

## **Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in the Cage on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019.**

Attended by Councillors: G Booth (Chairman), P Spriggs (Vice Chairman), J Hunt, C Killingworth, P Williams & G Watson.  
Fenland District Councillor S Bligh, County Councillor S. King & 2 members of the public.

### **19/65. To receive apologies for absence.**

There were no apologies.

### **19/66. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.**

There were no requests for Dispensations from Councillors.

### **19/67. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.**

Cllr Killingworth declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 19/79 as she is an Officer of the Amenities 95 Management Committee.

Cllr Hunt declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 19/79 as he is a member of the Amenities 95 Management Committee.

The Chairman declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 19/79 as he is now a member of the Amenities 95 Committee.

### **19/68. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.**

A member of the public asked if the clothes recycling box on the village green could be removed as it was out of character for the area and at times was a nuisance. The Chairman advised that this request would be considered at a future Parish Council Meeting.

A member of the public expressed a view that some of the Garden Allotments were in good order but some were also in an awful state and therefore considered that those that were not kept clean and tidy should have their tenancy withdrawn. The Chairman advised that the Garden Allotments were inspected yearly and any tenant found not to be keeping the allotment in good order was written to requesting that the issue was rectified. However there had been two allotment gardens recently vacated and re-let so hopefully the situation would resolve itself very shortly. The frequent use of a tractor on the allotments on both sides of the river was also raised and the Chairman advised that the allotments one side of the river were owned by the North Level Internal Drainage Board.

A member of the public asked how often the trees on the village green were inspected and cut back. The Chairman advised that the trees were inspected annually and any work identified as being required for safety reasons was completed after obtaining approval from the Tree Officer at Fenland District Council. Most years some trees were cut back, subject to agreement of the Tree Officer, in order to prevent them becoming too big but in view of the high costs involved it was necessary to rotate the areas receiving attention.

A member of the public enquired as to the current position regarding development behind the King William. The Chairman advised that community consultation had taken place for the erection of 10 dwellings including the demolition of the King William. The Parish Council had responded to the consultation advising that they did not support the proposal. Residents should also take this opportunity to respond to the proposed development as the community consultation was to ascertain whether or not the proposal had community support.

**19/69. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019.**

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

**19/70. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019. (Information only)**

The Clerk advised that only 6 nomination forms had been submitted to the District Council for the forthcoming Parish Council Elections on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, therefore there would not be an election for Parson Drove Parish Council. The District Council had advised that the remaining vacancy could be filled by co-option and as Cllr Williams had inadvertently omitted to submit her nomination form but had indicated to the Clerk and Chairman that she wished to continue as a member of the Parish Council it was agreed that this would be considered at the next Parish Council Meeting.

**19/71. Community Police Officers Report.**

The Clerk advised that no emailed report had been received for March. The Chairman advised that the Police had been in the village trying to apprehend a Burglar. The Police had received additional funding of £1.5 million to assist with providing additional Police Officers.

**19/72. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.**

District Councillor S Bligh advised that the Wisbech One Stop Shop would be relocating to the Boathouse in June or July.

District Councillor Booth recently attended the District Council's Overview & Scrutiny Meeting when questions were raised again about Clarion Housing Associations' poor performance relating to heating breakdowns although improvements are being made. The provision of Affordable Housing for villages and not just Towns was also raised.

The Speedwatch group had held another 3 sessions when 271 vehicles were monitored with 34 found to be speeding. None were recorded along Fen Road and once again the worst location was Main Road near to Springfield Road.

County Councillor S King advised that he had raised the issue of the amount of time the teams carrying out the highways repairs appeared to spend in their trucks and was advised that they have a break time of 45 minutes. All the repairs to the signage had been completed at Swan bridge but as the Chairman raised that we were under the impression that new signage was being installed Cllr King agreed to make further enquiries with the Highway Department.

Cllr King had made enquiries about the consultation for the Transport Investment Plan and advised that an event had been held in November 2018 when Cllr Hunt attended on behalf of the Parish Council. He had been informed that there would be another consultation later in the year when a draft plan had been compiled also taking into account the Fenland Transport Strategy. As Councillors did not appreciate that the consultation event held in November was for the Transport Investment Plan they resolved to put forward areas for inclusion in the Plan rather than wait until a further consultation event was arranged.

**19/73. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.**

a) Email from the Enforcement Team at Fenland District Council advising that there are no regulations regarding the colour of rendering buildings in a Conservation Area.

Information noted by Councillors.

b) Notification from Fenland District Council that the Appeal by T Jarvis for outline planning permission to build 4 dwellings on land west of 111 Back Road, Murrow had been successful and planning permission had been granted by the Planning Inspectorate.

Information noted by Councillors.

c) Notification from Fenland District Council that the following Planning Application has been granted.

Mr C Stebbings, Planning Application No. F/YR19/0095/F, Agent Peter Humphrey Associates Ltd., change of use of agricultural building to a 2 bed dwelling & workshop at barns land west of Carousel, 117 Back Road, Murrow. (retrospective).

Information noted by Councillors

**19/74. Highway & Street Lighting Matters.**

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

Some pot holes along the Bank had been filled but there were still some that needed to be done near the War Memorial and the drains were still blocked causing the road to flood.

The Chairman had reported pot holes at Long Drove, Marshall Bank and Church End and he had been informed that Church End would be resurfaced during 2020/2021.

Councillors reported pot holes near Swan Gardens and Riverside Gardens.

b) Email from the County Council confirming that our application under the Local Highways Initiative for 2019/2020 for a further section of footpath along Sealeys Lane has been successful and advising that they will be combining all three sections of the installation work of the footpath for the three years our applications have been successful during May.

Information noted by Councillors.

c) Email from the County Council advising of costs and implementation dates for the Local Highways Initiative for 2018/2019 for improvements to the Bellamy Bridge junction.

Councillors were advised that the estimated total cost was £11,094.55 with the three Parish Councils of Gorefield, Wisbech St Mary and Parson Drove contributing £1,094.55 between them. The anticipated installation date was due to start on the 27<sup>th</sup> May during which time a road closure would be required.

d) Email from County Council Highways advising of the revised procedure for self-funding initiatives in relation to the proposed reduction in the Speed limit along Murrow Bank and The Bank up to Clough Bridge.

The Clerk advised that the County Council had estimated that the cost of the scheme would be £3,000. An initial payment of £500 was required with the application forms.

Councillors resolved by a majority vote to proceed with this speed reduction scheme.

e) To report any faulty Streetlights.

There were no new faulty street lights reported by Councillors. It was noted that Fenland District Council had attached the new identity numbers and reporting details to the Parish Council street light columns.

### **19/75. Accounts & Finance**

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

Mrs Yvonne Reader, 1 months' salary & expenses, £530. L.G.A. 1972 s 112.

P Tibbs Ltd., repairs to broken window in Bus Shelter, £96.00. L.G.M.P.A. 1953 s4.

Fishlocks Stables & Groundworks, replacement bollards on green, £216. O.S.A 1906 s 15.

North Level District Internal Drainage Board, Allotments and Garden Allotments drainage rates, £165.49. S.H. & A. A. 1908 ss23.

Fenland District Council, rates for the Cage, £322.94. L.G.A. 1972 s133.

b) To receive & approve Budget Report & Receipt & Payments Bank Reconciliation report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

Councillors resolved to approve the reports presented by the Clerk.

c) To approve the Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 ready for the Internal Audit on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April.

Councillors resolved to approve the Accounts presented by the Clerk for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

d) To approve the completion of the Corporate Governance Questionnaire for Internal Auditors.

Councillors resolved to approve the Corporate Governance Questionnaire completed by the Chairman.

e) Letter from Stephen Barclay MP asking if the Parish Council would give a donation towards the Read to Succeed Campaign again this year.

Councillors resolved to defer a decision on this request pending clarification as to whether the Alderman Payne Primary School did actually receive some books last year as requested by the Parish Council.

f) Letter from Murrow Book Café requesting a grant/donation.

Councillors resolved to give a grant/donation of £50. L.G.A. 1972 s 137.

### **19/76. Up-date on Neighbourhood Development Plan.**

Councillors resolved to adopt the amended Neighbourhood Development Plan following the recent consultation ready for the next stage of the process.

**19/77. Garden & Allotments**

**Up-date report on allocation of new tenancies and installation of boundary posts.**

The Chairman advised that the boundary posts were in the process of being installed. He had met with the applicants to discuss the vacant Garden Allotments and both vacant Garden Allotments had now been re-let.

**19/78. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.**

a) Email from Age UK asking to use the Cage on the 8<sup>th</sup> May for 2 hours and once a month thereafter as a hub to provide information and advice to local residents.

Councillors resolved to agree to this request.

b) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council advising of the new street light attachment policy with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April.

Information noted by Councillors.

**19/79. Amenities 95 Management Committee report.**

Cllr Hunt advised that 3 new committee members had joined at the Annual General Meeting at the end of March. In view of the high electricity account for the Pavilion Cllr Hunt was reading the metre every day to try and ascertain the reason for this. The ruts and holes on the playing field and car park were being rectified.

**19/80. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.**

Cllr Watson asked if anything could be done about the children's miss-use of the swings on the village green. The Chairman advised that there was little that could be done about this.

Cllr Spriggs asked if the tree officer could be contacted about removing the small oak tree behind the bus shelter as this was just being used as a climbing frame and would never grow properly.

**19/81. Any other business (information items only).**

Cllr Williams advised that she had been approached about vehicles being parked and stored on the grass next to Yucca House. As the planning application had been refused for change of use it was agreed that this matter should be referred to the District Councils Enforcement Officer.

The Chairman advised that the recent Police Community Contact Session in the Cage had been well attended. The Clerk advised that she had not received any feedback from this event as is normally the case.

**19/82. Dates for future Council meetings.**

In view of the Elections on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May and the Bank Holiday Monday on the 6<sup>th</sup> May the next meeting, which is the Annual Parish Council Meeting, was re-scheduled for the 15<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm in The Cage.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm.