

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in the Cage on Wednesday 8th November 2017.

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

17/209. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Cllr J Cook due to illness.

17/210. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests for Dispensations from Councillors.

17/211. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Cllrs G Booth & P Williams declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 17/218 e) as they are Officers of the Street Pride Group and therefore took no part in the discussion or decision made for this Agenda Item.

Cllrs G Booth and D Markillie declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item No.17/218 d) as they are Allotment Garden tenants and therefore took no part in the discussions on this Agenda Item.

Cllr Spriggs declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 17/218 e) as his son is a Fen Allotment tenant.

Cllr Hunt declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 17/222 as he is a member of the Amenities 95 Committee.

17/212. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

Four members of the public expressed their serious concerns over the revised plans submitted under Planning Application No. F/YR17/0756/F for the erection of a single storey 2 bed dwelling with a single storey 1 bed annex attached & detached timber garden shed for use as temporary living accommodation (part retrospective) land north east of Avondale, Fen Road, fronting Swan Gardens, Parson Drove. They pointed out that although the revised plans indicated that the annex was to be attached to the main dwelling they could not see any connecting door. The proposed development was still in their view over development and would result in overlooking and loss of privacy. Their concerns previously raised over the legal right of access via Swan Gardens had still not been resolved.

The Chairman advised that the legal right of access to the plot was really a civil matter and may not be taken into consideration by the Planning Department. Councillors resolved to reiterate their objection to the application and in relation to the revision of the annex now being attached to the main dwelling to query how this would be accessed from the bungalow if there was no connecting door.

The other member of the public again raised the wooden footbridge along Murrow Bank as this had still not been repaired. Cllr King agreed to contact the County Council to ascertain the position regarding this matter as the Clerk had reported it twice with no apparent action being taken. The member of the public also raised the lack of footpaths along Fen Road and the Chairman advised that the Parish Council had applied twice to the County Council under the Local Highways Improvements scheme for the provision of a footpath without success.

The parishioner was also unhappy about the fencing being erected around the football pitch on the playing field and the signage recently put up on the Pavilion. The Chairman advised that these matters were under the control of the Amenities 95 Management Committee and any comments he may have on these should be raised with them.

17/213. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 11th October 2017.
The minutes were taken as read, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

17/214. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 11th October 2017. (Information only)
The Clerk advised that the original cheque sent to the Information Commissioner for the renewal of the Data Protection due on the 30th October had not been received by them or presented to our Bank according to our Bank Statement dated 5th November. The original cheque would therefore need to be cancelled and another cheque issued and signed by Councillors at this meeting to ensure the renewal was completed.

17/215. Community Police Officers Report.

The Clerk had receive an email advising that there had been 1 crime of theft reported in the Parish during October. PCSO Helen Norton-Smith had attended Parson Drove Primary School on the 18th October to talk to year 5 and 6 pupils on Internet Safety. Further Speed Enforcement dates are being arranged during November. There had been an increase in shed burglaries in some north rural areas of Wisbech, also several reports of theft of domestic heating oil and thefts of lead from rooftops from various buildings across Cambridgeshire. Hare Coursing was an ongoing problem with them often operating on the border of Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire making it easier to escape the Police by going cross border. The Clerk informed members that Hare Coursing had probably been taking place on the Fen Allotments as the gate chain and padlock had been removed and the gates left open in the last few days. Councillors agreed for this to be reported to the Police and to also inform the North Level Drainage Board.

17/216. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

County Councillor King informed members that a public consultation on the transport strategy covering the access to Wisbech and improvements to the A47 was now being undertaken.

District Councillor Booth advised that he did not attend the last District Council Meeting but the Council Tax Benefits was again being looked at for next year's budget.

17/217. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) R Goy, Planning Application No. F/YR17/0957/F, Agent Acorus Rural Property Services, for the erection of a 7.15m high Grain Store at Fen Farm, Long Drove, Parson Drove. Councillors resolved to support the application and recommend approval is granted.

b) R Goy, Planning Application No. F/YR17/0958/F, Agent Acorus Rural Property Services, for the erection of a 6.915m high Hay Store at Fen Farm, Long Drove, Parson Drove. Councillors resolved to support the application and recommend approval is granted.

c) FC Parson Drove, Planning Application No. F/YR17/0962/F, Agent Inspire Architecture, for the erection of 6 x 15m high floodlights on the Playing Field, Main Road, Parson Drove. Councillors resolved to support the application and recommend approval is granted subject to conditions to ensure light spillage does not adversely affect neighbouring properties and that the flood lights are not left on when the field is not in use.

d) Notification that the following Planning Application has been approved.
M Yates, Marr James Ltd., Planning Application No F/YR17/0754/F, Agent Alexandra Design, formation of a gravelled access to agricultural field & demolition of brick pier & wall within a Conservation Area , land north of 27 The Bank, Parson Drove.
Information noted by Councillors.

e) Notification that the following Planning Application has been refused.
G Patrick, Planning Application No. F/YR17/0773/F, Agent Alexandra Design, erection of 4 two storey 3 bed dwellings with garages involving demolition of existing sheds on land south of 218 – 222 Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove.
Information noted by Councillors.

The Clerk advised that notification of two more planning applications had been received from the District Council since the Agenda was sent out. A request had been made to the Planning department for an extension to the consultation period but no response had been received yet. If this request was denied then an additional Parish Council Meeting would have to be held before the end of November.

17/218. Accounts & Finance

a) Councillors resolved to approve the following invoices for payment.
Mrs Yvonne Reader, 1 months' salary & expenses, £525.50. L.G.A.1972 s112.
EON, electricity for the Cage, £58.64. L.G.A.1972 s133.
Bowers Solicitors, Fees for upgrade of land titles, £378. L.G.A.1972 s111.
CPRE, renewal of the Annual Membership Fee, £36. L.G.A.1972 s143.
Electrical Testing Ltd., survey of Parish Street lights, £1,932. P.C.A. 1957 s3.
CPRE, Councillor Planning Training Session, £25. L.G.A.1972 s143.
Anglian Water Business, water rates for the Cage, £1.35. L.G.A. 1972 s133.

b) Up-date report regarding the Pensions Regulator rules for automatic enrolment to a Pension Scheme for the Clerk as raised by the Internal Auditor.
The Clerk advised Councillors that the Declaration of Compliance had now been completed over the telephone with no fines or penalties being incurred.

c) Up-date report on the replacement of the litter bin near the Public Right of Way near the Village Hall following its disappearance.
The Clerk informed Councillors that the District Council had found the missing litter bin abandoned in a dyke in Gorefield. They had subsequently retrieved it and as it was not damaged had reinstated it back on the grass verge along Main Road therefore saving the Parish Council £250, the cost for the new replacement bin.

d) To report on the collection of the rents for the Riverside Garden Allotments and the Fen Allotments.

The Clerk advised Councillors that all of the Fen Allotment rents had been paid but there were 6 Riverside Allotment Garden rents unpaid amounting to £140.65. Councillors resolved to give the tenants a further week to pay their rents before the Clerk issued reminder letters.

e) Letter from Parson Drove Street Pride Group requesting a grant towards a new feature and flower bed on the village green.

Councillors resolved to give a grant of £270. L.G.A. 1972 s 137.

17/219. Report on progress from the working group on Neighbourhood Planning.

The Chairman advised that the amendments had nearly been completed and the Policies should be available for approval at the next Parish Council Meeting. They would then be submitted to the District Council and a Public Meeting would be held for parishioners.

17/220. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

Letters from Bowers, Solicitors confirming that the upgrade of the 3 Possessory Titles to Title Absolute had been completed and information on the request made for an exchange of a piece of land at Seadyke Pit.

The Solicitors had confirmed that there were covenants attached to the Land Title for the Pit stipulating that the land was and should remain a public open space.

Councillors resolved to refuse the parishioners request to exchange a piece of land but agreed that a site inspection ought to be carried out to assess how untidy and over grown the area had become.

b) Invitation from Cambridgeshire Constabulary to attend the Fenland Parish Council Conference on Friday 1st December 10.30am to 4.00pm at Hinchbrooke Park Huntingdon. There were no Councillors wishing to attend the Conference.

c) Invitation from C&PALC to attend their Annual General Meeting on the 7th December at 7.00pm at Histon & Impington Recreation Hall.

The Chairman advised that he would try to attend this meeting.

17/221. Highway & Street Lighting Matters.

Highway issues to be reported to Cambridgeshire County Council.

Councillors considered that the recent road patching work completed along Murrow Bank was inadequate and had not addressed the problem.

Councillors reported a dip in the footpath at the top of Springfield road.

b) Cambridgeshire County Council LHI Scheme for improvements to the Bellamy Bridge junction.

The Clerk confirmed that the application on behalf of the three parishes of Parson Drove, Wisbech St Mary and Gorefield had been submitted. It was suggested that each of the parish's financial contribution to the scheme be based on the proportion of the population in each parish.

c) To report any faulty Streetlights.

Councillors reported a faulty street light outside 21 and 23 Main Road.

d) Update report regarding Parish Street Lighting.

The Chairman advised that he had attended a recent meeting with representatives from other Parish Councils and from Electrical Testing Ltd., following receipt of their reports on the surveys of the parishes' street lights. Our survey report identified 6 street lights requiring attention and the Chairman had requested a quotation from Electrical Testing for this work. A further 3 street lights would soon require attention with another 24 rated acceptable for now but would require attention in the foreseeable future. The remaining 21 were rated as in good order, this inspection report was therefore considerably different from the one prepared by Balfour Beatty.

Councillors agreed that this information should be forwarded to the District Council reiterating again that had Balfour Beatty carried out adequate maintenance of our street lights in the past some of this work would not now be required.

17/222. Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

The Chairman informed Councillors that the Stage 2 Lotteries Application for the new village hall had been submitted and accepted.

17/223. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

Cllr Killingworth asked why she had not been invited to attend the Leverington Feofees Education Grants Meeting in September this year. The Clerk was unable to answer this question but agreed to contact the Clerk of the Leverington Feofees.

17/224. Any other business (information items only).

Cllr Hunt advised that he had attended the Training Session organised by CPRE and found the training very interesting and informative. Cllr Hunt had been provided with some information at the training session if any other Councillors wished to look at this.

Councillors advised that some of the Dog Fouling Signs provided by the District Council were faded and unreadable and the Clerks was requested to obtain some replacements.

17/225. Dates for future Council meetings.

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 13th December and it was agreed to change the venue to the village hall.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm.