

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in the Cage on Wednesday 14th June 2017.

Attended by Councillors G Booth (Chairman), P Spriggs (Vice Chairman), J Cook, J Hunt, C Killingworth, D Markillie & P Williams.
Councillor S King, District Council Portfolio Holder for Rural Affairs & Cambridgeshire County Councillor. Mr D Prescott representing Anglian Water.

17/112. To receive apologies for absence.

There were no apologies.

17/113. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests for Dispensations.

17/114. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Cllr Cook declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 17/128 as he is an Officer of the Amenities 95 Committee.

Cllr Spriggs declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Items 17/121 a) and 17/121 b) as he rents land from the applicant.

The Chairman and Cllr Killingworth declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 17/121 c) as Cllr Killingworth is related to the applicant and the Chairman is an acquaintance of the applicant.

17/115. 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 at the meeting.

17/116. To consider and agree on response to emails received requesting permission to lay a sewer pipe under the village green to connect to the main sewer for the 4 new dwellings along The Bank.

Mr Prescott advised Councillors of the circumstances resulting in the request for permission to lay the connections pipes under the village green and the offer being made by Anglian Water for the easement and agreement for early entry onto the land.

Councillors resolved to grant permission for early access subject to the reinstatement of soil being compacted down in layers to prevent settlement, the grass being reinstated with turf, an additional payment being made if the disturbance resulted in excessive mole activity and only vehicles completing the work to park on the village green. Mr Prescott agreed to these conditions and confirmed that the necessary documentation would be issued in due course but in the meantime he would send an email confirming what had been agreed and the work would commence the following day. Mr Prescott then left the meeting.

17/117. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th May 2017.

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

17/118. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 10th May 2017. (Information only).

The Chairman and Cllr Cook had attended the Fens Leader Grants session and whilst there were grants available for village halls these would only be available for about another 18 months.

Councillors considered that the recent training session run by C&PALC had been very informative but disappointment was expressed at the lack of Councillors attending from neighbouring Parish Councils.

17/119. Community Police Officers Report.

An email report had been received advising of 1 crime in the parish during May of theft of a bicycle. The next two Community Contact Points will be held in the villages of Newton and Gorefield. Another Community Contact point can be held any Parson Drove and Councillors suggested that this be arranged for September.

17/120. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

County Councillor S King advised that he was discussing with the County Highways Department if improvements could be arranged for pot holes to be repaired in the rural villages before they became large enough to warrant repairs under their existing scheme. If successful Parish Councils would be expected to voluntarily contribute to such a scheme financially. Councillors raised the matter of the standard of maintenance work being inconsistent and Cllr King agreed to enquire into this.

District Councillor G Booth advised that he had raised the issue of the maintenance of District Council Land in view of the poor condition of Springfield Road again this year and in light of recent media coverage on District Council owned land being overgrown. The LEP had attended a recent Overview & Scrutiny Meeting when it was made apparent that funding had been allocated to the Fenland Area which equated to 18% of total grants, however the majority is to be used to fund studies.

17/121. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) G Patrick, Planning Application No F/YR17/0391/F, Agent Alexandra Designs, for the erection of a 2 storey two bed dwelling on land west of Rosewood, Seadyke Bank, Murrow. Councillors resolved to object to this application as it was considered that the proposed development would still result in over development of the site, the 2 storey development would result in loss of amenity for the neighbouring bungalows. Councillors also raised concerns over the access and parking provision in view of the junction nearby.

b) 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. Councillors resolved to support this application subject to a Section 106 agreement being obtained for £5000 as previously discussed with the applicant. Councillors also considered that the additional car parking provision was required contrary to the County Councils Highways view.

c) Mr & Mrs N McCarter, Planning application No F/YR17/0429/F, Agent Swann Edwards, change of use of existing annex to self-contained 2 bed dwelling including erection of a porch to front and formation of a new vehicular access to The Bungalow (part retrospective), The Bungalow, Long Drove, Parson Drove.

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

d) D Risley, Planning Application No F/YR17/0441/F, Agent Andrew Wright Ltd., for the erection of a detached single garage to existing dwelling 96 Main Road, Parson Drove.

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

e) Mrs A Baldwin, Planning Application No. F/YR17/0434/F, Agent Trundley Design Services, for the erection of a single storey front extension to existing dwelling and erection of a detached garden shed (part retrospective), Silvers Barn, Silvers Lane, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to support this application and recommend approval is granted subject to the existing hedge and fencing being retained to preserve the visual impact.

f) Notification that the following planning application has been approved.

L Vincent, Planning Application No F/YR17/0302/TRCA, No Agent, for works to 24 Lime Trees, 2 Yew Trees, 1 Elder Tree, 1 Plane Tree, 1 Apple Tree and a mixed hedge of Elder & Hawthorne, within a Conservation Area at The Limes, 4 Main Road, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

17/122. Accounts & Finance

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

Mrs Yvonne Reader, 1 months' salary & expenses, £526.38. L.G.A. 1972 s112.

Anglian Water Business Ltd., water rates for The Cage, £14.99. L.G.A. 1972 s133.

b) To approve the purchase by Cllr J Hunt of an electric heater for the Cage.

Councillors resolved to approve the purchase of a fan heater, costing £21.98.

17/123. Report on progress from the working group on Neighbourhood Planning and to consider the revised Planning Policies.

Request for the Parish Council to sign up to the Public Sector Mapping Agreement.

Councillors were given a copy of the revised Neighbourhood Plan incorporating the revised Policies in section 6. The working group would be organising a Public Consultation event on the revised Neighbourhood Plan before it was submitted to the District Council.

Councillors resolved to agree for the working group to proceed to this next stage.

Councillors resolved to agree to the request for the Parish Council to sign up to the Public Sector Mapping Agreement.

17/124. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Letter from a Parishioner raising various matters relating to the information provided in the February Newsletter and the Annual Report.

Councillors resolved to respond by commenting on the Parish Council issues raised together with a copy of the annual accounts as requested. To also send information supplied by the Police regarding the speeding checks made in the village and advising which local authority should be contacted regarding some of the other issues raised that are not under the control of the Parish Council.

b) Notification from Highways England that subject to weather conditions site investigation work will be undertaken between Monday 12th June and Friday 23rd June between 20.00 and 6.00 on week days and from 8.00 to 18.00 between Monday 26th June and Thursday 29th June on the A47/A141 Guyhirn roundabout.

Information noted by Councillors.

17/125. Risk Assessment.

a) To arrange a date for the annual inspection of Parish Council Assets.

Councillors resolved to complete the annual inspection on Wednesday 8th August at 7.30pm.

b) To arrange a date for the annual inspection of the Riverside Garden Allotments and the Fen Road Allotments.

Councillors resolved to complete the annual inspection on Wednesday 8th August following the inspection of the Parish Council's assets.

17/126. Highway & Street Lighting Matters.

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

Councillors reported that some of the pot holes along Long Drove had been repaired and others marked presumably awaiting attention. The damage to Swan Bridge following the recent car accident had been inspected twice. The damaged railings at Clough Bridge had been repaired following the accident at this location. The repairs to the damaged fencing around the triangle could now be completed.

Councillors reported the overgrown hedge along the footpath from The Bank up to Clough Bridge and the overgrown condition of the BT Exchange site along Fen Road obstructing the footpath.

b) Concerns raised by a Parishioner regarding the hedge along the North Level Drain and The Bank.

The Chairman advised that since receiving this complaint a local farmer had cut back the North Level hedge. Councillors agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to the farmer and North Level Drainage Board should be asked to cut this hedge back hard in March/April to prevent this problem next year.

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

Councillors reported that the street light on Swan Bridge was still not working and Cllr King kindly agreed to look into this on our behalf.

d) Update report regarding Parish Street Lighting.

Letter from Cllr S King.

It was hoped that the issue of a permanent maintenance contract should be resolved by the end of July.

17/127. Riverside Garden Allotments.

To consider applications received for the vacant Riverside Garden Allotment. Councillors resolved to offer the vacancy to the one applicant from the Parish. The Clerk advised that one of the tenants contacted about their over grown Allotment Garden had confirmed that he wished to continue with the tenancy but no reply had yet been received from the other. Councillors resolved to write to the tenants informing them of the impending annual inspection in the hope that this would prompt some improvement on the condition of their allotment gardens.

17/128. Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

Cllr Cook advised that the new Clothing Bank had been sited at the back of the village hall. The committee were still waiting to hear from the Big Lottery regarding their grant application for the village hall.

17/129. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

Councillor Spriggs enquired if anything further had been heard from the Enforcement Team at Fenland District Council regarding the development to the rear of Avondale. The Clerk advised that no further information had been received to-date.

17/130. Any other business (information items only).

The Clerk was requested to make enquiries with the North Level Drainage Board regarding the tenancy of the riverbank from Swan Bridge up to Murrow with a view to considering renting this in the future for use as a public walk way.

17/131. Dates for future Council meetings.

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 12th July at 7.00pm in The Cage.

Meeting closed 9.15pm.