

## **Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in the Cage on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019.**

Attended by Councillors: G Booth (Chairman, arrived late), P Spriggs (Vice Chairman), R Fowler, J Hunt, C Killingworth, & G Watson.  
County Councillor S. King. Erbie Murat (new Clerk from 1<sup>st</sup> November).  
2 members of the public.

In the absence of the Chairman the meeting was opened by Cllr Spriggs, Vice- Chairman. The Chairman was in attendance from Agenda Item No 19/184.

### **19/182. To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies had been received from Cllr P Williams & District Councillor S Bligh.

### **19/183. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.**

The Clerk advised that Cllr Booth had requested a Dispensation for Agenda Item No 19/191 d). Councillors resolved to grant the Dispensation.

### **19/184. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.**

Cllr Killingworth declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item No19/196 as she is an Officer of the Amenities 95 Management Committee.

Cllr Hunt declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 19/196 as he is a member of the Amenities 95 Management Committee.

Cllr Booth declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 19/196 as he is a member of the Amenities 95 Management Committee and a Prejudicial Interest for Agenda Item 19/191 d) as resides at John Bends Way but as a dispensation request had been granted by Councillors he participated in the discussions.

The Clerk declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item 19/190 as she is part owner of a property adjoining the proposed development site.

### **19/185. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.**

The members of the public present at the meeting explained their objections to the proposed development under Agenda Item No 19/190 Planning Application No F/YR19/0758/F.

### **19/186. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019.**

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

### **19/187. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019. (Information only).**

Councillors advised that work was still being completed on the site at Sealeys Lane even though planning permission had recently been refused for a traveller's site by the District Council.

Councillor Spriggs suggested that Wisbech St Mary Parish Council be approached to join with the Parish Council in providing the public walkway along the riverbank from Parson Drove to Murrow. The Chairman agreed to raise this at a future Wisbech St Mary Parish Council Meeting. The Clerk advised that she was still waiting to hear from North Level Internal Drainage Board as to when they intended to cut the hedge back this year.

**19/188. Community Police Officers Report.**

The Clerk advised that the September report had not yet been received from the Police.

**19/189. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.**

District Councillor Booth advised that the first draft stage of the Local Development Plan was going out for public consultation later in the week. Councillors would need to consider if they wanted village development boundaries included this time and if so where they should be, ready for discussion at the next Council Meeting.

County Councillor S King advised that work was progressing at the Bellamy Bridge junction and the levelling of the road surface at Highside was being done as far as it was possible. He had raised the Councils complaint regarding the over grown hedges but as yet this had not been actioned. As flooding was still occurring outside St Marks Church and the Village Hall Councillors asked for this to be chased up again with the Highways Department.

**19/190. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.**

a) Planning Application for consideration.

R Yates, Parson Drove Developments Ltd., Planning Application No. F/YR19/0758/F, Agent Alexandra Designs, erection of 10 dwellings with garages (2 single storey 2 bed, 4 two storey 2 bed and 4 two storey 3 bed) involving demolition of 27 The Bank & outbuilding on land east of 14 – 27 The Bank, Parson Drove.

The Clerk left the room whilst Councillors considered this planning application.

Councillors resolved by a majority vote to object to the application and recommend refusal as the application did not have community support in view of the number of letters objecting to the planning application.

The Parish Council did not support the demolition of 27 The Bank (previously known as the King William) as this was a local historic building.

The site was high grade agricultural land and in the open countryside and therefore contrary to LP12 c) and LP 12 i).

As custodians of the village green the Parish Council did not support the request by the Highways Authority for the access road to be widen resulting in encroachment onto the village green and the removal of a tree.

In the event of the Planning Department being minded to grant approval then all the dwellings should be single storey to prevent overlooking onto the existing adjoining properties.

**19/191. Highway & Street Lighting Matters.**

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

Councillors requested double white lines be installed on the bend of Fen Road, Long Drove and Bridge Drove following the recent re-surfacing of Fen Road and pointed out that there were deep drops at the side of the road in places which needed to be rectified.

There were several large deep pot holes along Silvers Lane which had seen a considerable increase in traffic whilst the diversions were in place for the resurfacing work being completed at Church End, Highside and Bellamy Bridge. Councillors suggested that these pot holes be repaired whilst the contractors were still working in the area.

Cllr Watson advised that the hedge and footpath up to Clough Bridge had still not been cut back and cleared making it impassable. Clerk to report this again.

b) To report any faulty Streetlights.

Cllr Watson reported a faulty street light outside No 1 The Bank.

Cllr Fowler suggested that an additional street light lamp should be provided at Swan Bridge and it was agreed that this should be included in the Agenda for the next meeting for discussion

c) Email from the County Council Highways regarding a Zebra crossing outside the Alderman Payne Primary School following our request for them to complete the Pedestrian – Vehicle Survey (PV2) score advising that the Parish Council must apply under the privately funded highways improvement with a one off £500 fee payable for them to complete the survey.

Councillors expressed their dissatisfaction at the high fee being requested by the Highways Authority to carry out this survey and asked if Cllr King could get this waived. Failing that it was suggested that perhaps the Community Speedwatch could complete the survey if the Highways authority would agree to this.

d) Request by Cllr Spriggs for double yellow lines to be installed along John Bends Way in view of difficulty in accessing the fields behind the development.

Cllr Spriggs explained that the problem was mainly where vehicles were parked on the two corners that made access difficult for agricultural vehicles to get through the road and therefore it was not necessary for the entire road to have double yellow lines.

Enforcement of double yellow lines was discussed together with other alternative options such as white lines and letters to residents. Cllr Spriggs advised that the John Bends Charity had been asked to look into whether any condition had been included when selling the land relating to the provision of a 19ft agricultural access along the road. Councillors resolved to defer any decision until such time as further information had been obtained from the John Bends Charity.

### **19/192. Accounts & Finance**

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

Mrs Yvonne Reader, 1 months' salary & expenses, £546.74. L.G.A. 1972 s 112.

PKF Littlejohn LLP, external audit fees, £240. Accounts & Audit Regs.

Information Commissioner, GDPR/Data Protection renewal fee, £40. L.G.A. 1972 s 111.

Anglian Water Business Ltd., water rates for The Cage, £12.07. L.G.A. 1972 s 133.

b) To receive and consider the External Auditors report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. The Clerks advised that there were no issues raised by the External Auditors on the accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

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 requiring attention.

d) Email from Fenland District Council advising that the street light on Swan Bridge cannot be repaired and therefore requesting authorisation to replace the lamp with a new LED Lamp at a cost of £257.63.

Councillors resolved to approve the expenditure for the replacement lamp.

e) To approve the ordering of the Remembrance Day Wreath.  
Councillors resolved to approve the ordering of the Wreath at an estimated cost of £20.  
L.G.A. 1972 s 137.

**19/193. Up-date on Neighbourhood Development Plan.**

Email received from Fenland District Council requesting our agreement to their recommendation for the Company to carry out the independent examination of the plan. Councillors resolved to accept the recommendation made by the District Council for the Company to carry out the independent examination of the Neighbourhood Development Plan but requested that this was done by some-one from the Company who had examined a Neighbourhood Development Plan before.

**19/194. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.**

a) Email from the County Council asking for volunteers for the Community Gritting 2019 scheme and confirmation received from a parishioner that he will continue to volunteer for us again this year.

Noted by Councillors, no further action required.

b) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council inviting the Parish Council to join the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Against Scams Partnership. (Deferred from last meeting). County Councillor S King outlined the details of the scheme which relied on volunteers but training could be provided together with materials raising awareness of scams by posters and handouts. Councillors resolved to join the scheme as it would benefit parishioners. The scheme could be promoted by Silver Surfers and the Primary School with information being given to the Over 60's Club and the Luncheon Club. Cllr Hunt agree to arrange this with Silver Surfers.

c) Email from Fenland District Council advising of a public consultation on Council Tax proposals aimed to provide clarity to Universal Credit claimants.  
Information noted by Councillors.

**19/195. To receive information on the appointment of the new Clerk and to approve associated expenditure for the purchase of equipment.**

Councillors resolved in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted at Agenda Item 19/195 it was advisable in the public interest that the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting and they were thereby requested to withdraw. County Councillor S King then left the meeting.

The Chairman and Clerk had met with Mr Murat to discuss his appointment prior to the meeting details of which were conveyed to the Council. Councillors resolved to approve the terms of employment and the purchase of a new filing cabinet and mobile telephone.

**19/196. Amenities 95 Management Committee report.**

Cllr Hunt advised that there had not been a meeting since his last report to the Council. The Sausage Supper was being held on the 19<sup>th</sup> October and they were looking for items to sell. A Quiz is being held in November.

**19/197. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.**

Cllr Spriggs asked the Chairman if they could finish installing the Riverside Allotment Gardens boundary posts and also get the Litter Bin moved from Johnsons Drove to the bend at Fen Road with Long Drove as the householder had agreed for the litter bin being placed in front of his property.

**19/198. Any other business (information items only).**

A Community Safety Event was being held in Wisbech Library on the 24<sup>th</sup> October. The Clerk had received confirmation from British Telecom that the telephone Kiosk in front of the Swan Inn would have the broken and missing glass sections replaced and the Kiosk would be painted in the Spring.

**19/199. Dates for future Council meetings.**

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm following the collection of the Allotments & Garden Allotments Rents at 7.00pm.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.