

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in the Cage on Wednesday 10th October 2018.

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

18/186. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Hammond, District Councillor S Bligh and County Councillor S King.

18/187. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests from Councillors for Dispensations.

18/188. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

The Chairman declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 18/197 d) as he is an allotment garden tenant and Agenda Item No 18/201 as he is Chairman of the Street Pride group.

Cllr Spriggs declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 18/197 e) as his son is an allotment tenant.

Cllr Williams declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item No18/197 b) as she is a Church Warden and 18/201 as she is an Officer of the Street Pride Group.

Cllr Hunt declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 18/203 as he is a member of the Amenities 95 Committee.

Cllr Killingworth declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 18/203 as she is an Officer on the Amenities 95 Committee and 18/194 a) as the applicant is her daughter's father-in-law.

The Clerk declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Items No 18/197 d) and 18/197 e) as her husband and brother are tenants of the Allotment Gardens and the Fen Allotments.

18/189. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

Diane Cutler spoke about the success of the recently formed Speedwatch group for Murrow and Parson Drove and asked for the Parish Council's support for their idea of placing Speed Stickers on resident's wheelie bins. Cllr S Bligh, a member of the Speedwatch group, had contacted another parish who had already implemented this approach and this had proved to be successful. The group were not asking for any funding as approaches would be made to local businesses. Councillors agreed to support the idea and it was also suggested that the group might also look into attaching the stickers onto the street light columns.

18/190. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 12th September 2018.

The minutes were taken as read and signed as a true record by the Chairman after being amended on Page 1362 Item 18/180 second sentence to "made several attempts to contact".

18/191. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 12th September 2018. (Information only).

Although the hedge had been cut back in front of The Limes, Main Road this had not been done particularly well and not cut back far enough to completely clear the footpath.

18/192. Community Police Officers Report.

There was a delay in the Police preparing the monthly reports owing to rest days and no report had yet been received for September. The Clerk had received notification that the Council's request for future reports to be purely for rural villages had been passed onto the Police Inspector but to date no further response had been received.

18/193. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

District Councillor Booth reported, also on behalf of District Councillor Bligh, that the Planning Application by Biocow had been approved. There was a survey on the District Council's website regarding the Public Protection Order for Wisbech. Speed Watch had held 3 sessions since the last meeting when out of 262 vehicles monitored 12 were speeding. The group will soon not be able to undertake sessions in the evenings because of the dark nights. A recent FOI request had confirmed that there was an accident on the A47 every 4 or 5 days which resulted in traffic having to go through the villages reinforcing the need for the dualling of the A47.

18/194. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) Mr L Allen, Planning Application No F/YR18/0829/F, Agent David Broker Design Services, erection of a 3 storey 6 bed dwelling with detached garage on land west of 117 Back Road, Murrow.

Councillors resolved to object to this planning application in view of the lack of infrastructure along Back Road.

b) 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.

Councillors resolved to make no comment on this application.

c) Notification that the following planning application has been refused.

a) Mrs Lee, Planning Application No F/YR18/0530/F, Agent Peter Humphrey Associates Ltd, formation of a vehicular access & tarmac drive on land north of 305 – 307 Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

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

C Hopper, Planning Application No F/YR18/0561/F, Agent Swann Edwards Architecture Ltd., erection of 2 two storey 3 bed dwellings with detached double garage on plot 2 North of 15 -27 Mill Road, Murrow.

Mr Woolfe, Planning Application No F/YR18/0655/F, Agent David Broker Design Services Ltd, erection of a garage/workshop block involving the demolition of existing garage/workshop block, at existing dwelling The Granary, 302 Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove.

Mr B Westwood, Planning Application No F/YR18/0695/F, Agent Janice Kendrick Design Services Ltd, erection of a 2 storey rear extension to existing dwelling at Willow Lodge, 31B The Bank, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

e) Notification from Fenland District Council that an Appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against the District Council for refusing the planning application by Mr G Patrick for the erection of 5 two storey 3 bed dwellings with garages involving the demolition of existing sheds on land south of 218 – 222 Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to write to the Planning Inspectorate in support of the applicants appeal and to highlight the District Councils inconsistency in determining planning applications for Church End in view of recent permission being granted for other applications.

18/195. Highway & Street Lighting Matters.

Highway issues to be reported to Cambridgeshire County Council.

There were no new highway issues raised by Councillors. Recent information received from the Highways department advised that repairs to the road surface along Silvers Lane would start at the end of October.

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

The Chairman and Clerk had met with Officers from Cambridgeshire County Council Highways and North Level Internal Drainage Board on the 28th September to discuss the drainage issues raised by North Level resulting in the increase in costs for the scheme. A reduction to the work required had been agreed at the site meeting and a new schedule of work was being drawn up by the County Council Highways.

c) Email from Local Highways Improvements team with amended design for improvements to the Bellamy Bridge junction.

Councillors resolved to approve the amended design but to suggest that the red road marking countdown stripes were only installed on the one side of the road approaching the junction.

d) Information and costs from Electrical Testing Ltd., for Parish Council Street Lights.

Councillors resolved to wait to hear from the District Council with their costings for the repairs, upgrades and replacement lamps to see how this compared with the quotation received from Electrical Testing Ltd.

e) To report any faulty Streetlights.

There were no new faulty street lights reported by Councillors.

18/196. Chairman's report on site meeting held to discuss the Culvert at Bridge Drove.

The Chairman and Clerk met with County Council Highways Officers and the North Level Internal Drainage Board on site to try and arrange for the culvert bridge to be repaired.

Neither authority would accept ownership or responsibility therefore the Chairman had asked if perhaps both authorities would contribute towards the cost of repairs and whilst both authorities agreed to look into if any funding was available it was not very likely as both were of the opinion that it was the land owner's responsibility to maintain the culvert.

18/197. Accounts & Finance

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

Mrs Yvonne Reader, 1 months' salary & expenses, £533.46. L.G.A. 1972 s 112.

Information Commissioner, Date Protection renewal fee, £40. L.G.A. 1972 s 111.

CAPAL, General Date Protection Membership Scheme fee, £50. L.G.A. 1972 s 111.

Konica Minolta Business Solutions, photocopier copy charges £51.68. L.G.A. 1972 s 111.

b) To consider request received from the Parochial Church Council for a grant of £5,000 towards the new footpaths in the graveyard.

Councillors resolved to defer a decision on this application for a grant pending clarification being obtained by the Clerk from NALC as to whether the Council have the legal power to give such a grant. The Chairman suggested that an approach be made to Wryde Croft Community Fund for a grant.

c) To receive and approve the Receipts & Payments Bank Reconciliation report and Budget up-date report.

Councillors resolved to approve the reports presented by the Clerk with no issues arising from the reports requiring attention.

d) To review the rents for the Riverside Allotment Gardens.

The Chairman & Clerk left the room and Vice Chairman P Spriggs chaired the meeting for this Agenda Item.

Councillors resolved to make no increase in the annual rents for another year.

The Chairman then returned to the room.

e) To review the rents for the Fen Allotments.

The Vice Chairman left the room for this Agenda Item.

Councillors resolved to increase the annual rent to £140 per acre for tenants with more than 2 acres. The Vice-Chairman & Clerk returned to the room.

f) To approve the ordering of the Remembrance Day Wreath.

Councillors resolved to approve the ordering of the Wreath.

18/198. Report on progress from the working group on Neighbourhood Planning Policies.

The Chairman advised that further amendments had been requested by the District Council and these were being addressed by the working group. Councillors expressed their concern over the amount of amendments the District Council were requesting and the delay these constant revisions were having on the Neighbourhood Plan being completed. Reservations were also expressed that the final plan may not represent resident's views with so many changes having to be made to comply with the District Council's comments.

18/199. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Invitation from Fenland District Council to attend 3 Planning Training Sessions at Fenland Hall, March on Thursday 1st November, Thursday 24th January 2019 and Thursday 14th March 2019, all to start at 6.30pm and expected to last for one and a half hours.

Councillors Booth, Spriggs and Williams expressed a wish to attend the session on the 1st November and the Clerk believed Cllr Hammond would also like to attend.

b) Confirmation from Doddington Parish Council that Cllrs Hammond, Hunt & Watson were booked for the 3 training session on 4th and 18th October and advising that the training for the 25th October has been changed to the 15th November, total cost of £196.83.

Cllrs Hunt and Watson advised that they were now unable to attend the training sessions and would prefer day time training sessions. The Chairman advised that day time training sessions were normally held at St Ives or Pidley. With the Parish Council Elections due in May 2019 it would be advantageous to look into arranging further training sessions after the elections.

c) Email from the County Council Community Gritting Scheme asking for Parish volunteers for the scheme for the coming winter.

The Clerk advised that S McGuire had volunteered again this year and completed and returned the registration forms required by the County Council

d) Letter from the National Grid advising that starting week commencing 8th October they will be conducting a walking survey over the length of the high pressure gas pipeline running through the Fen Allotments.

Information noted by Councillors, no action required.

e) Email from the County Council's Energy Investment Unit advising of a project to pilot an electric vehicle charging project for the Parish if interested in taking part.

Councillors resolved to register their interest in taking part in the project.

18/200. Risk Assessment - Up-date report on Trees around the Pond.

The Clerk advised that she had met on site with the District Council's Tree Officer who did not agree to the suggestion of felling one of the Willow Trees but considered that it should be pollarded to a much lower level than previously. A Planning Application had therefore been submitted to the District Council on this basis. The Tree Officer was also of the view that the work to this tree should be completed as soon as possible and therefore Councillors resolved for this to be completed as soon as planning permission had been granted with the remaining work to the trees around the pond being left until additional funding could be obtained.

18/201. Street Pride Group – Christmas Tree on the Village Green.

The Chairman advised that discussions had taken place with the Swan Inn over the last 2 or 3 years for a Christmas Tree to be planted on the village green in line with the Cage and the side door of the Swan Inn. Unfortunately this had not come to fruition and therefore the Street Pride Group wished to undertake the project with the Parish Councils permission. The Street Pride group would acquire the tree and solar powered lights would be used. Councillors resolved to agree to this request.

18/202. Up-date report on the Centenary Celebrations.

Cllr Williams advised that the Church Service on the 11th November would now include special readings, the ringing of the bell and reference would be made to the soldiers named on the War Memorial. Cllr Hammond was liaising with the Alderman Payne School and the children were helping with the production of silhouettes of named soldier's heads which would be on display in the village.

18/203. Amenities 95 Management Committee report.

Members of the Parish Council had attended the Amenities 95 Committee Meeting on the 29th September when the proposed footpath around the football pitch was discussed. Advice was being sought from ROSPA by the Amenities 95 Committee regarding the surface.

The provision of some new play equipment was also discussed and it was agreed to hold a public consultation event on Saturday 17th November regarding the Football Clubs proposals for spectator stands and new play equipment.

Cllr Hunt advised that the Amenities 95 Committee were hoping to arrange an event every month to make more use of the village hall and raise funds. The next event was the Sausage Supper on the 20th October followed by the Children's Halloween Event on the 31st October.

18/204. Up-date report on future use of the North Level Internal Drainage Board riverbank from Swan Bridge along Murrow Bank to Murrow.

The Chairman and Clerk had met on site with a representative from North Level Internal Drainage Board to discuss the possibility of the Parish Council renting the riverbank for use by the public as a walkway. It was acknowledged at the meeting that it could be difficult to get equipment onto the riverbank in places, particularly at Swan Bridge end, to carry out any grass cutting. North Level had agreed to look into cutting the hedge back or even remove it but in any event could cut through it to provide a safe access gateway. They would contact us in due course to confirm the cost of the tenancy and their future plans for the hedge.

18/205. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

The Chairman was asked if the easement for the re-laying of the water pipes behind the Cage by the occupants of Swan House was still going ahead. The Clerk advised that as far as she was aware this was still their intention when finances allowed for this to be progressed.

Cllr Killingworth enquired as to whether a litter bin could be provided outside the school gate in view of recent rubbish being left hanging on the school fence and gates. The Chairman advised that this request would have to be included in the Agenda for the next meeting as there would be a cost to consider.

18/206. Any other business (information items only).

Cllr Killingworth advised that the Pre-school had received a grant of £6,000 to promote literacy in the village. The children would be participating in the Peeping Pebbles project with the children drawing or painting pictures on some pebbles and placing them around the village.

The Chairman reported on the recent Parish & Town Council Round Table event organised by Stephen Barclay MP that he attended on behalf of the Parish Council.

The main points were:-

The Combined Authority were spending money on looking into projects and completing feasibility studies.

The County Council stated that 82% of their budget was spent on Social Services and claimed that our Highways were some of the best in the Country.

The District Council were proposing to inform Parish Council Clerks of any pre-planning application discussions.

The Police & Crime Commissioner advised that the Police spend 14% of their resources on domestic and mental health issues.

Stephen Barclay MP advised that he may be able to assist with grants.

The Chairman expressed a view that there was insufficient time to comment or discuss all the issues raised at the event.

The Chairman advised that just over £1,000 had been raised at the recent Gymkhana.

The District Council were carrying out a Polling Station review and it was agreed that we should continue to use the Village Hall.

18/207. Dates for future Council meetings.

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 14th November commencing at 7.30pm following the collection of the rents for the Allotment Gardens and Fen Allotments. Meeting closed at 9.25pm.