

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

Attended by Councillors: G Booth (Chairman), P Spriggs (Vice Chairman), R Fowler, J Hunt, G Watson & P Williams.
Cambridgeshire County Councillor S. King. Fenland District Councillor S Bligh, Erbie Murat (new Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

19/200. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received and accepted from Cllr Killingworth.

19/201. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests from Councillors for Dispensations.

19/202. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Cllr Hunt declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 19/214 as he is a member of the Amenities 95 Management Committee and a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 19/210 b) as he is an Officer of Silver Surfers.

Cllr Booth declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 19/214 as he is a member of the Amenities 95 Management Committee and a Prejudicial Interest for Agenda Item 19/210 d) as he is an Allotment Garden Tenant.

19/203. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

A detailed report from the Community Speed Watch co-ordinator was read out to Councillors. 18 letters were sent out by the Constabulary to speeding motorists as a result of the September Sessions. The last two Speed Watch sessions have seen an improvement at the School morning run on Main Road, Parson Drove reducing from 30% of motorists speeding to 20% and 14% respectively.

19/204. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th October 2019.

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

19/205. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 9th October 2019. (Information only)

The Chairman advised that he had raised the proposed new Public Walkway along the riverbank at Murrow Bank with Wisbech St Mary Parish Council who had indicated that they would be prepared to work with Parson Drove Parish Council on taking this project forward subject to the costs involved.

19/206. Community Police Officers Report.

The Clerk advised that an email report have been received with no issues mentioned for our Parish. There was a Police Community Contact Session being held in The Cage on Tuesday 19th November at 10.00am for one hour.

19/207. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

County Councillor S King advised that he had been unable to obtain a reduction in the £500 fee being requested by the County Council Highways department to carry out the traffic survey for the proposed Zebra Crossing outside the Alderman Payne Primary School. He reported that the cutting back of the hedge at Highside was still outstanding.

The owner of The Limes, Main Road, Parson Drove had been written to about the hedge obstructing the footpath. As the hedge in front of the Telephone Exchange at Fen Road had still not been cut back he would chase this up again together with the Laurel Hedge planted at Silvers Lane.

Although Councillor King had been informed that the drains had been cleared outside St Marks Church and the Village Hall as these were still flooding the footpath and road he would report this again.

Bio-Cow had submitted another planning application and a planning condition would include the resurfacing of Cants Drove up to Murrow Bank.

District Councillor G Booth reported that the issue of Parish Council Street Lights would be discussed by the Cabinet on the 9th January 2020. District Councillors Allowances had been reviewed. The Gambling Policy had been agreed and a review of the impact of the number of Off Licences was being undertaken.

19/208. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) Planning Application for consideration.

1. Mr & Mrs Ring, Planning Application No. F/YR19/0850/F, No Agent, conversion of existing garage to living accommodation involving the replacement of the garage door with a window and the erection of a carport to the side of the existing dwelling at 98 Main Road, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to support this application and recommend approval is granted.

2. Mr & Mrs Fryett, Planning Application No. F/YR19/0922/F, Agent Swann Edwards Architecture Ltd., formation of a vehicular access & dropped kerb, at existing dwelling 29 The Bank, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to object to this planning application and recommend refusal due to highway safety concerns as the new access would be very close to the junction.

3. Mr & Mrs M White, Planning Application No. F/YR19/0924/F, Agent G R Merchant Ltd., erection of a single storey front and rear extension involving the removal of the existing conservatory at Sudbrooke, 47, Main Road, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to support this application and recommend approval is granted subject to there being no loss of amenity to the adjoining properties and no objections raised by the neighbouring properties.

4. Mr M Evans, Planning Application No. F/YR19/0941/LD, No Agent, works to a Listed Building to replace 6 windows to front, rear and west side elevations to Apple Crumble Cottage, 318 Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to support this application and recommend approval is granted subject to support from the Conservation Officer.

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

1. Ms 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.

2. Parson Drove Parish Council, Planning Application No F/YR19/0767/TRTPO, works to 2 Horse Chestnut Trees, 2 Lime Trees and 2 Sycamore Trees on the Village Green, The Bank, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors

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

Rowell Family, Planning Application No F/YR19/0691/O, Agent Swan Edwards Architecture Ltd., erection of 4 dwellings on land east of The Silverings, 114 Main Road, Parson Drove.

Outline application with matters committed in respect of access.

Information noted by Councillors.

d) Notification from Fenland District Council that the Planning Inspectorate has dismissed the appeal lodged for the following Planning Application.

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.

e) To consider and respond to Fenland District Councils Issues & Options Consultation on the Local Plan 2019 – 2040.

Councillors agreed on the responses to be made to the consultation document supporting one of the options for reinstating the development area boundaries and to provide a map of their proposals for the development area boundary at a later date.

Councillors agreed that the Settlement Hierarchy should be retained with no change of categories for Parson Drove as a Limited Growth Village and Church End as an Other Village.

Councillors did however consider that a limit on the number of dwellings per site should be limited to a maximum of 10 for Parson Drove and 1 for Church End as indicated in the Parson Drove Neighbourhood Development Plan.

f) The Clerk advised that an email had been received from the District Council's Enforcement Officer advising that no enforcement action would be taken at present regarding the static and touring caravans and log cabin sited at Sealeys Lane as a third Planning Application was being submitted. They had also been informed that the owner – occupier intended to appeal against the District Council's decision to refuse the last Planning Application.

g) The Clerk had been advised earlier that day that revised proposals had been submitted to the District Council for Planning Application F/YR19/0756/F, erection of 10 dwellings on land east of 14 – 27 The Bank requesting the Parish Council's comments by the 27th November. However the revised plans & drawings were not available on the website as yet in order to ascertain the extent of the revised proposals but there was a map and information from the County Council Highways authority claiming that part of the village green, in between the road and footpath in front of 29 The Bank, was roadside grass verge maintained by the County Council.

Councillors resolved to request an extension of time for the consultation period until after the Parish Council Meeting in December. Also for the Clerk write to the County Council Highways advising of the incorrect information on the map provided to the Agents relating to the grass verge.

19/209. Highway & Street Lighting Matters.

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

Councillors reported the following issues:

A considerable amount of mud and leaves left along the sides of the road along Fen Road and Long Drove and requested that these roads be swept.

Concerns over dips in the road along Murrow Bank up to Clough Bridge.

Due to the road re-surfacing along Highside and Leverington Common there were now deep drops at the sides of the roads onto the grass verges deemed to be unsafe.

The white lines for the Give Way at Swan Bridge had not been reinstated following the resurfacing of Fen Road.

The Murrow Bank Bridleway had been completely churned up by the contractors harvesting the crop on the adjoining field.

There were still several pot holes along Silvers Lane.

The Clerk advised that our application under the LHI Bids for 2020/2021 for a further extension to the footpath at Sealeys Lane had now been costed by the County Council at a total maximum cost of £17,441 and subject to the Parish Council's agreement to contribute a maximum amount of £2,441 this would proceed to the next stage being the Panel Meeting. Councillors resolved to agree to contribute the maximum amount of £2,441 in order to proceed to the next stage of the application submission.

b) To report any faulty Streetlights.

Councillor Spriggs advised that there were several street lights not working in the village and he would provide the Clerk with the location and street light column number.

c) To consider installing an additional street light lamp on Swan Bridge.

Councillors resolved to defer this matter to the next meeting.

19/210. Accounts & Finance

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

Mrs Yvonne Reader, 1 months' salary & expenses, £544.64. L.G.A. 1972 s112.

EON, electricity for The Cage, £62.86. L.G.A. 1972 s133.

CPRE, annual membership renewal fee, £36. L.G.A. 1972 s143.

Cambridgeshire County Council, 2 years contribution to the Local Highways Improvements Scheme for the footpath at Sealeys Lane, £1999.74. H.A. 1980.

Smith of Derby, annual service of The Cage Clock, £249.60. P.C.A. 1957 s2.

Royal British Legion, Remembrance Day Wreath, £20. L.G.A. 1972 s 137.

b) To consider a request from the Silver Surfers Group to fund the cost of refreshments, estimated at £50, for an information session being held on 14th December on the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Against Scams partnership scheme.

Councillors resolved to give a grant-donation of £50 towards this event which was now being held on the 11th January 2020. L.G.A. 1972 s 137.

c) To consider a request from Wisbech Citizens Advice Bureau for a grant/donation. Councillors resolved to give a grant/donation of £50. L.G.A. 1972 s142.

d) To report on the collection of rents for the Fen Allotments & Riverside Garden Allotments. The Clerk advised that all of the Fen Allotment Rents had been paid and there were 4 tenants who had not paid the Riverside Garden Allotment rents. Councillors resolved to send the tenants a reminder if these rents were not paid within the next week.

19/211. Up-date on Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The Independent Examiner had prepared his draft report proposing four minor modifications, two to Policy 3 and two to Policy 4. The modifications required minor re-wording of the Policies which the District Council had offered to complete on our behalf.

Mr Brit, a member of the Neighbourhood Development Plan working group, advised that he was happy to accept the Independent Examiners recommendations and the District Councils offer to complete the minor re-wording of the plan. He acknowledged the District Councils assistance in preparing the plan and was pleased that we were now progressing towards the final stage of the referendum.

Councillors resolved to agree to the modifications and for the District Council to complete the re-wording on our behalf.

19/212. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Email from the Parson Drove Surgery Patient Group advising that they have obtained funding for the Defibrillator from BioCow and will not therefore need grant funding from the Wyrde Croft Community Fund.

Information noted by Councillors, no further action required.

b) Email from Fenland District Council advising that our grant application to the Community Fund for £500 for the purchase of the Community Speed watch Wheelie Bin Stickers has been successful.

Cllr Bligh was thanked for her efforts in securing the grant funding and sourcing the supplier with her design for the stickers. Cllr Bligh suggested that the order be split evenly between the 30mph and 40 mph stickers with 400 for each speed limit. Councillors resolved to accept this suggestion and Cllr Bligh agreed to work with the Clerk in ordering these as soon as possible.

c) Notification from CAPALC that their AGM will be held on Wednesday 4th December at 6.30pm at The Millennium Pavilion, The Trundle, Somersham should members wish to attend.

Information noted by Councillors.

d) Email from Transport Planning Consultancy commissioned by the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority asking for assistance in promoting a survey they are conducting regarding bus services in the region in order to create a vision for future bus travel.

The request was noted by Councillors and would be included in the next Parish Council Newsletter subject to the survey working properly as the Chairman had attempted to complete this but had encountered problems.

e) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding Operation London Bridge, which is the protocol that will be followed to mark the death of the sovereign and asking if we have anything in place or are planning to develop one.

Cllr Williams advised that the Church had Condolence Books ready for such an event.

Councillors resolved to respond advising that other than this we did not have anything in place but to ask what is the Protocol that we should follow.

f) The Clerk advised that the grant application to the Wryde Croft Wind Farm Community Fund for the £5,000 towards the mobile activated speed sign had been approved.

Councillors resolved for the Chairman to sign the grant offer acceptance letter on behalf of the Council. The next step was to complete the County Council Highways application form for permission to site the mobile speed sign. Councillors therefore resolved to agree on the proposed locations at the next Council Meeting.

19/213. Up-date report on employment of the new Clerk.

The Chairman advised that a mobile phone would not now be purchased as the Clerk would use his own land line and subsequently the monthly allowance for home working would be increased to £50 per month the same as present for the retiring Clerk.

A quotation for a 2 draw filing cabinet had been obtained for £49.99. As two were required the Council authorised for these to be ordered by the new Clerk who would then be reimbursed for the expenditure.

19/214. Amenities 95 Management Committee report.

Cllr Hunt advised that he had nothing to report at the present time.

19/215. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

There were no questions put to the Chairman or Clerk by Councillors.

19/216. Any other business (information items only).

There were no matters raised by Councillors.

19/217. Dates for future Council meetings.

Councillors resolved to hold an additional Council Meeting on Wednesday 27th November if the District Council did not agree to extend the consultation date for the Planning Application referred to at Agenda Item Number 19/208 g). Otherwise the next Parish Council Meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 11th December at 7.00pm in The Cage.

The January 2020 Parish Council Meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 8th January and the Precept and Budget Setting Parish Council meeting for Wednesday 15th January 2020.

Meeting closed at 10.10pm.