

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in the Cage on Wednesday 13th March 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 & 4 members of the public.

19/46. To receive apologies for absence.

There were no apologies.

19/47. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests from Councillors for a Dispensation.

19/48. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Cllr Killingworth declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 19/61 as she is an Officer of the Amenities 95 Management Committee.

Cllr Hunt declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 19/61 as he is a member of the Amenities 95 Management Committee.

The Chairman declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 19/60 as he is a member of the Speed Watch Team and Agenda Item No. 19/59 as he is an allotment garden tenant.

Cllr Spriggs declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 19/54 a) as he is a tenant of the adjoining land.

The Clerk declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda item No. 19/54 a) as she is joint owner of an adjoining property effected by the proposed development and left the meeting whilst this Agenda Item was discussed.

19/49. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

Three members of the public enquired as to why the Parish Council were only concentrating on providing a footway along Sealeys Lane when Fen Road was more highly populated and only had a footpath partway down one side of the road. Speeding traffic was also raised as being a problem along Fen Road as well as heavy vehicles cutting through from the A47.

The Chairman explained that an application had previously been made, on more than one occasion, under the Local Highways Minor Improvements scheme for a footpath along Fen Road but the applications had not been successful as they had not scored sufficient points. County Cllr King agreed to investigate the possibility of the provision of a footway being provided at Fen Road under the emerging Transport Plan. The Chairman advised that the Speed Watch team would carry out speed checks along Fen Road

19/50. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 13th February 2019.

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

19/51. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 13th February 2019. (Information only)

Cllr Williams advised that she had gone to Fenland Hall to attend the information session on the 28th February on the forthcoming May Elections but had been unable to gain access into the building via the main reception door along with 5 or 6 other attendees. Clerk to inform the District Council of this problem.

19/52. Community Police Officers Report.

The Clerk had received the normal monthly report by email which focussed on crimes and incidences occurring in Wisbech. In view of the extra funding being given to the Police authority Councillors resolved to write to the Police & Crime Commissioner requesting more Police visits in rural areas.

19/53. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

Fenland District Councillor S Bligh advised that the County Council was struggling to obtain a specification from the contractors in order to progress the improvements to the Bellamy Bridge junction. There had been 2 further accidents at this junction in the last month.

Fenland District Councillor G Booth advised that although there was a lot of debate the District Council had voted not to increase their element of Council Tax this year in view of their surplus of funds at the end of the financial year.

He had requested a report on Planning Enforcement and had been informed that there was currently 230 cases being investigated with the oldest going back to 2011, investigations normally take about 8 weeks.

The Planning Department were undertaking a review of the Local Plan ready for 2020/2021 and this might affect the Parishes Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Look East recently reported a 25% reduction in recycling rates, however the Cabinet Member said this related to household collection, but had been made up by increased recycling at the Tips.

The Speed Watch group and held 3 sessions when 236 vehicles were monitored with 41 exceeding the speed limit with the worst area being near the primary school.

County Councillor S King advised that our 2019/2020 application under the Local Highways Improvement scheme for a further extension of the footpath along Sealeys Lane had been successful. He had not yet obtained a responses regarding our enquiry on being consulted on areas to be included in the Fenland Transport Strategy and the County Council's Transport Investment Plan. The County Council was moving to new a new building near to Alconbury.

19/54. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) Request from Alexandra Design for comments on the proposal to build 10 dwellings to the rear of 14 to 27 The Bank, Parson Drove as part of the Community Consultation process.

Councillors resolved not to support this proposal as they did not support the demolition of the King William as this was a building of local historic interest and the proposed development did not have community support.

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

Mr M Lee, Planning Application No. F/YR18/1127/O, erection of a dwelling & garage involving the demolition of existing garage & the erection of a detached garage to serve The Old Mill House, 34 The Bank, on land east of The Old Mill House 34 The Bank, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

19/55. Highway & Street Lighting Matters.

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

The broken hump at Clough Bridge had still not been repaired nor had the pot holes along The Bank access road near the War Memorial. There was still numerous pot holes at Church End and some along Fen Road. The road surface was breaking up along Murrow Bank and at High Side.

b) To report any faulty Streetlights.

The street light in the traffic island at Swan Bridge now had two lamps not working. There were 2 faulty street lights at Church End and 2 along Main Road.

19/56. Accounts & Finance

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

Mrs Yvonne Reader, 1 months' salary & expenses, £526.96. L.G.A. 1972 s 112.

Konica Minolta Business Solutions, photocopier rental & copy charges £50.33. L.G.A. 1972 s111.

Anglian Water Business Ltd, water rates for The Cage, £9.40.L.G.A. 1972 s 133.

b) Confirmation from the Internal Auditor that the audit will take place on Tuesday 30th April. Information noted.

c) To consider the purchase of an additional grit/salt bin for the footbridge at Swan Bridge. Councillors resolved to approve the ordering of an additional grit/salt bin from the County Council to be located in front of the footbridge at Swan Bridge.

19/57. Up-date report on Neighbourhood Development Plan Public Consultation.

Following the completion of the consultation process the comments and information was being included in the Neighbourhood Development Plan and a summary would be referred back to the Parish Council at their next meeting.

19/58. Risk Assessment – Maintenance of Assets.

Relocation of Litter Bin at Johnson Drove.

Councillors resolved to re-locate the litter bin to the top of Johnsons Drove subject to agreement by the householder at the corner of Fen Road.

19/59. Garden & Allotments

Notification of a tenant wishing to vacate his allotment garden.

Information noted by Councillors, Clerk to advertise vacancy if needs be after contacting a parishioner who had recently made enquiries about an allotment garden.

19/60. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Email from Parson Drove & Wisbech St Mary Ward Community Speed Watch requesting assistance with their application to Fenland District Council for funding to purchase wheelie bin stickers as they have no bank account.

Councillors resolved to assist with this request subject the Clerk obtaining confirmation from CAPALC and the Internal Auditors that this was permissible.

b) Email advising of an event on grant funding at Wisbech Town Chambers on Wednesday 27th March at 10.30am to 1.30pm.

Councillor Williams indicated a wish to attend this event, Clerk to arrange the booking.

c) Email from School Readers Organisation asking for volunteers for the charity School Readers to listen to children read in primary schools in our area.
Information noted by Councillors. Cllr S Bligh requested a copy of this correspondence.

d) Email from SLCC advising of new regulations called The Public Sector Bodies Website & Mobile Applications Regulations coming into force on the 23rd September 2019.
The Clerk advised that the new regulations applied to new websites from September 2019 and existing websites from September 2020. The regulations relate to ensuring that those with disabilities were not prohibited from accessing information on the website. Detailed information on what was required for Parish Councils to comply with the regulations had not yet been published and Councillors agreed to discuss this matter further once the information was available as this may have an impact on the future of the existing village website.

e) Information on Parish Council Elections on 2nd May 2019.
Guidance packs with nomination forms were issued to Councillors.

f) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council asking for information on services and clubs that support older people in our parish as part of their review on Older People's Services.
Councillors provided the Clerk with information on the various clubs and activities for the older people in the parish in order that she could respond to the County Council.

19/61. Amenities 95 Management Committee report.

Cllr Hunt advised that there had been 3 members resign from the committee, the AGM was on Monday 25th March at 7.00pm. A working group had helped to prepare the inside of the village hall ready for the next stage of the refurbishment which was on track and could even be completed early. A recent high electricity bill was being investigated.

19/62. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

There were no questions raised by Councillors.

19/63. Any other business (information items only).

Cllrs reported that a house along The Bank was in the process of being painted orange which was considered not to be an appropriate colour within the Conservation area, Clerk to inform the Enforcement & Conservation Officer.

In view of recent problems with parking for meetings at The Cage due to the poor parking of people in the Swan Inn the Clerk was requested to contact Elgoods & Sons Ltd., again to try and resolve this matter.

Cllrs advised that a car was regularly parked near to the Swan Bridge junction, sometimes partly on the pavement causing safety concerns. Cllr Killingworth agreed to make enquiries at the school in case it was connected to someone working or visiting the school.

It was noted that the shop, garage and house next to the school had a sold notice board up.

19/64. Dates for future Council meetings.

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 10th April at 7.00pm in The Cage. The Annual Parish Assembly Meeting would be held in the Pavilion on Wednesday 24th April at 7.30p.m.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.