

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in the Cage on Wednesday 12th December 2018.

Attended by Councillors: G Booth (Chairman), P Spriggs (Vice Chairman), M Hammond, J Hunt, P Williams & G Watson.

District Councillor S Bligh and County Councillor S King.

18/229. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Cllr C Killingworth.

18/230. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests from Councillors for Dispensations.

18/231. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Cllrs Hunt & Hammond declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 18/245 as they are members of the Amenities 95 Committee.

Cllr Williams declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 18/239 d) and took no part in the discussions or voting for this Agenda Item as she is a Church Warden.

The Chairman declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 18/239 b) as he is an Allotment Garden tenant.

18/232. 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.

18/233. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th November 2018.

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

18/234. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 14th November 2018. (Information only)

The Chairman advised that the Street Pride group had obtained the Christmas Tree for the village green which was currently in a large tub but would be planted in the ground in the New Year. A Carol Service was being held around the Christmas Tree on Tuesday 18th December at 4.30pm and children from Alderman Payne Primary School had been invited to attend.

Cllr Hunt advised that he had attended the meeting on behalf of the Parish Council regarding the Transport Strategy but the meeting was not well attended. Discussions took place on cycling, car parking, pedestrians and Dial a Ride. The bus service to Tesco's was also raised as this was considered not to be very user friendly and it was suggested that improvements needed to be made on safety grounds.

The hole in the village green had been filled in the day after the last Parish Council Meeting thanks to Mr C Killingworth, Councillor Watson and the Chairman. It was agreed that this area needed to be monitored to ensure there was no further problems.

The Clerk had received the quotation for the replacement of the 3 missing wooden posts around the village green for £180 and therefore had instructed the contractors to install these as soon as possible.

18/235. Community Police Officers Report.

The Clerk had received an email report for November showing no reported crimes for our parish. The format for future reports would remain the same covering Wisbech Town and the surrounding villages. As the information being received was not very detailed or specific to the rural villages it was agreed that the Clerk would attempt to obtain more detailed information from the Police website. Councillors reported that motor bikes were a problem using the bridleways and it was suggested that signage should be installed prohibiting this use on the bridleways.

18/236. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

Cllr King advised that our LHI 2019/2020 application for a further extension to the footpath at Sealeys Lane had been provisionally approved. The delays in starting the 2018/2019 schemes were due to lack of skilled officers to take the projects forward. The Swan Bridge signage would be installed in the New Year. The trees had been removed from the edge of the highway at Silvers Lane and the remedial work to the pot holes and surface dressing was on going using the dragon patcher but as there were reservation as to whether this would be adequate he would be discussing this with Graham Hughes the senior highways officer. Councillors informed Cllr King that the Main Road had been closed the previous day for road repairs but this did not include Church End near to the Five Bells which was the worst area requiring attention. Cllr King agreed to make enquiries into this.

Cllr Hammond asked Cllr King if there had been any progress in obtaining some speed cushions for the parish. Cllr King advised that these could only be installed if approved under the Local Highways Initiative scheme and it was too late to make an application for 2019/2020.

District Cllr S Bligh advised that fly tipping was an ongoing problem down Marshalls Bank. There was a District Council Meeting the following day when it was envisaged that Councillors would agree to provide free collection points for used needles but a charge for collection will still be made. Only 2 people attended the Defibrillator training held in Parson Drove village hall.

The Chairman as a District Councillor advised that Council Tax Support would be considered at the Council Meeting the following day when it was expected to remain unchanged and the new Finance Officer would be formally appointed. He had raised the recent Planning Policy Review on two occasions stating that they were not taking on board the comments made by Parish Councils.

18/237. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) Mrs Lee, Planning Application No's F/YR18/1000/F Agent Peter Humphrey Associates Ltd., formation of a vehicular access on land north of 305-307 Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to object to this application as per the previous application and also queried why this application was being considered given that this is the third time an application had been made for the formation of a vehicular access.

b) P Bodger, Application No F/YR18/1073/Prior Application, Agent Swann Edwards Architecture, notification for prior approval for a change of use of premises from light industrial use(Class B1) and any land within its curtilage to a dwelling house (Class 3), Stackwell Forge, Clough Bridge, The Bank, Parson Drove.
Councillors resolved to make no comments at the present time.

c) Notification from Fenland District Council that the following Planning Application has been approved. Parson Drove Parish Council, works to 6 Willow Trees and 1 Ash Tree covered by TPO 3/2000 at Village Pond, Main Road, Parson Drove.
Information noted by Councillors. The Clerk advised that the 1 Willow Tree causing concern would be pollarded in the next two weeks.

18/238. Highway & Street Lighting Matters.

a) Highway issues to be reported to Cambridgeshire County Council.
Councillors queried why some pot holes along The Bank had been repaired but several others left as these should have also been repaired in view of the number of vehicles and pedestrian using this road to access the Post Office and Butchers Shop.
The Chairman advised that he had again received complaints about the condition of Fen Road, the lack of footpaths and the speed limit.

b) Up-date report on the Local Highways Improvement schemes for 2017/2018 and 2019/2020 for the extension of the footpath along Sealeys Lane.
Cllr King had already up-dated the Parish Council on these matters during his report.

c) To report any faulty Streetlights.
The Clerk had reported a faulty street light at Springfield Road the previous week and one at Church End earlier in the day. Councillors did not report any additional street light faults.

d) Email from the County Council advising that the Vehicle Activated Speed Sign will be removed from the Main Road, near to Ingham Hall Gardens, as it has been identified as being unserviceable.
Cllr King advised that these signs were being removed as the County Council were advocating mobile units that were better for the Police to collect data and can also be used by Speedwatch Groups. He advised that funding for a mobile unit can be obtained from the Local Highways Initiative schemes.
Councillors resolved to apply to the Wryde Croft Community Fund for a grant for a mobile unit as it was too late to apply to the County Council's Local Highways scheme for 2019/2020.

18/239. Accounts & Finance

a) Councillors resolved to approve the following invoices for payment.
Mrs Yvonne Reader, 1 months' salary & expenses, £529.64. L.G.A. 1972 s 112.
Anglian Water Business Ltd., water rates for The Cage £13.45. L.G.A. 1972 s 133.
Society of Local Council Clerks, annual membership renewal fee, £106.L.G.A. 1972 s 143.
Smith of Derby, annual service of clock in The Cage, £242.40. P. C. A. 1957 s 2.
Konica Minolta Business Solutions, photocopier rental & copy charges, £89. L.G.A. 1972 s111.
Clerks & Councils Direct, annual subscription, renewal fee, £12. L.G.A. 1972 s 143.
Doddington Parish Council, CAPALC Outreach Training, £196.83.L.G.A. 1972 s111.

b) To receive a report on the payment of outstanding rents for the Riverside Allotment Gardens.

The Clerk advised that there was now only one outstanding Allotment Garden rent and Councillors resolved for a final reminder to be sent to the tenant.

c) Request from the County Council for a financial contribution towards cycle training in Primary Schools in our parish from April 2019.

Councillors queried why the cost per pupil was so high at £40 per pupil and requested more information on the scheme and costing calculations in order that they may consider it again but it was also suggested that perhaps the John Bends Charity, Education grants, would consider contributing to the scheme.

d) Request from the Parochial Church Council for the annual grant towards the grass cutting of the churchyard.

Councillors resolved by a majority vote to give a grant of £750 towards the grass cutting of the churchyard. L.G.A. 1972 s 214 (6).

18/240. Up-date report on Neighbourhood Development Plan Public Consultation.

The Chairman advised that only 2 people had attended the public consultation event held on the 8th December but another session was being held on the 12th January 2019. Responses were being received from the Statutory Consultees, the County Council had responded supporting the proposed scale of new development as this should maintain the school numbers in the future.

18/241. To nominate Councillors onto a Human Resources Sub-Committee.

Councillors resolved to appoint four Councillors onto the Human Resources sub-committee consisting of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Cllr Hammond and Cllr Hunt. A meeting was arranged for 7.00pm on Wednesday 16th January 2019.

18/242. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Email from Fenland District Council providing further information about their Green Dog Walkers Campaign.

From the response received it did not confirm that the District Council would provide a new litter bin for the school fence to try and resolve the problem of dog fouling in this area.

Councillors therefore resolved to fund the cost of a new litter bin estimated to be approximately £180 from the precept and ask the District Council obtain and install it on our behalf.

b) Email from Alexandra Designs offering to provide and assist with planting of trees on the village green.

Councillors resolved to decline the offer at the present time as residents did not support the planting of further trees on the village green.

c) Email from Fenland District Council advising that Care Network are working with the District Council's Golden Age Team applying for funding to deliver community development work asking for feedback on potential locations and what type of activity would be most beneficial.

Councillors advised that they were not aware of any request from parishioners for the proposed schemes but supported the ideas being put forward.

18/243. To review the Parish Council's Financial Regulations.

The Clerk advised that she was not aware of any changes to legislation warranting amendments to the Financial Regulations and therefore Councillors resolved to make no changes to the Financial Regulations.

18/244. To consider applications received for the vacant Riverside Allotment Gardens.

The Clerk advised that she had received two applications for the vacant allotment garden. Councillors resolved to offer the tenancy to the parishioner who applied first and keep the second application received on the waiting list.

Cllr Spriggs raised the possible encroachment of land from the adjoining farmer for the bottom Riverside Allotment Garden and the Chairman and Clerk were asked to look into this after checking the land registry certificate.

18/245. Amenities 95 Management Committee report.

Cllr Hunt advised that the footpath around the football pitch was being installed. The Public Consultation morning had been attended by 14 people, the spectator stands had been approved, a BMX track was being provided in the bottom right hand corner of the field but more earth was needed for this to be completed. The Chairman advised that additional lottery funding had been obtained and the refurbishment work to the village hall should be able to start soon. The IT courses were continuing in the Pavilion with currently 14 people attending.

18/246. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

Cllr Watson asked if any further work was planned for the trees on the village. The Clerk advised that no further work would be completed to the trees on the village green for the next couple of years as the next area of trees requiring attention was around the village pond and Seadyke Pit.

Cllr Spriggs enquired as to when the District Council's Enforcement Officer would be taking action relating to the caravans and number of vehicles using the plot adjacent to Avondale. The Chairman advised that this had been raised with the Planning Department but requested that the Clerk report this matter again.

18/247. Any other business (information items only).

Councillors advised that plastic was still being burnt on a regular basis but the exact location where this was being done was not known and until such time as this could be established it could not be reported to the District Council.

18/248. Dates for future Council meetings.

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 9th January 2019 at 7.00pm in The Cage followed by the HR Sub-committee at 7.00pm on Wednesday 16th January before a full Council Meeting at 7.30pm on the same day to set the Budget and Precept for 2019/2020.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm.