenland District Council and PCSO Helen Norton-Smith.

**17/158. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.**

County Councillor S King advised that changes were being made to this year's applications for the Local Highway Minor Improvement Scheme. Councillors raised the poor standard of the repair work recently completed at Swan Bridge and Cllr King agreed to take a look at this work.

Fenland District Councillor Booth advised that a new Deputy Monitoring Officer had been appointed who would be based at Peterborough.

Another accident had occurred that day at the Bellamy Bridge junction and in view of the number of regular accidents at this location he would be asking for this junction to be included in the Fenland Transport Plan.

Cllr King advised that he had also meet with Officers from the County Council Highways department to discuss this junction when it was recognised that insufficient funding was available under the Local Highways Improvement scheme to address all the problems with this junction. Cllr King advised that other funding was only available for areas where accidents had resulted in serious injury or fatalities.

**17/159. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.**

a) R Goy, Planning Application No F/YR17/0637/F, Agent Swann Edwards Architecture, for the conversion of existing agricultural building to two 2 storey, 4 bed dwellings involving the demolition of existing store at agricultural building south east of Bridge Farm, Long Drove, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to object to the application.

b) Notification that the following Planning Applications have been withdrawn.

Messrs Coles Planning Application No F/YR17/0501/F, Agent Maxey Grounds & Co., conversion of existing barn to form two 2 storey dwellings (1 two bed and 1 three bed, including rear 2 storey extensions, raising the roof to accommodate the first floor & a single storey side extension involving the formation of a new access & demolition of existing lean-to shed & farm outbuildings, Barn north east of 39 The Bank accessed from Marshalls Bank.

G Patrick, Planning Application No F/YR17/0411/F, Agent Alexandra Designs, for the erection of 4 two storey 3 bed dwellings with garages involving the demolition of existing sheds, land south of 218 – 222 Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

c) Notification that the following Planning Application has been approved.

L W Lake, Planning Application No F/YR17/00511/F, Agent Ken Elener, for the erection of a detached 2 storey garage with storage above involving the demolition of the existing garage/carport, Apple Crumble Cottage 318 Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

**17/160. Accounts & Finance**

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

Mrs Yvonne Reader, 1 months' salary & expenses, £518.68. L.G.A. 1972 s112.

NALC, Local Council Review, annual subscription, £17. L.G.A. 1972 s143.

EON, electricity for The Cage, £74.79. L.G.A. 1972 s133.

Konica Minolta Business Solutions Ltd., photocopier rental, £51.30. L.G.A. 1972 s111.

**17/161. Report on progress from the working group on Neighbourhood Planning.**

The Chairman advised that the revised Planning Policies had been sent to the District Council and were now being looked at by the relevant Officers. It was hoped that a response would be received from them in the very near future so that a Public Consultation Meeting could then be held.

**17/162. Complaint received regarding the parking of vehicles visiting the Swan Inn on the village green on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July.**

Cllr Cook advised that he had received a telephone call on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July regarding the number of vehicles parked on the village green as a result of a party being held in the Swan Inn. It would appear that the Landlord of the Swan Inn had been made aware of this problem as he had subsequently asked for the vehicles to be moved as the Clerk had received an email from the Landlord apologising for this.

**17/163. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.**

Email and letter from Parson Drove Pre-school asking for support for their planning application for a new building.

Councillors discussed the request at length and as the proposed building was to be built on County Council land it was considered that the planning application should be submitted in the name of the County Council and not the Parish Council in order to qualify for the discount of 50% on the planning application fee. However as this could cause a lengthy delay in submitting the planning application in view of the school holidays it would appear that the Pre-school did not wish to take this route. Councillors therefore resolved to give a donation of £385 towards the Planning Application fee.

b) Email from Cambridgeshire ACRE advising of the consultation on redesigning of the Children's Centre Services in Cambridgeshire ending on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

Information noted by Councillors.

c) Email from Jason Ablewhite, Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Commissioner advising of the consultation on the future governance of Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service.

Councillors resolved to respond to the consultation advising that they were against the proposal of an amalgamation as being suggested by the Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Commissioner.

d) Email from Cambridgeshire ACRE inviting Councillors to attend their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 2.00pm at Whittlesford Memorial Hall, Mill Lane Whittlesford, Cambridge.

Information noted by Councillors.

e) Letter from a Parishioners requesting the Parish Council agree to an exchange of a piece of land measuring 30 metres wide at Seadyke Pit, Seadyke Bank, Murrow.

Councillors agreed for the Clerk to enquire with the Solicitors as to whether there were any restrictions on the disposal or exchange of land relating to this Public Open Space.

Councillors also suggested that perhaps the applicant might consider renting the piece of land as an alternative option as it would appear that their main concern was the untidy condition of the land and the overhanging trees adjoining their property. Councillors also expressed concern that if an exchange of land was agreed too it would result in the Parish Council owning a piece of land that was an odd shape.

**17/164. Highway & Street Lighting Matters.**

Highway issues to be reported to Cambridgeshire County Council.

a) Councillors reported pot holes on the roadside verge at Fen Road and Church End. A raised footpath outside the telephone exchange at Fen Road resulting in a tripping hazard.

b) Copy of a letter sent to Wisbech St Mary Parish Council regarding the implementation of parking restriction along Seadyke Road near to the junction.

The Chairman advised that this letter would be discussed at the next Wisbech St Mary Parish Council meeting.

c) Email from the County Council Highways regarding the Local Highway Improvements Scheme and changes for the next year where the initial application deadline is 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

The Chairman outlined the main changes to the scheme. Councillors resolved to submit an application requesting a further extension to the footpath along Sealeys Lane as in previous years.

d) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council advising that they will not install additional chicanes at Highside.

Councillors did not agree with the reasons given why this request was being refused and requested the Clerk arrange for a site meeting with the Highways Officer to discuss this matter.

e) Update report regarding Parish Street Lighting & letter received from Fenland District Council regarding the future maintenance of Parish Council street lights.

Councillors discussed this matter with Cllr King and expressed their dissatisfaction with the offer being made by the District Council as the maintenance and electricity costs were now also being passed onto the Parish at an approximate cost of £3,500 per annum whilst still contributing to the Town street lighting costs through the general council tax. Councillors were also unhappy about not knowing who the new District Council's street lighting contractor would be and the time scale for a decision by the Parish Council was also too short as our Independent Survey was not being completed until the end of August. Cllr King stressed that any decision made now would not be totally binding and so Councillors resolved to agree in principle to the offer being made pending the outcome of our survey and confirmation of the contractors being used by the District Council.

**17/165. To receive and discuss report on the annual inspection of assets.**

The Chairman and Clerk had completed the annual inspection the previous evening and as a result the following areas required some attention:

a) Moles on the village green near to The Cage, War Memorial and at the far end near to the King William. Clerk to inform the pest control contractor.

b) A few dead branches to be removed from the trees on the village green together with some low branches. The Horse chestnut tree near to number 12 The Bank and the access/entrance was getting very tall with branches overhanging the properties and required reducing by at least 30%. Clerk to apply for planning permission after liaising with the tree contractor.

- c) War Memorial required cleaning,
- d) The information panel outside the Cage was damaged. Clerk to report to the District Council for attention.
- e) The Cage external doors need repairing and re-painting. The Clerk advised that this was outstanding from the previous year but the contractor had indicated that he would attend to this in the next 2 months.
- f) The poor condition of the red telephone box was also noted and the Clerk was requested to report this to BT.

**17/166. To receive and discuss report on the annual inspection of the Riverside Allotment Gardens & the Fen Allotments.**

The Chairman advised that all the Riverside Allotment Gardens were in an acceptable condition except for the two tenants previously notified about the condition of their allotment gardens. Councillors resolved for these tenants to be notified that unless their Allotment Gardens were cleaned up by the end of October then their tenancy would be withdrawn. The Chairman advised that the Fen Allotments were in an acceptable condition. The Clerk had been informed by a tenant that a large branch from a Willow tree had recently fallen blocking the roadway, the branch had been cleared by the tenant with assistance but it was considered that the whole tree was unsafe and should be felled. Councillors resolved to agree to this request as there was no Tree Preservation Order on the tree.

**17/167. Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.**

Cllr Cook advised that he had no further information to report to the Parish Council since the last meeting.

**17/168. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.**

There were no questions raised by Councillors.

**17/169. Any other business (information items only).**

There were no other information matters raised by Councillors.

**17/170. Dates for future Council meetings.**

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm in The Cage.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.