

Committed Future Expenditure and Planned Projects

The Parish Council will continue to press the County Council for schemes to tackle speeding traffic and the provision of footpaths to improve pedestrian safety.

The Parish Council in conjunction with Wisbech St Mary Parish Council and Gorefield Parish Council submitted an application to the County Council under the Local Highways Improvements scheme for improvements to the Bellamy Bridge junction in view of the high number of accidents at this location. Our application was successful and all three Parish Councils are now in the process of liaising with the County Council to agree on an initial scheme. This will be the start of the process of improvements to this junction as additional funding will be required from other sources.

Fenland District Council has now informed us that in future the Parish Council will have to fund the maintenance and energy costs for our street lights. This will result in an additional annual expenditure of approximately £3,000. Following the independent survey of the parish street lights we are hopeful that we will not now need to replace as many street lights as originally anticipated. However we are still waiting to hear from the District Council on the final details.

The Parish Council Precept for 2018/2019 was increased from £18,565 to £18,876, in monetary terms this increase did not result in an increase on your council tax bill.

PARSON DROVE PARISH COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2017/2018

WELCOME to the Annual Report of the Parish Council for the 2017/2018 year, detailing the work undertaken.

In March 2018 we sadly had the death of Cllr John Cook who was a dedicated Councillor for nearly 7 years.

The Council continues to operate in a challenging financial environment. In view of Government funding cutbacks we continue to have grant support reduced by the District Council as well as the cost for services being handed to the Parish Council for future years. Following the independent survey of the street lights it now appears that we will not have to replace as many units as initially informed by the District Council. Therefore some of the reserves allocated to this can be used for future maintenance.

We welcome input from Parishioners during the public forum at the beginning of Council meetings.

If you would like to discuss any of the content of the report please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk, or myself.

Cllr Gavin Booth, Chairman

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

A revised version of the Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted to the District Council for their approval and once this has been received a community consultation event will take place before it is formally put to a referendum.

The third section of a footpath at Sealeys Lane will soon be installed by the County Council following our successful application under the Local Highways Improvement scheme for 2017/2018 whereby the Parish Council make a 10% contribution towards the cost of the scheme. We hope to be able to extend this footpath in the coming years to eventually link up with the existing footpath but unfortunately our application for 2018/2019 was not successful, however we are the first reserve should one of the other successful schemes not proceed.

There have been two Community Contact sessions held in The Cage attended by PCSO Helen Norton Smith and representatives from Fenland District Council. These sessions are an opportunity for residents to raise any concerns they may have regarding Police and Community Safety issues.

We are currently liaising with the Police to try and re-start the SpeedWatch initiative in the village, anyone wishing to volunteer to be part of this scheme should contact the Chairman.

Summary of the Council's Accounts for year ending 31st March 2018

The main source of income is the precept which is collected through the Council Tax system by Fenland District Council

The Council actively seeks grant funding for its projects and in 2017/2018 we received £656 from Cambridgeshire County Council, £3,807 from Fenland District Council.

INCOME

Parish Precept	£ 18,565
Council Tax Support Grant	£ 1,235
Concurrent Functions Grant from District Council	£ 3,807
Grass cutting grant from County Council	£ 656
Allotments & Gardens Rent	£ 2,838
Bank Interest	£ 22
Easement payment from Anglian Water Ltd	£ 500
Contribution from Wisbech St Mary Parish Council towards a joint Councillor Training event	£ 175

The total income for the year excluding VAT was £27,798.

EXPENDITURE

In addition to the general administration costs, professional fees, training and salary costs of approximately £9,473 expenditure on the following areas has also been incurred: -

Grass cutting and grounds maintenance	£ 3,438
Cage maintenance & running costs	£ 1,358
Refurbishment of Parish Council Notice Board	£ 283
Drainage Rates for the Allotments & Gardens	£ 157
ROSPA Inspection of pond & play equipment	£ 150
Remembrance Day Wreath	£ 20
Independent survey of Parish Street Lights	£ 1,610
Contribution to footpath at Sealeys Lane	£ 881

During the year grants have been given to: -

Southea Parochial Church Council	£700
Parson Drove Pre-school	£385
Parson Drove Street Pride Group	£270

The total expenditure for the year excluding VAT was £18,725.

A copy of the full accounts is available upon request to the Clerk.

What we did during 2017/2018

During the last year there have been 13 Parish Council Meetings and all Councillors have attended on a regular basis.

Councillors have attended various meetings, events, information sessions and training on your behalf organised by Fenland District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Association of Local Councils.

Council representatives have also attended meetings of the John Bends United Charities, Leverington Feofees & Amenities 95 Management Committee.

Newsletters have been produced and delivered to each household.

The village green, playing field and roadside grass verges have been cut regularly and flower beds maintained.

We have continued to provide 17.75 acres of allotments and 24 garden allotments.

Parson Drove Street Pride Group has continued with litter picks through the village together with the maintenance of the various flower beds, War Memorial, village pond and community orchard. They are currently working on their next project of installing a new feature and flower bed at the far end of the village green. We are very grateful to the group and the village volunteers for their efforts to improve and enhance our parish environment.

Who and What is the Parish Council

The Parish Council comprises of 7 voluntary Councillors who normally serve for a term of 4 years and represent the electorate of the Parish of Parson Drove. The next Parish Council elections will be held in May 2019.

Councillors

G Booth – Chairman

P. Spriggs – Vice Chairman

J Hunt

C Killingworth

D Markillie

P Williams

Telephone

701157

700548

The Council employs 1 part-time member of staff who is the Clerk and Financial Officer.

Mrs Y Reader

Sunrise, Back Road, Murrow,

Wisbech PE13 4JW

Email Theclerk@parsondrove-pc.org.uk

Website www.parsondrove-pc.org.uk

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The Council normally meets on the second Wednesday of each month with additional meetings when necessary. Agendas are displayed in the notice board on the village green and on the village website. Members of the public are welcome to attend the council meetings and speak for 15 minutes during public participation.