

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in the Cage on Wednesday 12th June 2019.

Attended by Councillors: G Booth (Chairman), P Spriggs (Vice Chairman), R Fowler, J Hunt, C Killingworth, G Watson & P Williams.

Fenland District Councillor S Bligh, County Councillor S. King.

Derek Burgoyne & John Dale, invited guests from Biocow.

19/105. To receive apologies for absence.

There were no apologies.

19/106. To receive a presentation by Derek Burgoyne & John Dale from Biocow.

The Chairman welcomed Derek Burgoyne & John Dale to the meeting. Mr Burgoyne advised Councillors that Biocow had been operating for nearly 5 years now and at present generates 5000kw of green energy going to the electric grid providing power for 1000 homes. The farm finishes 7000 heads of beef per year and can digest cattle manure and bedding from approximately 3000 cows generated on the farm saving 1539 tonnes of carbon from entering the atmosphere every year. The material generated by the Anaerobic digestion plant provides a highly effective organic fertiliser that enhances crop growth naturally without the need of chemicals being spread on the land. Murrow AD Plant was selected to run a pilot scheme to inject green gas directly into the national gas grid. The project is a joint venture with National Grid, Biocow and Ofgem. This is pioneering new technology, putting Murrow on the map, and paving the way for further green gas initiatives across the Country. Following their recent expansion they will be providing green energy for 6000 homes and with a further expansion planned for 2020 this will increase to 12000 homes. It is envisaged that there would be 12 tankers a day travelling to the farm coming from the A47 at Guyhirn. They appreciate that concerns have been raised about the road infrastructure and they have contributed to the cost of resurfacing part of Cants Drove and intend to contribute further in the future. Not all the damage to the local rural roads and footpaths is caused by their vehicles which are closely monitored and journeys recorded. However if the Parish Council consider that they have caused any damage to the footpaths if it is reported to them they will investigate. The Chairman thanked Mr Burgoyne and Mr Dale for attending the meeting to give the presentation and answer questions raised by Councillors.

19/107. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests for Dispensations from Councillors.

19/108. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Cllr Killingworth declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 19/120 as she is an Officer of the Amenities 95 Committee.

Cllr Hunt declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 19/120 as he is a member of the Amenities 95 Committee.

The Chairman declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 19/120 as he is a member of the Amenities 95 Committee.

19/109. 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.

19/110. To receive and approve the annual John Bends Charity Accounts.

This matter was deferred to the August Parish Council Meeting as the Accounts had still not been received from the Auditors.

19/111. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 15th May 2019.

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

19/112. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 15th May 2019. (Information only)

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

19/113. Community Police Officers Report.

The Clerk had received the normal monthly report by email with no crimes or incidences recorded for the Parish.

19/114. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

District Councillor Bligh showed Councillors examples of the Wheelie Bin Speed Stickers being proposed by the Speed Watch group. The life span of these was 7 to 8 years costing £358 for 500 stickers.

District Councillor Booth advised that there had been 9 Speed Watch sessions when 462 vehicles had been monitored with 42 recorded as speeding. Once again the Main Road near to the Springfield Road junction had been the main area for speeding.

Fenland District Council had started the process of refreshing the Local Development Plan and he had asked that comments made by Parish Councils be taken into account. A further Spending Review was being carried out following the previous Comprehensive Spending Review.

There were 4 motions put to the District Council as follows:-

Removal of charges for Brown Bin Collection;

The District Council taking back responsibility for the cost of energy, maintenance and ownership of Parish Council Street Lights.

Funding for up-dating play equipment and Single Use Plastic.

County Councillor King reported back on the various Highways issues raised at the last meeting. He advised that the Bellamy Bridge Local Highways Initiative had not been implemented as indicated as the contractors had declined to complete the work at the last minute due to costs but he would press for a new date for this work to be implemented. He re-affirmed that the schemes funded from the Local Highways Initiative was being increased to £15,000 but the overall funding was not being increased therefore fewer schemes would be successful. Applications for 2020-2021 should be submitted by the end of July 2019.

19/115. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

Notification from Fenland District Council that the following Planning Applications have been granted.

a) S Fryett, Planning Application No. F/YR19/0260/F, Agent Swann Edwards Architecture Ltd., conversion of garage to form additional living accommodation & erection of a 1.2 metre high brick wall to replace existing brick wall at 29 The Bank, Parson Drove.

b) M Cawley, Planning Application No. F/YR19/0265/F, Agent Fendraw Design, erection of a single storey side/rear extension to existing dwelling at The Willows, 29 Back Road, Murrow.

Information noted by Councillors.

19/116. Highway & Street Lighting Matters.

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

The Chairman advised that the over grown hedge obstructing the footpath outside The Limes, Main Road had been reported.

Councillors advised that the footpath outside the telephone exchange was also being obstructed by over grown vegetation.

b) To report any faulty Streetlights.

The street light reported at the last meeting had still not been repaired.

c) Information received from the District Council regarding the Parish Council's street lights.

The Clerk advised that the re-survey of Parish Street Lights had been completed and draft information had been provided on the current condition of the street lights indicating that there were 4 street lights that were structurally rated as poor and needed to be replaced and 10 street lights with electrical faults. The District Council had indicated that they considered it would be more practical financially to replace the street lights with electrical faults with new columns. A rough estimate of £1,175 had been quoted for a new column.

Councillors resolved to respond to the District Council asking for a quotation just to repairs the 10 street lights with electrical faults and query why the cost of a replacement column was considerably higher than the costs being incurred by those parishes that opted out of the District Councils scheme.

19/117. Accounts & Finance

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

Mrs Yvonne Reader, 1 months' salary & expenses, £548.90. L.G.A. 1972 s 112.

Anglian Water Business, water rates for The Cage, £11.69. L.G.A. 1972 s 133.

Konica Minolta Business Solutions, photocopier quarterly rental £43.56. L.G.A. 1972 s 111.

Fenland District Council, bin outside Alderman Payne Primary school, £199.68. L.A. 1983 ss5.

Auditing Solutions Ltd., Internal Audit Fees, £288.00. Accounts & Audit Regs.

b) Letter from the Secretary of Wisbech Stroke Club requesting a grant/donation towards an outing for members. (Deferred from last meeting).

Councillors resolved to give a grant of £50 and request that the Club was better advertised for the future. L.G.A. 1972 s 137.

c) To consider the cost of providing a bin along Back Road, Murrow.

The District Council had confirmed that the cost of a new litter bin would be £308.74 +VAT.

Councillors resolved to proceed with the ordering of the new bin.

d) To receive and consider the Internal Auditors Report.

Councillors had received a copy of the report prior to the meeting. There were no issues raised by the Auditors in the report requiring attention. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for her work on this matter.

e) To approve the completed Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement 2018/2019. The Annual Governance Statement was completed and approved by Councillors.

f) To approve the completed Section 2 Accounting Statements for 2018/2019. Councillors resolved to approve the completed Accounting Statement.

g) To consider a request from Murrow Primary Academy for a grant towards a new outdoor classroom cum shed.

Councillors resolved to defer this matter until the Clerk had made enquiries as to whether the Council had the power to financially contribute to this project.

19/118. Up-date on Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The Chairman advised that the working group were preparing the final document required.

19/119. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Letter from Elgood & Sons Ltd., advising that having looked into the parking situation at the Swan Inn they cannot see a sensible and cost effective way of marking out the gravel car park area but if the Parish Council have a practical scheme they will consider it.

Councillors resolved to respond suggesting chain link fencing for the area designated for parking at The Cage and strips of wood or kerbing laid flat into the gravel car park indicating parking spaces for the customers of the Swan Inn.

b) Letter from the District Council advising of changes to supplying the Register of Electors. Information noted by Councillors.

c) Response from CAPALC on our query regarding the request by the Speed Watch Group to use the Parish Council's bank account for receipt of a grant.

d) Invitation from CAPALC to attend the Clerks & Councillors Annual Conference Day on Friday 28th June at Hemingford Abbots Village Hall, Hemingford Abbots, cost £50 per attendee.

There were no Councillors wishing to attend this event.

19/120. Amenities 95 Management Committee report.

Cllr Hunt advised that the Committee had not had a meeting since the last Parish Council Meeting and therefore he had no matters to report. The next meeting was being held on the 22nd June. The Chairman advised that the refurbishment of the village hall was nearly completed.

19/121. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

There were no questions raised by Councillors.

19/122. Any other business (information items only).

Problems with parking along The Bank were raised due to a shortage of off road parking provision for some of the dwellings resulting in vehicles parking on the village green. Having sought advice from The Open Spaces Society in the past regarding this problem when they advised that enforcement was very difficult and prevention was a better course of action the Chairman advised that perhaps additional bollards would have to be installed if this problem persisted.

Councillors reported that another window had been broken in the bus shelter. The Clerk was asked to attend to getting this repaired.

The Clerk advised Councillors that a further round of consultations were being held regarding the Local Transport Plan as advertised in the local press although no formal contact had been made advising the Council of this consultation.

19/123. Dates for future Council meetings.

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 10th July at 7.00pm following an HR Meeting at 6.30pm. The annual inspection of Council Assets was confirmed for Wednesday 3rd July at 7.30pm starting at The Cage.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.