

## **Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in the Cage on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018.**

Attended by Councillors G Booth (Chairman), P Spriggs (Vice Chairman), J Hunt, C Killingworth, & P Williams  
Cllr S King (CCC), and 12 members of the public.

### **18/44. To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Cook (illness) & Cllr Markillie (Holiday).

### **18/45. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.**

There were no requests from Councillors for Dispensations.

### **18/46. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.**

The Chairman declared an Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 18/54 and took no part in the discussion or decision made for this Agenda Item as he had already supported the application as a District Councillor.

Cllr Williams declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 18/54 as she is a Church Warden and took no part in the discussions or decision made for this Agenda Item.

Cllr Killingworth declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 18/59 as one of the applicants was her son and took no part in the discussion or decision made for this Agenda Item, she also declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 18/50 as she is a member of the Amenities 95 Committee.

Cllr Hunt declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 18/50 as he is a member of the Amenities 95 Committee.

### **18/47. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.**

One parishioner at the meeting advised that The Bank road sign had been damaged and reiterated his offer to assist with the maintenance of the War Memorial.

The Clerk advised that the damaged Road Sign had already been reported to Fenland District Council.

One Parishioner enquired as to why the Parish Council had submitted a bid under the Local Minor Highways Scheme for the continuation of a footpath along Sealeys Lane again this year and not for a footpath for Fen Road.

The Chairman advised that applications had been made in the past for Fen Road but had not been successful.

One Parishioner who had received a letter from the Clerk, in response to his 4 emails, confirming that the Amenities 95 Committee were the Managing Trustees responsible for making decisions and the management of the Playing Field stated that the Parish Council were declining to carry out their duties as the elected authority by not making enquiries and representations to the Amenities 95 Committee on behalf of the parishioners. He also stated that the Parish Council should not hide behind legal small print but forefill their obligations or resign.

Another Parishioner, also representing her brother, asked if the Parish Council would reconsider and find out what is going to happen on the Playing Field.

Other questions and concerns raised by Parishioners present regarding the Playing Field were:-

What will happen if the Football Club folds or indeed if the Amenities 95 Management Committee folds?

The Playing Field could be sold for development.

Why is there so much secrecy about the Football Clubs plans?

Who do we need to contact to get the floodlights adjusted as they are too bright?

A parishioner commented on the smoke detector being repaired and evidence of PATesting in The Cage since the last meeting but complained that the Clerk had not responded to her email dated 8<sup>th</sup> March to confirm this. The Chairman responded advising that the Clerk only worked part time and that PAT Testing was not required on an annual basis.

Reference was also made to the Parish Council Minutes not being a verbatim report of meetings.

Two Parishioners then left the meeting.

**18/48. To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018.**

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

**18/49. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018. (Information only)**

At the Amenities 95 Committee Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> March the Football Club had confirmed that they would meet the extra cost of £324 to strim around the football pitch barriers.

The Clerk and Chairman were not able to attend the training by C&PALC for the General Data Protection Regulations on the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> March but hoped to attend a future training session when the full implications for Parish Councils and the final Regulations were known. Councillors reported that the pot holes along Silvers Lane had re-appeared yet again and County Councillor S King agreed to look into this matter.

**18/50. Amenities 95 Management Committee, report on meeting with the Parish Council regarding work being completed on the Playing Field by the Football Club. Emails received from residents.**

The Chairman advised that the Parish Council had been invited to attend a meeting of the Amenities 95 Committee on the 10<sup>th</sup> March to discuss the concerns raised by Parishioners at the Parish Council Meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> February and subsequent emails.

At this meeting the Amenities 95 Committee had advised that the alignment of the flood lights had not yet been completed and there was still some work to be completed on the playing field relating to the installation of the flood lights when the weather improved.

The Amenities 95 Committee acknowledged that the improvements being implemented could have been better publicised with parishioners being consulted more and this would be improved in future.

The football club were not proposing to install a turnstile just a wooden hut to count the number of spectators, they would not be putting up a 8 foot fence and they would try to get a Youth Team in the future.

The Amenities 95 Committee would look into putting aside funding for any reinstatement work that may become necessary should the playing field no-longer be used for football in the future.

It was extremely unlikely that the Playing Field would be sold off for development in the foreseeable future, however under the Amenities 95 Constitution if this was being proposed then a public meeting would be held when three quarters of parishioners present would have to agree to the request of the Amenities 95 Committee to dispose of the Playing Field with any money raised then held by the Charity (Amenities 95 Committee) to be used to purchase or lease other land or property.

The filing of the Amenities 95 Committee's Accounts on the Charity Commissions website was being completed.

A parishioner was constantly interrupting the Chairman whilst he was speaking, sometimes making derogatory remarks, and despite being asked twice to refrain from this disorderly conduct continued to conduct herself in this manner.

The Chairman therefore proposed that the Parishioner be excluded from the meeting and this was agreed unanimously by Councillors. Subsequently 2 Parishioners left the meeting and the Chairman continued with his report.

Future plans for additional features on the playing field would be consulted upon and information included in Village Voices, on the Notice Board and websites. The Parish Council would be invited to attend future Amenities 95 Committee Meetings on a regular basis and Cllr Hunt would provide the Council with verbal reports at their meetings in Cllr Cooks absence.

The Amenities 95 Committee had received verbal confirmation that their grant application to the Big Lottery for £192,000 for the refurbishment of the village hall had been successful.

Councillors agreed to suspend the meeting to allow another parishioner to ask a question.

The Parishioner asked if the proposed footpath around the football pitch and the new stand had been discussed at the meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> March.

The Chairman advised that the proposed footpath had been discussed with the Amenities 95 Committee when it was suggested that any footpath should be constructed with a safety surface being used. The Chairman also advised that the condition of the playing field was discussed and the ruts and poor general condition of the grass would be resolved as soon as the weather allowed.

### **18/51 Request by the occupants of Swan House to re-install the main water supply pipes under the village green behind the Cage.**

Mr Robbins explained that as his water pressure was so poor he was requesting permission to re-instate the water supply pipe originally laid by the developer without permission behind The Cage.

Councillors resolved to agree to this request in principle subject to a payment of £500 for the grant of easement being given, agreement on the terms of reinstatement of the village green and the request being confirmed in writing.

### **18/52. Community Police Officers Report.**

The Clerk had received an email advising that there had been 1 Burglary, 1 Criminal Damage to a vehicle and 1 Theft from a motor vehicle reported in the Parish during February. There had been two reports of cybercrime incidents in the area and advice and information on the different types of cybercrime can be obtained from Action Fraud UK who are the national fraud and cybercrime reporting centre. After liaising with the Clerk a Community Contact Session had been arranged for Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 1.30pm in The Cage and this would be advertised in the April issue of Village Voices.

**18/53. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.**

County Councillor S King advised that the joint application by the 3 Parish Councils under the Local Highways Improvement scheme for improvement to the Bellamy Bridge junction had been successful. These would be interim improvements and hopefully future improvements would be progressed as part of the Fenland Transport Strategy. The verge damage already reported would be rectified in the next financial year and when the weather improved.

Councillors raised the outstanding repairs to the pot holes at Long Drove as they had only been partly repaired and the general poor quality of repair work to the roads being a constant problem.

District Councillor Booth advised that Cllr Seaton had been elected as the new Council Leader. The Council Tax was being increased by 2%. He had asked if any analysis was being done between the inspection of the street lights by Balfour Beatty and Electrical Testing Company to which the reply had been no. The planning application for Travellers Caravans at Sealeys Lane had been refused by the District Council.

**18/54. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.**

a) Request by the Parochial Church Council to re-consider our objections to Planning Application No F/YR17/1092/F for the change of use of the Church Hall to a 3 bed dwelling. Cllr Spriggs, Vice Chairman, chaired the meeting for this Agenda Item in view of the Chairman's declaration of interest.

The Agent was invited to address the Parish Council and subsequently answered questions raised by Councillors.

Councillors resolved not to support the application as it was still considered to be an inappropriate location for a private dwelling.

b) Churches Conservation Trust, Planning Application No F/YR18/0150/TRTPO, Agent Mr Cole, Eastern Tree Surgery, fell 1 Weeping Ash Tree & work to 1 Weeping Ash Tree at St John The Baptist Church, 317 Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to support the application and recommend approval subject to no objections being raised by the Tree Officer.

c) Notification that the following Planning Applications have been approved.

Mr R Peppercorn, Planning Application No. F/YR17/1225/F, Agent Swan Edwards Architecture Ltd., conversion of existing barn to form a single storey 3 bed dwelling involving the erection of a single storey side extension & the formation of a new access, Barn west of 27 Main Road, Parson Drove.

Mr A Gray, Planning Application No. F/YR17/1232/F, Agent Alexandra Design, change of use of land for domestic purposes & siting of 2 two bed single storey log cabins at Woodland, Seadyke Bank, Murrow.

Information noted by Councillors.

d) Notification that the following Planning Application has been refused.

Mr G Patrick, Planning Application No F/YR17/1161/F, Agent Alexandra Design, erection of a two storey 2 bed dwelling on land west of Rosewood, Seadyke Bank, Murrow.

Information noted by Councillors.

**18/55. Accounts & Finance**

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

Mrs Yvonne Reader, 1 months' salary & expenses, £517.37.L.G.A. 1972 s.112

Anglian Water Business Ltd., water rates for the Cage, £10.92.L.G.A. 1972 s.133

Konica Minolta Business Solutions Ltd., rental and copy charges for photocopier, £63.25.L.G.A. 1972 s.111.

The Clerk informed the Council that the Internal Audit had been arranged for Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April.

**18/56. Report on progress from the working group on Neighbourhood Planning and to consider the revised Planning Policies.**

The Chairman advised that the Planning Policies had been sent back to the District Council for their final screening. As soon as they had been accepted by the District Council there would then be the final public consultation.

**18/57. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.**

a) Email from Fenland District Council asking if there are any locations that we would like patrolling to tackle irresponsible dog owners.

Councillors resolved to request they visit the Playing Field, Village Green, access track to the Riverside Allotment Gardens and along Main Road.

b) Email from Manea Parish Council regarding the use of a Sensory Room in Manea.

Councillors resolved to respond advising that they were not aware of any need for a Sensory Room.

**18/58. Highway & Street Lighting Matters.**

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

Councillors reported over grown trees and bushes along Highside and at the Silvers Lane, Main Road junction.

b) To report any faulty Streetlights.

There were no new faulty street lights reported by Councillors.

**18/59. To consider applications received for the vacant Riverside Allotment Gardens.**

The Clerk advised that 3 applications had been received for the two vacant Riverside Allotment Gardens with one applicant living outside of the parish.

Councillors therefore resolved to allocate Allotment Garden Number 9 to Mr Watson and Allotment Garden Number 22 to Mr A Killingworth.

**18/60. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.**

There were no questions raised by Councillors.

**18/61. Any other business (information items only).**

The Clerk advised that the information panel outside The Cage had been repaired by Fenland District Council.

The contents of the salt bin on the village green had been tipped out onto the grass but Mr C Killingworth and cleared this up as best he could.

It was noted that the petrol pumps had been removed from G W Vialls & Son's shop and garage and there were rumours of the shop being sold off or rented out. As nothing was known for certain about the future of the shop it was agreed that we wait until further information was obtained.

**18/62. Dates for future Council meetings.**

The next Parish Council Meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm in The Cage. The Annual Parish Assembly Meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.