

## **Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in the Cage on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2018.**

Attended by Councillors: G Booth (Chairman), P Spriggs (Vice Chairman), J Hunt, C Killingworth & P Williams.  
Fenland District Councillor S Bligh & Cambridgeshire County Councillor S King.

### **18/104. To receive apologies for absence.**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **18/105. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.**

There were no requests for Dispensations.

### **18/106. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.**

Cllr Killingworth declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Items No.18/115 b) and 18/119 as she is an Officer of the Amenities 95 Committee and took no part in the discussion for these Agenda Items.

Cllr Hunt declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Items No 18/115 b) and 18/119 as he is a member of the Amenities 95 Committee and chose not to discuss or vote on Agenda Item No 18/115 b).

The Chairman declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Items 18/115 b) and 18/119 as although he is not a member of the Amenities 95 Committee he has been assisting with the Lottery Grant and other grant applications made by the Amenities 95 Committee.

### **18/107. 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.

### **18/108. To consider applications for co-option onto the Parish Council.**

The Clerk had received two applications from parishioners for co-option onto the Parish Council. As there were two vacancies Councillors resolved to co-opt George Watson and Martin Hammond onto the Council.

### **18/109. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018.**

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

### **18/110. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018. (Information only)**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

### **18/111. a) Community Police Officers Report.**

The Clerk advised that the monthly report advising of crimes and incidences in the Parish during May had not been received. The Chairman advised that it was indicated at the recent meeting he attended that we would not now receive monthly crime reports from the Police.

### **b) Speedwatch Training 30<sup>th</sup> June 10.30am.**

The Chairman advised that he was contacting the volunteers and it was agreed that they would meet at The Cage. Clerk to confirm date for training and inform the Police of arrangements.

**18/112. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.**

County Councillor S King informed the Council that the resurfacing of Silvers Lane and the numerous pot holes appearing since the work was completed had still not been resolved.

Whilst it would appear to have been due to poor workmanship it had been indicated to Cllr King that something went wrong with the County Council ordering the incorrect surfacing material but he was still trying to find out exactly what had happened.

Cllr King had made enquiries regarding our request for Stops Signs at Swan Bridge junction with the Officers at the County Council but their response was very complex as to when Stop signs can be installed. He was intending to arrange a site meeting to discuss the options, the Chairman indicated that he wished to attend this meeting, and it was agreed that the white lines needed replacing.

Cllr King advised that there was another pause in the preparation of the Fenland Transport Plan but suggested that we should submit an application for both Swan Bridge and Bellamy Bridge junctions.

District Councillor S Bligh informed the Council that residents had reported 2 recent incidences of Fly Tipping down Silvers Lane and she was looking into the possibility of having Cameras installed. She was concerned that the roadside verges were not being cut back often enough obscuring road signs and junctions particularly along Leverington Common.

District Councillor G Booth informed the Council that the grass cutting and grounds maintenance contractors for the District Council had been put on notice. A new Streetpride group had been set up for Murrow and a meeting to formalise the group was being held in Murrow Village Hall on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June. The future of the No 46 Bus route was being discussed but buses were no-longer the responsibility of the County Council but was now controlled by the Combined Authority. The District Council's Planning Policies needed refreshing and these would be looked at once the revised National Planning Framework Guidance had been published.

**18/113. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.**

a) R. Goy, Planning Application No F/YR18/0473/F, Agent Morton & Hall Consulting Ltd., erection of a single storey extension & front porch (with loft space above) to existing dwelling Fen Farm, Long Drove, Parson Drove.

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

b) Notification from Fenland District Council that the following Planning Application has been approved

Parson Drove Parish Council, Planning Application No. F/YR18/0275/TRTPO, works to a Horse Chestnut tree covered by TPO WR/15/465/2 on the Village Green, Parson Drove. Information noted by Councillors.

**18/114. Risk Assessment.**

a) To consider ROSPA report received for the Pond.

There were no issues raised in the report that had not already been attended to by Mr C Killingworth on behalf of the Street Pride Group relating to the overgrown nettles and weeds.

b) To arrange a date for the annual inspection of assets.

Councillors resolved to carry out the annual inspection on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August at 7.30pm.

c) To arrange a date for the annual inspection of the Riverside Allotment Gardens and the Fen Allotments.

Councillors resolved to carry out the annual inspection on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August at 7.30pm

**18/115. Accounts & Finance**

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

Mrs Yvonne Reader, 1 months' salary & expenses, £530.66. L.G.A. 1972 s 112.

CAPALC, annual membership fee, £349.92. L.G.A. 1972 s 143.

Anglian Water Business Ltd., water rates for the Cage, £13.06. L.G.A. 1972 s 133.

Konica Minolta Business Solutions, photocopier rent and copy charges, £120.79. L.G.A. 1972 s 111.

b) To approve payment to the Amenities 95 Management Committee for the grant already agreed of £2,500 for the refurbishment of the village hall and to consider their request for further additional grant funding.

Councillors resolved to increase the grant towards the refurbishment of the village hall to £3,500 and authorised immediate payment. L.G.A 1972 s 133.

c) To consider a request by District Councillor S Bligh to give a £50 grant towards the reading project Read to Succeed 2018.

Councillors resolved to give a grant of £50 towards the Read to Succeed project providing that the books purchased would be given to the Alderman Payne Primary School.

Cllr S Bligh to provide the Clerk with payment details in order that the grant could be paid. L.G.A. 1972 s 137.

d) To approve the transfer of ownership of the Community Notice Board on the village hall car park to the Amenities 95 Management Committee.

Councillors resolved to transfer the ownership of the Community Notice Board situated on the village hall car park to the Amenities 95 Management Committee.

**18/116. Report on progress from the working group on Neighbourhood Planning Policies.**

The Chairman advised that the SEA, formal assessment, screening process had been completed. A few minor comments had been made and he was arranging to meet with the Officer at Fenland District Council to discuss these. Affordable Housing was still being discussed as he was waiting for clarification regarding the situation for Exception Sites.

**18/117. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.**

a) Email from a visitor to the village praising the Parish Council and the Alderman Payne Primary School for promoting wildlife.

Comments noted by Councillors.

b) Email from a resident advising that they had injured their arm on the Information Panel outside the Cage.

The Clerk advised that the injury had occurred whilst the street light was not working outside the Cage although it had been reported several weeks ago. The Clerk had contacted the injured party apologising and had since been informed by her that the street light was now repaired and her bruised arm was healing.

c) Email from Parson Drove Patients Group asking for assistance in ascertaining if another Defibrillator is needed in the village possibly on the outside wall of the Doctors Surgery or somewhere else at Church End by including a notice asking for residents views on the Parson Drove website.

The Clerk advised that an article had been displayed on the front page of the website asking for resident's views. Cllr Hunt advised that this was also on Facebook. Cllr Bligh and the Chairman informed Councillors that some support for a Defibrillator at Church End had already been received. Cllr Killingworth advised that £250 had been raised at a Bingo towards another Defibrillator in the village. The Chairman suggested that a grant could be obtained from Wryde Croft Community Fund.

d) Email from Stephen Barclay MP, advising of an Annual Parish & Town Council Conference on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September.  
Information noted by Councillors.

e) Email from Project Manager Orchards East, University of East Anglia, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund advising of a project to research and record old orchards and to establish new community orchards and asking for a volunteer from our parish to help with the research and project aims.

Request noted by Councillors but there were no volunteers to undertake this project.

#### **18/118. Centenary Celebrations.**

Cllr Williams advised that she had contacted the Royal British Legion to see if they had already started any preparations to commemorate this event but was informed that nothing was planned so far. Councillors suggested that similar events should be organised to last time when an exhibition was held in the village hall followed by a dance in the evening. Cllr Killingworth advised that the Amenities 95 Committee was considering organising something and it was therefore agreed to discuss this further at the next Council Meeting.

#### **18/119. Amenities 95 Management Committee report.**

Cllr Hunt informed the Council that the removal of the side railings on the playing field installed by the Football Club cannot be removed during the summer months without considerable expense and it was considered that there would be no real benefits in doing so. The car park is going to be enlarged and 3 different surfaces would be used comprising of tarmac at the entrance and first section followed by an area of gravel and finally a softer plastic surface. The storage containers were being turned around to provide more space down one side of the field. The issues highlighted in ROSPA report were being actioned.

**18/120. Highway & Street Lighting Matters.**

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

Councillors reported overgrown hedges obstructing the footpath outside The Limes, The Nurseries and The Mulberries, Main Road and also outside the telephone exchange on Fen Road.

b) Up-date report on the Local Highways Improvement scheme for 2017/2018 for the extension of the footpath along Sealeys Lane.

Cllr King advised that the Parish Council needed to make a decision on how they wished to proceed with this matter at the July Parish Council Meeting. He had discussed our proposals with Officers who had indicated that it was most unlikely that our application for 2018/2019 would be successful. He had not received a response to our suggestion that the Parish Council increased their contribution to £2,500 with the County Council covering the remaining shortfall of £1,000. The County Council's Officers were still pressing for the scheme to be withdrawn and submitted under the 5 year Transport Improvement Plan.

Councillors queried the need for the area to be piped resulting in the increase in the cost of the scheme. Cllr King agreed to raise this with Officers and continue to press for their agreement to our offer to increase our contribution to £2,500 with the County Council covering the remaining shortfall.

c) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council requesting applications under the Local Highways Improvements Scheme for 2019/2020 by the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018.

Councillors discussed applying to continue the footpath along Sealeys Lane or improvements to the Swan Bridge junction. Councillors resolved by a majority vote to apply for a further extension of the footpath along Sealeys Lane as it was considered that this scheme would not provide sufficient funding for the major improvements required to the Swan Bridge junction

d) Email from Fenland District Council advising of the future terms, conditions and cost of the street lighting maintenance contract for the Parish Council to consider and approve if they wish to remain within the District Councils maintenance contract.

The Chairman advised that he had several concerns relating to the terms, conditions and estimated costs and was unhappy that Parish Councils had not been given adequate time to consider the proposals being put forward. The District Council had been requested to attend a meeting with representatives from concerned Parish Councils to discuss the offer. Some Parish Councils were also meeting with representatives from Electrical Testing Company, who provided the independent surveys, on the 29<sup>th</sup> June and the Chairman was going to attend this meeting.

Concerns raised by Councillors were:-

There was a £33 per column yearly discrepancy in the energy costs compared with some other Parish Councils quoted costs.

The proposed annual charge of £581 for cyclic electrical testing should not be so high given that testing has already been carried out.

There was no dedicated telephone number to report street lighting problems.

The District Council are still maintaining that the Street Lights at Springfield Road are owned by the Parish Council despite the Parish Council having correspondence confirming that they are owned by the District Council.

The Parish Council should not be responsible for renumbering the street lights if we opt out of the District Councils scheme.

The target time of 10 days for the Parish Council to respond to significant repairs identified is too short.

The 15% to cover professional and administrative fees for any additional works required that are in the excluded services is excessive given that the County Council only use to charge 5%. Payments to be made by BACS is not acceptable as the Parish Council's Financial Regulations do not authorise payments other than by cheque.

e) To report any faulty Streetlights.

There were no new faulty street lights reported by Councillors.

**18/121. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.**

There were no questions asked by Councillors.

**18/122. Any other business (information items only).**

There were no matters raised by Councillors.

**18/123. Dates for future Council meetings.**

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July at 7.00pm in The Cage.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.