

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

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

18/164. To receive apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

18/165. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests from Councillors for Dispensations.

18/166. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Cllr Hunt declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 18/181 as he is a member of the Amenities 95 Committee.

Cllr Hammond declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 18/181 as he is a member of the Amenities 95 Committee.

Cllr Killingworth declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 18/181 as she is an Officer on the Amenities 95 Committee.

18/167. 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.

18/168. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 8th August 2018.

The minutes were taken as read and agreed as a true record after the insertion of “and incidences” on Page 1356, Agenda Item Number 18/159 b) last paragraph, last line and subsequently signed by the Chairman.

18/169. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 8th August 2018. (Information only).

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

18/170. Community Police Officers Report.

The Clerk had received an email with the monthly report for August but this did not identify any particular crimes or incidences for Parson Drove. Councillors were of the view that the report focussed more on the town of Wisbech with very little information on rural village's crimes and incidences and therefore resolved to ask for future reports just covering the rural villages.

18/171. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

District Councillor Bligh advised that there was a full District Council Meeting the following days when one of the issues to be discussed was the charge for needle collection following a petition against the charges being presented to the District Council.

Cllr Bligh had visited the Cage during the Open Day on Sunday 9th September, the event had been very well attended with 48 visitors.

District Councillor Booth informed the Council that the Bowls Club using the Wisbech Hudson Centre had been given notice to leave. The report on the Planning Review had been completed but did not appear to have taken on board the Parish Council's comments. Another 2 volunteers had come forward for Speedwatch training and Speedwatch checks were planned for the 22nd and 24th September.

County Councillor King had some information regarding a funding seminar for Churches on funding Action Projects and this was passed to Cllr Williams as she is a Church Warden. Cllr King advised that the County Council could no longer obtain the film for the speed cameras so these were going to be digitalised costing £500,000, this was being funded by the Police authority. He had been informed that the work to the road surface at Silvers Lane would start on the 1st October. Councillors suggested that it would be advisable to check what crops were likely to be harvested at this time in order to avoid damage to the repaired road surface in view of the weight of the agricultural machinery using the road to possibly harvest Maize.

18/172. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) 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.

Councillors resolved to object to the application as they considered the extension should only be single storey as per the original barn as this would be more appropriate for the existing historic main house. Councillors also considered that the extension should be an extension to the main existing building and not a self-contained building as indicated on the plans.

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

G Patrick, Planning Application No F/YR18/0568/F, Agent Alexandra Design, erection of 5 industrial buildings (B1) & Offices & 1.8 metres high fencing on land east of The Haven, Seadyke Bank, Murrow.

Information noted by Councillors.

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

A Dixon, Planning Application No F/YR17/0548/F, Agent Swann Edwards Architecture Ltd., change of use of a barn to a tea room and agricultural land to Ti-pee camping site & erection of a two 2 storey 5 bed dwellings on land west of 338 and land south of 344 Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove.

Cambridgeshire County Council, Planning Application No. F/YR18/2004/CCC for the erection of one pre-school 5 bay classroom for a temporary period until 31 August 2023 following the removal of an existing 4 bay classroom.

Information noted by Councillors.

18/173. Highway & Street Lighting Matters.

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

The overgrown hedge obstructing the footpath outside the Limes, Main Road was raised again by Councillors for reporting to the County Council Highways.

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

The Chairman advised that he had arranged a site meeting with representatives from North Level Internal Drainage Board for Friday 21st September to discuss their requirements in relation to the drainage. Clerk to invite Officers from Cambridgeshire County Council Highways to also attend the meeting.

c) Email from Fenland District Council regarding the 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 the alternative quotation had still not been received. The Clerk informed Councillors that the District Council has been pressing for a decision advising earlier in the day that if no decision was reached by the Parish Council at this meeting then the District Council would proceed on the basis of the Parish Council having opted out of their maintenance contract.

Councillors resolved by a majority vote to remain with the District Council for the maintenance of the Parish Council's street lights and to review the matter in a year's time as the contract could be terminated by the Parish Council providing 6 months' notice was given. This decision would give the Parish Council time to assess how effective the alternative service provider had been for those 4 Parish Councils who had decided to opt out of the District Councils maintenance contract.

d) To report any faulty Streetlights.

Councillor Spriggs advised that there were some faulty street lights along Fen Road and along Main Road. Clerk to ascertain street light numbers in order for these to be reported.

18/174. Culvert at Bridge Drove.

The Chairman suggested that a meeting was arranged with North Level Internal Drainage Board and the County Council Highways to discuss the damaged culvert and to try and ascertain who should be responsible for getting this repaired.

18/75. Accounts & Finance

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

Mrs Yvonne Reader, 1 months' salary & expenses, £530.90. L.G.A. 1972 s 112.

Anglian Water Business, water rates for The Cage, £11.31.L.G.A. 1972 s 133.

Konica Minolta Business Solutions, rental of photocopier for 3 months £43.56.L.G.A. 1972 s111.

PKF Littlejohn LLP, external auditors fees, £240.00. Accounts & Audit Regs 2014.

GBSG Ltd., Cage alarm annual service, £97.20. L.G.A. 1972 s 133

b) Up-date report by Cllr Hammond on County Council's IT training and to consider the Parish Council funding the cost of hiring the Pavilion.

Cllr Hammond informed Councillors that following discussions with Thelma Wadsley from the County Council a taster and recruitment session had been arranged for Thursday 18th October 10.00am to 12 noon. If this resulted in enough interest a further 4 sessions would be held in November in the Pavilion.

The Amenities 95 Committee had agreed not to charge for the initial sessions held in the Pavilion. If the IT sessions continued after November it was suggested that an approach be made to the John Bends Charity to cover the cost of the use of the Pavilion but if this request was not successful then the Parish Council would consider funding future training sessions. The Clerk had received posters advertising the training sessions and these were distributed to Councillors.

c) To consider quotations received for work to the Horse Chestnut tree outside No 12 The Bank and work to trees around the village pond, Main Road, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to accept the quotation for £1,250 for works to the Horse Chestnut tree outside 12 The Bank and to authorise the work to the 3 Limes costing £2,250 which was outstanding from previous years before the planning permission expired.

As there was not enough money in the budget to cover the cost of £3,500 quoted for the work required to the trees around the Pond Councillors resolved to defer this matter in order for the Clerk to look into obtaining some grant money towards this and to also obtain another quotation.

d) To consider the External Auditors Report for the financial year ending 31st March 2018. The Chairman read out the External Auditors report to Councillors which raised no issues requiring attention.

18/176. Report on progress from the working group on Neighbourhood Planning Policies.

A copy of the most recent Plan had been provided to Councillors but the Chairman advised that there were still some more changes to be made in view of comments received from the District Council.

18/177. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Invitation from Stephen Barclay MP to attend the Annual Parish & Town Council Round Table event on Friday 21st September at 12.30 to 3.00pm at March Library and to provide our top 3 issues that impact the community.

The Chairman advised that he would be attending this event and Councillors agreed that the top 3 issues were Planning, Highways and the Parish Council Street Lights contract with Fenland District Council.

b) Invitation from Cambridgeshire ACRE to attend the Cambridgeshire Local Council Conference on Friday 23rd November 9.30 to 3.45 at the Marriott Hotel, Huntingdon. There were no Councillors wishing to attend this event.

c) Invitation from CAPALC to attend the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 11th October at 7.00pm at Cottenham Village Hall, Cottenham.

The Chairman advised that he would be attending this meeting.

18/178. General Data Protection Regulations - to approve and adopt revised Policies to comply with the new regulations.

Councillors resolved to adopt the Policies after agreeing some minor amendments to the Retention & Disposal Policy and for the Policies to be reviewed in a years' time. The Clerk was also requested to incorporate a Privacy Notice in future correspondence.

18/179. Risk Assessment

a) Up-date report on actions already completed on assets.

Cllr Watson advised that he had cleaned the railings around the War Memorial ready for painting and filled in the cracked concrete footpath. He had cleaned the public seat at the far end of the village green and was also in the process of filling in the tree stump hole on the village green.

b) Overgrown trees at Seadyke pit encroaching onto the highway.

The Chairman advised that he had received a complaint that the trees on the pit were overhanging onto the roadside grass verge and the flower planter. The Clerk was asked to look into this to see if they could be trimmed back.

18/180. Up-date report on Centenary Celebrations.

Cllr Hammond confirmed that a Dance had been arranged on Saturday 10th November following an afternoon exhibition in the village hall. He had made several attempts to contact the Alderman Payne School to see if they wished to be part of the event. Cllr Williams advised that at this point in time there would not be a special Church Service on the Sunday 11th November.

18/181. Amenities 95 Management Committee report.

Cllr Hunt advised that the football club were intending to install a concrete path around the football pitch and there would be public consultation on their proposal to erect a Grandstand to provide seating areas for spectators. The committee were investigating using the village hall as a Cinema. A Halloween event was being held on Wednesday 31st October 5.00pm to 7.00pm when prizes would be given to the children for their pumpkins and Fancy Dress and the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk were invited to attend the event to judge the competitions.

Cllr Killingworth suggested that a joint meeting with the Parish Council should be held again in the near future, as agreed at the previous joint meeting. This was arranged for Saturday 29th September at 10.00am. Cllr Killingworth also advised that the Football Club were proposing to donate £3,000 towards some new play equipment. The Chairman suggested that this funding be held by the Parish Council who could then liaise with the District Council and try to obtain further funding.

18/182. Up-date report on future use of the North Level Internal Drainage Board riverbank from Swan Bridge along Murrow Bank to Murrow.

The Chairman advised that he was arranging a meeting with representatives from North Level Drainage Board for Friday 21st September.

18/183. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

The Chairman was asked if the District Council were taking any action regarding the erection of fencing and stables on land along Sealeys Lane. The Chairman advised that he had received a response from the Enforcement Officer advising that no action would be taken at present as there had not been any major breach of planning permission requirements. However they were monitoring developments.

The Chairman was asked if he knew who owned the concrete Look-out post bunker along Sealeys Lane as there were concerns over Health & Safety for this. The Clerk was asked to

write to the Ministry of Defence to try and establish who was responsible.

Cllr Spriggs enquired if there was any reason why the grass had not been cut on the village green. The Clerk advised that she had spoken to the contractors a few days ago following a complaint being made by a local resident and had been informed that they were a little behind schedule but the grass would be cut any day now. The Chairman advised that the nettles in front of the bowling green also required attention.

18/184. Any other business (information items only).

There were no matters raised by Councillors.

18/185. Dates for future Council meetings.

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 10th October at 7.00pm in The Cage.

Meeting closed at 9.45 pm.