

## **Committed Future Expenditure and Planned Projects**

In conjunction with Wisbech St Mary Parish Council and Gorefield Parish Council we submitted an application to the County Council under the Local Highways Improvements scheme for 2018/2019 for improvements to the Bellamy Bridge junction in view of the high number of accidents at this location. The County Council have designed a scheme improving signage and road markings and these improvements should be completed in the very near future.

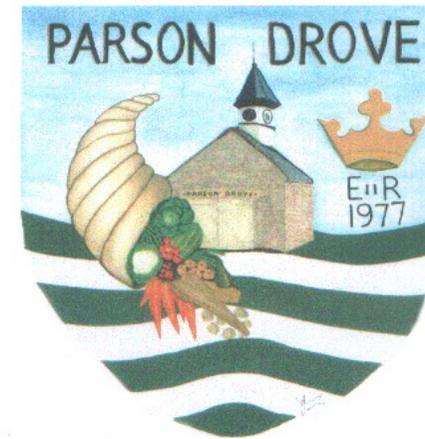
The Parish Council decided to remain with the District Council for the contract of maintenance and energy for our parish street lights. During the coming year several of the parish street lights will be replaced as they are old and uneconomical to maintain. This will result in considerable expenditure during the next financial year but the Parish Council have been building up reserves over the last 4 years to cover this cost.

Further work to cut back the trees around the village pond will be carried out during the next year. The War Memorial is also being professionally cleaned.

The Parish Council Precept for 2019/2020 was increased from £18,876 to £19,378 however in monetary terms this increase did not result in an increase on your council tax bill, due to the new properties built in the Parish during the last year.

Later in the year our current Parish Council Clerk will be retiring after being in post for more than 20 years. Information and contact details for applying for the position of Parish Clerk will be published as soon as they are available.

# **PARSON DROVE PARISH COUNCIL**



## **ANNUAL REPORT 2018/2019**

**WELCOME to the Annual Report of the Parish Council for the 2018/2019 year, detailing our work.**

**Towards the end of 2018 we sadly had the death of Cllr David Markillie who was a dedicated Councillor.**

**Cllr Martin Hammond also resigned from the Parish Council earlier this year and I would like to thank him for his contribution to our community.**

**Parish Council elections will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May but as we only had 6 nominations there will not be an election for Parson Drove Parish Council. The one remaining Councillor vacancy will be filled by co-option.**

**The Parish Council continues to lobby for road safety improvements in the Parish to the County Council. Unfortunately, we continue to receive barriers as to why action cannot be taken but will continue to represent the concerns of the Parish.**

**We welcome input from Parishioners during the public forum at the beginning of Council meetings. If you would like to discuss any of the content of the report please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk, or myself.**

**Cllr Gavin Booth, Chairman**

The Neighbourhood Development Plan has been available for public and statutory consultation. Following comments received it is now being amended slightly before being submitted for final approval and once this has been completed it will be formally put to a referendum.

A further section of a footpath will at long last be installed at Sealeys Lane by the County Council following our successful applications under the Local Highways Improvement scheme for 2017/2018, 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 whereby the Parish Council make a 10% contribution towards the cost of the scheme. We hope to be able to extend this footpath in the coming years to eventually link up with the existing footpath.

A Community Contact session was held in The Cage in March attended by PCSO Helen Norton Smith and representatives from Fenland District Council. These sessions are an opportunity for residents to raise any concerns they may have regarding Police and Community Safety issues. Another session is being held on the 10<sup>th</sup> September at 3.30pm.

A Parson Drove & Wisbech St Mary Ward Speed Watch group started up during the year. Regular sessions have since been held when several vehicles have been recorded as speeding through the villages. More volunteers are needed and training is given, anyone wishing to volunteer to be part of this scheme should contact the Chairman.

## Summary of the Council's Accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

The main source of income is the precept which is collected through the Council Tax system by Fenland District Council

The Council actively seeks grant funding for its projects and in 2018/2019 we received £656 from Cambridgeshire County Council and £3,807 from Fenland District Council.

### INCOME

Parish Precept	£ 18,876
Council Tax Support Grant	£ 617
Concurrent Functions Grant from District Council	£ 3,807
Grass cutting grant from County Council	£ 656
Allotments & Gardens Rent	£ 2,899
Bank Interest	£ 48
Recycling Credits	£ 71
Donation	£ 30

**The total income for the year excluding VAT was £27,004.**

### EXPENDITURE

In addition to the general administration costs, professional fees, training and salary costs of approximately £9,050 expenditure on the following areas has also been incurred: -

Grass cutting and grounds maintenance	£ 3,761
Cage maintenance & running costs	£ 827
Drainage Rates for the Allotments & Gardens	£ 161
ROSPA Inspection of pond & play equipment	£ 133
Remembrance Day Wreath	£ 20
Work to trees on the village green	£ 3,500
Work to a Willow tree at the pond	£ 650
Replacement posts/bollards on village green	£ 180
Repairs to window in the bus shelter	£ 80

*During the year grants have been given to: -*

Southea Parochial Church Council	£ 750
Amenities 95 Management Committee (for the refurbishment of the village hall)	£3,500
Murrow Book Café	£ 50
Read to Succeed Primary School Reading Books	£ 50

**The total expenditure for the year excluding VAT was £22,712.**

A copy of the full accounts is available upon request to the Clerk.

### ***What we did during 2018/2019***

During the last year there have been 13 Parish Council Meetings and all Councillors have attended on a regular basis.

Councillors have attended various meetings, events, information sessions and training on your behalf organised by Fenland District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Association of Local Councils.

Council representatives have also attended meetings of the John Bends United Charities, Leverington Feofees & Amenities 95 Management Committee.

Newsletters have been produced and delivered to each household.

The village green, playing field and roadside grass verges have been cut regularly and flower beds maintained.

We have continued to provide 17.75 acres of allotments and 24 garden allotments.

Parson Drove Street Pride Group has continued with litter picks through the village together with the maintenance of the various flower beds, War Memorial, village pond and community orchard. During the year they have completed new projects of installing a plough feature at the far end of the village green, planting a Christmas tree near The Cage, edging the flower bed around the War Memorial and planting a replacement hedge along one side of the playing field. We are very grateful to the group and the village volunteers for their efforts to improve and enhance our parish environment.

### **Who and What is the Parish Council**

The Parish Council comprises of 7 voluntary Councillors who normally serve for a term of 4 years and represent the electorate of the Parish of Parson Drove. There will be no Parish Council elections on 2nd May 2019 as only 6 nominations were received.

Current Councillors (up to 1 May 2019)

**G Booth – Chairman**  
**P. Spriggs – Vice Chairman**  
**J Hunt**  
**C Killingworth**  
**P Williams**  
**G Watson**

Telephone  
**701157**  
**700548**

The Council employs 1 part-time member of staff who is the Clerk and Financial Officer.

**Mrs Y Reader** **700501**  
**Sunrise, Back Road, Murrow,**  
**Wisbech PE13 4JW**  
**Email [Theclerk@parsondrove-pc.org.uk](mailto:Theclerk@parsondrove-pc.org.uk)**  
**Website [www.parsondrove-pc.org.uk](http://www.parsondrove-pc.org.uk)**

The Council normally meets on the second Wednesday of each month with additional meetings when necessary. Agendas are displayed in the notice board on the village green and on the village website. Members of the public are welcome to attend the council meetings and speak during the 15 minutes allocated for public participation.