

## **Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in the Cage on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019.**

Attended by Councillors: G Booth (Chairman, arrived late), P Spriggs (Vice Chairman), R Fowler, J Hunt, C Killingworth, G Watson & P Williams.  
County Councillor S. King. D Newland Clerk to the John Bends Charity.  
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 19/166.

### **19/162. To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies had been received from District Councillor S. Bligh.

### **19/163. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.**

There were no requests by members for dispensations.

### **19/164. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.**

Cllr Killingworth declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item No19/178 as she is an Officer of the Amenities 95 Management Committee and in respect of Agenda Item No 19/176 a) as her son is an Allotment Garden tenant.

Cllr Hunt declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 19/178 as he is a member of the Amenities 95 Management Committee.

Cllr Watson declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 19/176 a) as his son is an Allotment Garden tenant.

Cllr Booth declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 19/178 as he is a member of the Amenities 95 Management Committee and a Prejudicial Interest for Agenda Item 19/176 a) as he is an allotment garden tenant.

Cllr Spriggs declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 19/176 b) as his son is an Allotment tenant.

The Clerk declared a prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda Items 19/176 a) and b) as her husband and brother are tenants.

### **19/165. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.**

An up-date report was given by a parishioner on the Ward Speed Watch Teams advising that two training sessions had been held for eight Guyhirn residents who had recently volunteered. A further three have agreed to attend training sessions during September. A Guyhirn resident had volunteered to take charge of the second monitoring kit and with two monitors they will be able to run more sessions each month in the four villages within the ward.

A Parishioner raised her concerns and objections relating to a Planning Application for the erection of 10 dwellings behind her property. The Chairman advised that this planning application would be discussed by the Parish Council at the October Meeting as the application had been received too late for inclusion in the Agenda for this meeting.

A parishioner raised the matter of a tree on the village green overhanging the footpath and their driveway along The Bank. This was also causing a problem with their telephone line.

The Chairman advised that a planning application had been submitted to the District Council for permission to cut the tree back away from their property and the footpath but this may not solve the problem with the telephone line and suggested that they contacted Outreach.

**19/166. To receive and approve the annual John Bends Charity Accounts.**

The John Bends Charity Annual Accounts were presented to the Council and the accounts ledger was duly signed by the Chairman

**19/167. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> August 2019.**

The Minutes were taken as read, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman. The Clerk advised that although the Minutes for the July Parish Council Meeting had been agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman at the last meeting, the venue of the meeting was incorrectly recorded as being The Cage when it should have been the Sports Pavilion. Councillors resolved to agree to this error being corrected.

**19/168. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> August 2019. (Information only)**

Cllr Killingworth advised that the new owners of G W Vialls & Son would eventually be re-opening the premises as a convenience store and had agreed to the Parish Councils request to save the old G W Vialls & Son sign.

**19/169. Community Police Officers Report.**

The Clerk had received an email report showing no information relevant to the parish. The Police were due to hold a Community Contact Session in the Cage earlier in the day but due to circumstances beyond their control had been forced to cancel this at the last minute.

**19/170. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.**

County Councillor S King advised that he was having difficulty in obtaining information on the Strategic Transport Plan as this was being organised by the Combined Authority. In future when the Highways Dragon Patcher was in the area attending to urgent pot holes it would now also repair non urgent poles in order to save money and improve the condition of the local rural roads. There was a possibility that some Capital Funding might become available for Parishes in the future and if so grant applications could be submitted to the County Council.

District Councillor G Booth advised that there was a Council Meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> September. A Cabinet Meeting may be discussing the future of Parish Council Street Lights. He was a member of the Local Plan working group who were starting discussions on the new Local Plan. There had been 1 speed watch session in Parson Drove since the last meeting when 100 vehicles were monitored with 4 recorded as speeding.

**19/171. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.**

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

Mrs H Roberts, Planning Application No. F/YR19/0611/TRTPO, Agent M. Goose, work to 1 Weeping Ash Tree covered by TPO/17/1989 at the Old Rectory, 312 Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove.

Mr M Fyson, Planning Application No. F/YR19/0584/F, Agent Swann Edwards Architecture Ltd., for the erection of 3 Poly-tunnels on land north of Harolds Bridge, Sealeys Lane, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

b) Notification from Fenland District Council that the following Planning Application has been refused.

Mr L Upton, Planning Application No. F/YR19/0540/F, Agent Dr S Ruston, Ruston Planning Ltd., change of use of land to a traveller's site involving the siting of 2 mobile homes, 2 tourer caravans, erection of 2 day rooms, 1.8 metres high fence & 1.2 metre high post & rail fencing (part retrospective) on land south of Harolds Bank, Sealeys Lane, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors. The Chairman read out a letter from residents of Sealeys Lane thanking the Parish Councils for supporting their concerns and objections in relation to this planning application.

c) Planning Application for consideration.

W Lake, Planning Application No F/YR19/0737/TRTPO, to fell 1 Ash tree covered by TPO 16/1989 at The Cottages 316 Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to support the application subject to the Tree Officer also agreeing to the application.

### **19/172. Highway & Street Lighting Matters.**

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

Councillors advised that the road was still flooding outside St Marks Church and the Village Hall, Main Road. Cllr King agreed to look into this as he was under the impression that the drains had been cleared out as requested at the last meeting.

The Conifers at Highside still need cutting back further as large farm vehicles and Lorries are still being obstructed. Cllr King agreed to raise this again with Highways.

An email had been received by the Clerk from the Highways Department informing her of re-surfacing work to be carried out starting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September at Fen Road followed by Church End and Highside in early October followed by Leverington Common on the 10<sup>th</sup> October, subject to weather conditions.

b) To report any faulty Streetlights.

Councillors reported that the street light on Swan Bridge was still not working and the one outside St Marks Church and two at Church End.

c) Email from the County Council Highways regarding our request for a Zebra crossing outside the Alderman Payne Primary School advising that the only way this could be funded would be via the Local Highways Improvements scheme. When submitting an application they would require a Pedestrian – Vehicle Survey (PV2) score to measure the number of pedestrians to the number of vehicles which is required to be over a certain figure to be deemed acceptable and proving a need to install a zebra crossing.

Councillors resolved to ask the County Council to carry out the Pedestrian – Vehicle Survey to ascertain if the required score was obtained to qualify for the installation of a zebra crossing.

d) Letter from a parishioner regarding our Local Highways Initiative application for a further extension to the footpath along Sealeys Lane requesting that a footpath be provided along Fen Road instead as this road has more traffic than Sealeys Lane.

Councillors resolved to respond advising that the application had already been submitted for Sealeys Lane before the letter had been received from the parishioner. To also advise that an application had previously been made some years ago for a footpath along Fen Road but this did not score sufficient points for the bid to be successful. However a request for a footpath along Fen Road had been submitted under the emerging Fenland Transport Plan.

**19/173. Accounts & Finance**

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

Mrs Yvonne Reader, 1 months' salary & expenses, £538.82. L.G.A. 1972 s112.

Konica Minolta Business Solutions, photocopier quarterly rental and copy charges, £73.18.

L.G.A. 1972 s. 111.

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

**19/174. Up-date on Neighbourhood Development Plan.**

The Clerk advised that the final Plan had been submitted to the District Council and was now out for a second consultation period of 6 weeks. In the meantime the District Council were going out to tender for an Independent Assessment.

**19/175. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.**

a) Email from Fenland District Council with additional information regarding joining the Green Dog Walkers scheme.

Councillors resolved to advertise the scheme in the next Parish Council Newsletter asking for volunteer to run the scheme after which a decision would then be made depending upon the number of parishioners interested in the scheme.

b) Email from North Level Internal Drainage Board advising that they will accept a tenancy of 1 year for the Parish Council to rent the riverbank from Swan Bridge up to Murrow for £30 per annum.

Councillors resolved to enquire when the hedge would be cut back by the North Level Drainage Board and to obtain quotations for future maintenance of the hedge and walkway.

c) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council inviting the Parish Council to join the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Against Scams Partnership. (Deferred from last meeting).

Unfortunately no further information had been received from Cllr King and therefore this matter was deferred until the next meeting.

d) Email from the Chair of Parson Drove Patient Group confirming the Doctors Surgery would provide the electricity supply for the proposed Defibrillator on the external wall of the Surgery and asking if we could we assist them with obtaining the quotations for the electrical work. The working group would assist the Parish Council with the grant application to Wryde Croft Community Fund Grant.

Councillors resolved to respond advising that the Clerk would complete the online grant application to Wryde Croft but could not assist with obtaining quotations for the electrical installation work and suggest that they contact local electricians advertising in Village Voices.

e) Email from Cambridgeshire ACRE advising of the annual conference for Local Councils on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 9.00am to 3.00pm in Huntingdon if members wished to attend. There were no Councillors indicating a wish to attend this meeting.

**19/176. Riverside Allotment & Gardens & Fen Allotments.**

a) To review the annual rent of the Riverside Garden Allotments.

The Clerk and Chairman left the room for this Agenda Item and the Vice Chairman took the Chair.

Councillors resolved to increase the annual rent by £5.00 per allotment garden resulting in the annual rent being £35 for 2020.

b) To review the annual rent of the Fen Allotments.

The Chairman returned to the room and the Vice Chairman then left the room.

Councillors resolved to make no increase in the annual rents this time.

**19/177. To receive a report from the Human Resources Sub-committee on the forthcoming staff vacancy for Parish Council Clerk.**

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 19/177 it was advisable in the public interest that the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting and they were thereby requested to withdraw. The one member of the public then left the meeting. The Chairman advised that 5 candidates from the shortlist had been interviewed during the last two weeks. The sub-committee had selected an applicant and recommended Councillors approve the appointment following the completion of negotiations relating to Salary, purchase of equipment and the commencement date of employment. Councillors resolved to approve the recommendations of the sub-committee and appoint the candidate being suggested.

**19/178. Amenities 95 Management Committee report.**

Cllr Hunt reported that a new committee member had been co-opted onto the committee. Key holders had been appointed for the new village hall. A new Cleaner/Caretaker had been appointed. The Wi-Fi to the main hall was still outstanding. A decision had not yet been made regarding what to do with the old village hall chairs. Unfortunately due to a failure of communications a cheaper electricity tariff deal was not implemented.

**19/179. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.**

The Chairman was asked by Cllr Spriggs if yellow lines could be installed at John Bends Way in view of the number of cars parking on the road making it difficult for the agricultural vehicles to access the fields behind. The Chairman suggested that this matter be included as an Agenda Item for the next meeting.

**19/180. Any other business (information items only).**

Cllr Spriggs advised that the footpath from the end of the village green up to Clough Bridge was overgrown with grass and the hedge making it very difficult to use.

**19/181. Dates for future Council meetings.**

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm in The Cage.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.