

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in the Cage on Wednesday 13th February 2019.

Attended by Councillors: G Booth (Chairman), P Spriggs (Vice Chairman), J Hunt, C Killingworth, P Williams & G Watson.
1 member of the public.

19/28. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from District Councillor S Bligh & County Councillor S King.

19/29. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests from Councillors for Dispensations.

19/30. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Cllr Killingworth declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 19/42 as she is an Officer of the Amenities 95 Management Committee.

Cllr Hunt declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 19/42 as he is a member of the Amenities 95 Management Committee.

19/31. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

The member of the public advised that some progress had been made regarding the outstanding highway issues at Clough Bridge. However there had been another accident on the 7th February, which he had reported to the Police, caused by the dangerous bollard still not being repaired. Councillors agreed to approach Sutton St Edmunds Parish Council for support in trying to obtain improved signage and a reduction in the speed limit.

19/32. To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held on the 9th & 16th January 2019.

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

19/33. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 9th & 16th January 2019.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

19/34. Community Police Officers Report.

The Clerk had received an email with the January report, this did not highlight any crimes or incidences for the Parish. A response had been received regarding our query on the discrepancies on the Constabulary website and the email reports we had received advising that the majority of the crimes shown on the website all relate to the same incident and had been reported repeatedly by the victim over a two month period. In other cases a common assault, a push or shove, would fall under the same category of violence and would not be something that would be included in the monthly emailed report. Assurance had been given that if something was going on in our Parish, such as a series of crimes, this would be included in the monthly email reports.

19/35. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

District Councillor Booth advised that 5 speed watch sessions had been held monitoring 306 vehicles, 20 of which were speeding. This was particularly evident around the Springfield Road area between 8.00am to 9.00am.

A District Council Meeting was being held on the 21st February when the Council Tax for 2019/2020 would be agreed.

19/36. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) 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).

Councillors resolved to object to this application in view of the lack of adequate infrastructure along Back Road.

19/37. Highway & Street Lighting Matters.

a) Highway issues to be reported to Cambridgeshire County Council

Councillors reported pot holes along Fen Road and The Bank. Councillors reported that the road was flooding on the entrance road nearest the War Memorial. It was also noted that temporary road signs had been placed at Highside and along Murrow Bank advising of the uneven road surface.

b) To report any faulty Streetlights.

Councillors reported that one of the lamps on the street light in the triangle at the Swan Bridge junction was not working.

c) Murrow Bank Speed Limit extension.

Councillors resolved to proceed with trying to get the speed limit extended along Murrow Bank going up to the village sign towards Murrow and along The Bank up to Clough Bridge. Estimated cost to be obtained from the County Council Highways in order that Third Party funding could be applied for.

d) Update report of footpath extension at Sealeys Lane.

The County Council had confirmed that two sections of footpath would be completed in early April under the Local Highways Initiatives for 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 when the Parish Council would have to contribute £2,078.63 as part of the schemes.

e) Email received regarding repairs to Silvers Lane.

The County Council had advised that they had completed resurfacing a section of Silvers Lane together with small patching on other sections. Edging work was needed and would be looked into together with monitoring the movement and damage to the carriageway as there were two remaining trees.

f) Email received regarding surface patching of road at Church End.

The County Council had advised that Church End was unsuitable for surface dressing treatment in view of the poor condition of the road. It had therefore been earmarked for resurfacing in 2020/2021. Councillors resolved to request this road be inspected as it was deemed to be dangerous and should not be left until 2020/2021.

19/38. Accounts & Finance.

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

Mrs Yvonne Reader, 1 months' salary & expenses, £535.93. L.G.A. 1972 s 112.

EON, electricity for The Cage, £99.94. L.G.A. 1972 s 133.

Society of Local Council Clerks, Charles Arnold Baker Book, £108.79. L.G.A. 1972 s 111.

Open Spaces Society, annual membership renewal, £45. L.G.A. 1972 s 143.

b) Up-date report on the outstanding rent for the Riverside Allotment Gardens.

The Clerk advised that the outstanding rent of £31.30 had still not been paid.

Councillors resolved to write off the outstanding rent of £31.30 as a bad debt and withdrawn the tenancy.

Councillors resolved to offer the resulting vacant allotment garden to the one parishioner on the waiting list in the first instance as the allotment was set up with fruit trees.

c) To consider quotations received for the annual grounds maintenance and grass cutting contract for 2019.

The Clerk advised that three quotations had been received for £3,063, £3,342 and £3,411.

Councillors resolved by a majority vote to continue with the existing contractor who had quoted £3,411 for 2019 as they could be relied upon to provide a good service.

d) Email from Fenland District Council confirming that they were installing the bin on the Alderman Payne Primary School fence as requested, estimated cost £170.

The Clerk advised that the bin had actually been installed in the last few days and she was now waiting for the invoice from the District Council.

e) To consider quotation received for cleaning the War Memorial.

The Clerk advised that she had only been able to obtain 1 quotation after several months of trying due to the expertise required to carry out the work. The quotation received was for £594 + VAT.

Councillors resolved to accept this quotation and request that the work be completed during April 2019.

19/39. Up-date report on Neighbourhood Development Plan Public Consultation.

The Chairman advised that the District Council had responded to the consultation advising that contrary to previous advice the Neighbourhood Development Plan could not include an Exception Site for Affordable Housing Policy. There were also a few other minor amendments required to the plan following the completion of the public consultation.

19/40. Risk Assessment – Maintenance of Assets. Broken window in the Bus Shelter

Councillors resolved to instruct Paul Tibbs Ltd., to replace the broken glass in one of the windows.

Councillors reported that the litter bin near to the footbridge at Swan Bridge was missing the outer green shell. Councillors advised that the litter bin at Johnsons Drove was rarely used and would perhaps be better sited elsewhere. A parishioner had requested an additional salt bin to be located at the footbridge at Swan Bridge. Councillors therefore agreed that these matters should be included as an Agenda item for the next meeting for further discussion.

19/41. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Letter of thanks for the grant from the Parochial Church Council.

Noted by Councillors.

b) Letter from the wife of an allotment holder asking to take over her late husband's Allotment Garden.

Councillors resolved to agree to this request.

c) Email from PCSO Helen Norton-Smith requesting permission to use The Cage on Thursday 14th March at 9.30am for a Community Engagement Contact point session and again on Tuesday 10th September at 2.30pm.

Councillors resolved to agree to this request. The Clerk advised that the March session would be advertised in Village Voices.

d) Email from the Cambridgeshire Adult Learning & Skills department advising of further IT training in Parson Drove starting on the 7th March.

Information noted by Councillors, no further action required.

e) Notification from Fenland District Council of an information session on becoming a Councillor on Thursday 28th February at 6.30pm at Fenland Hall.

Information noted by Councillors.

19/42. Amenities 95 Management Committee report.

Cllr Hunt advised that the John Bends Charity had agreed to fund the hire of the pavilion for the IT training sessions being held every week. No committee meeting had been held since the last Parish Council Meeting and the next committee meeting was being held on the 16th February.

19/43. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

Cllr Hunt enquired if any further progress had been made in the arrangements for the appointment of a new Clerk in view of the current Clerks impending retirement later in the year. The Chairman advised that nothing further would be done for the time being but it was anticipated that the vacancy would be advertised after the Parish Council elections in May.

19/44. Any other business (information items only).

It was noted that the shop, garage and house next to the school was up for sale.

19/45. Dates for future Council meetings.

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 13th March 2019 at 7.00pm in The Cage.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm.