

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in the Cage on Wednesday 14th November 2018.

Attended by Councillors: G Booth (Chairman), P Spriggs (Vice Chairman), J Hunt, C Killingworth, P Williams & G Watson.
District Councillor S Bligh and 1 member of the public.

18/208. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Cllr M Hammond and County Councillor S King.

18/209. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests from members for Dispensations.

18/210. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

The Chairman declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 18/218 c) as he is an allotment garden tenant.

Cllr Spriggs declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 18/218 c) as his son is an allotment tenant.

Cllr Williams declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item No18/218 b) as she is a Church Warden.

Cllr Hunt declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 18/224 as he is a member of the Amenities 95 Committee.

Cllr Killingworth declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 18/224 as she is an Officer on the Amenities 95 Committee.

18/211. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

The member of the public raised that smoke was a regular problem with someone having fires which he believed was containing commercial plastic waste.

18/212. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th October 2018.

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

18/213. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 10th October 2018. (Information only)

The Chairman advised that the Christmas Tree being installed by the Street Pride group on the village green would only be small, about 5 feet, and would be in place during December.

The Chairman reported that the Centenary Celebrations on the 10th & 11th November had gone very well and thanked all those involved.

18/214. Community Police Officers Report.

The September and October email reports had been received by the Clerk with no crimes or incidences recorded for Parson Drove. The reports still mainly covered Wisbech with a few references to rural villages. Councillors requested that the Clerk asked again about having reports that just focussed on the rural villages.

18/215. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

District Councillor S Bligh advised that she had very little to report other than a full District Council Meeting was being held the following day when a new Finance Officer was being appointed.

The Chairman as a District Councillor advised that he would be raising at the District Council Meeting the Planning Peer Review asking when the Planning Department would be addressing the issues raised in this review and the continued inconsistencies on planning decisions. Cllr Spriggs asked if he could also ask when the Planning Officers were going to start enforcing the planning conditions.

18/216. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) Mr B Butler, R & B Home Improvements, Planning Application No's F/YR18/0961/F & F/YR18/0962F, Agent Sketcher Partnership Ltd., change of use of land for domestic purposes & installation of piping & infilling of drain to create new access to plots 4 and 5 of 15-27 Mill Road, Murrow.

Councillors resolved to support the application and recommend approval is granted subject to a footpath being provided in the interests of pedestrian highway safety in view of the number of access now being proposed on this site.

b) Notification from Fenland District Council that the following Planning Applications have been approved.

Mr & Mrs With, Planning Application No F/YR18/0737/LB, Agent Fendraw Design & Planning Services, work to a Listed Building involving erection of a 2 storey side extension to form a 2 bed annex ancillary to main dwelling involving demolition of walling of a former structure & rebuilding/maintenance of existing walling at Rookery Farm, 57 Main Road, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

c) Notification from Fenland District Council that the Appeal by Mr J Crowson has been dismissed by the Secretary of State against the District Council for refusing planning for the erection of a dwelling at Elbow Lane, Church End, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

d) The Clerk advised members that an appeal had been lodged with the Planning Inspectorate relating to the District Council refusing planning permission for 4 dwellings on land west of 111 Back Road, Murrow, Planning Application No F/YR17/1148/O. The Parish Council had objected to this planning application therefore no further representations would be made.

18/217. Highway & Street Lighting Matters.

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

Cllr Hammond had raised the poor condition of the road and unacceptable recent repairs at Silvers Lane with the Clerk prior to the meeting. This was endorsed by the Chairman and Cllr Spriggs pointing out that although the trees had been removed from the roadside this had resulted in a deep gully beside the drain considered to be dangerous. There were also pot holes still not repaired and it was questioned as to whether the repairs rectifying the previous poor resurfacing work had actually been completed.

The Give Way sign at Swan Bridge junction had still not been replaced together with the sign outside Southea House, Main Road. The demolished Church End sign was also raised by Cllr Williams and the Chairman advised that he had reported this.

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.

The Clerk had been advised that the County Council were still waiting for the North Level Internal Drainage Board to approve the revisions agreed at the site meeting regarding the piping of the drain. The Chairman agreed to contact the North Level Drainage Board to try and progress this matter. The Chairman advised that he was attending the LHI Panel Meeting on Thursday 22nd November to make representations on the 2019/2020 application for a further extension to the footpath at Sealeys Lane.

c) Email from the County Council regarding the Local Highways Improvements scheme for improvements to the Bellamy Bridge junction.

The County Council had advised that they were unable to place the red lines only half way across the approach roads as we requested but had amended the design to include the approach roads of Seadyke Bank and Sand Bank. Wisbech St Mary Parish Council had approved the revised designs at their meeting earlier in the week. Councillors resolved to also approve the revised designs for this joint scheme.

d) Revised Service Level Agreement from Fenland District Council for Parish Council Street Lights.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to sign the revised service level agreement on behalf of the Parish Council.

e) To report any faulty Streetlights.

There were no faulty street lights reported at the meeting.

18/218. Accounts & Finance

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

Mrs Yvonne Reader, 1 months' salary & expenses, £535.26. L.G.A. 1972 s112.

EON, electricity for The Cage £54.71. L.G.A. 1972 s133.

CPRE, annual membership renewal, £36. L.G.A. 1972 s143.

Royal British Legion, Remembrance Day Wreath, £20. L.G.A. 1972 s137.

Bowles Tree & Garden Services, work to Horse Chestnut Tree on the village green, £1,250.

O.S.A.1906 s9 &15.

Bowles Tree & Garden Services, work to 3 Lime trees on the village green, £2,250. O.S.A. 1906 s9 & 15.

b) Confirmation from CAPALC that the Parish Council do not have the required power to give a grant of £5,000 to the Parochial Church Council towards the new footpaths in the graveyard.

This information was discussed in view of contradictory advice being included in the latest edition of Clerks & Council Direct, Legal Matters, which was of the view that a grant could be given for this type of project under the L.G.A. 1972 s137. The Clerk was asked to contact NALC advising of this contradiction in advice requesting that they look into this further in order to provide clarification for the future.

Councillors resolved to take the advice given by NALC & CAPALC and refuse the request for the grant on the basis that they do not have the required power.

c) To receive a report on the payment of rents for the Riverside Allotment Gardens and the Fen Allotments.

The Clerk advised that all the rents had been paid for the Fen Allotments but there were 4 Garden Allotment rents not yet paid. It was agreed that reminder letters would be issued if the outstanding rents were not received in the next week.

d) To consider a request to place a litter bin outside the Alderman Payne Primary School. As the main problem appeared to be caused by dogs it was resolved that we approach the District Council to see if a hanging bin could be provided as part of the Green Dog Walkers Campaign.

18/219. Review & Adopt Neighbourhood Development Plan for Public Consultation.

Mr C Britt, a member of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, informed Councillors that following several amendments requested by the District Council the Neighbourhood Plan was now completed ready for the next stage in the process. The Plan would now go out for Public Consultation on the 26th November for 8 weeks for parishioners and various Statutory Bodies as part of the consultation process. The plan will then go to a Planning Consultant – Adjudicator appointed by the District Council for approval before a referendum was held. Councillors asked why there was no reference in the plan to the Conservation Area and Mr Britt advised that this was because there was no Conservation Policy within the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Councillors resolved to adopt the Neighbourhood Plan presented to them by Mr Britt.

18/220. To nominate Councillors onto a Human Resources Sub-Committee.

Cllr Hammond had indicated prior to the meeting that he would be prepared to be nominated onto this sub-committee. The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Cllr Hunt also indicated a willingness to be members and therefore Councillors resolved to defer this matter to the next Council Meeting

18/221. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Letter from the Amenities 95 Management Committee thanking the Parish Council for the grant of £3,500 towards the Village Hall refurbishment.

Noted by Councillors.

b) Email from Fenland District Council providing information about their Green Dog Walkers Campaign and asking if the Parish Council would like to join.

Councillors resolved to look into joining this campaign.

c) Email from the County Council's Transport Strategy team asking for two representative to attend a workshop on Friday 30th November at 2.30pm in Awdry House, Ramnoth Road, Wisbech regarding a future transport strategy for Fenland.

Cllr Hunt agreed to attend this workshop on behalf of the Parish Council.

18/222. Parking on the village green and the ordering of additional posts to try and prevent this.

Cllr Watson had reported that cars were parking on the village green near to the War Memorial. The Chairman advised that he had looked at this area and one of the original wooden boundary posts was missing. A quotation had been requested to provide two posts at this location and another one outside No 20 The Bank which was also missing but the Clerk had not yet received the quotation. Councillors resolved for the Clerk to give authorisation for the work to be completed once the quotation had been received subject to the quotation not being for more than £250.

18/223. To review the Parish Council's Standing Orders and to approve the amendments suggested by NALC.

Councillors resolved to adopt the revised Standing Orders prepared by the Clerk based on the model provided by NALC which took into account the changes in legislation relating to the General Data Protection Regulations, the recording of Council Meetings, the Local Government Transparency Requirements and the Public Contracts Regulations.

18/224. Amenities 95 Management Committee report.

As Cllr Hunt had not attended the last Amenities 95 Committee Meeting he was unable to provide the Council with an up-date report but Cllr Killingworth advised that the tree and bushes along the side of the playing field boundary had been removed by a local farmer and the Street Pride group would be planting a replacement hedge in the next few weeks. A public consultation event was being held in the village hall on Saturday 17th November at 10.00am to obtain parishioners views on the proposed addition of seating stands at the side of the main football pitch and additional play and fitness equipment. The pathway around the football pitch was being installed following guidance received from ROSPA. A Christmas Craft Fair was being held in the village hall on Sunday 25th November starting at 10.00am

18/225. Up-date report on future use of the North Level Internal Drainage Board riverbank from Swan Bridge along Murrow Bank to Murrow.

The North Level Internal Drainage Board had still not contacted the Clerk with their proposal.

18/226. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

Cllr Hunt asked if the Chairman or Clerk knew the differences relating to Public Byways and Public Highways as he was now fully aware of the differences and could explain these if so required.

18/227. Any other business (information items only).

The Clerk advised that she had been contacted the previous day by a parishioner who informed her that there was a large hole in the village green full of fallen leaves behind the bus shelter. Her small child had fallen into this hole resulting in her having to be taken to the Minor Injuries unit at Wisbech but fortunately no limbs had been broken. The hole had been inspected earlier in the day and would require quite a substantial amount of earth to fill it in as soon as possible. The Chairman and Cllr Watson together with Mr C Killingworth would attend to this in the morning.

Cllr Watson advised that he had cleared the flower bed in front of the log on the village green and replanted this up with winter pansies. The Chairman thanked Cllr Watson for attending to this.

18/228. Dates for future Council meetings.

The next meetings were confirmed for Wednesday 12th December at 7.00pm in The Cage. Wednesday 9th January 2019 at 7.00pm in The Cage and an additional Meeting on the 16th January at 7.30 to discuss and agree the Budget & Precept for 2019/2020.

Meeting closed at 9.45pm.