

## **Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in the Cage on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2019.**

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

County Councillor S. King.

1 member of the public.

### **19/143. To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies had been received from District Councillor S Bligh.

### **19/144. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.**

There were no requests from Councillors for Dispensations.

### **19/145. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.**

Cllr Killingworth declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 19/158 as she is an Officer of the Amenities 95 Management Committee, a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 19/156 b) as her son is an Allotment Garden tenant and a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 19/151 b) as the applicants are related to her.

Cllr Hunt declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 19/158 as he is a member of the Amenities 95 Management Committee.

Cllr Watson declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 19/156 b) as his son is an Allotment Garden tenant.

Cllr Fowler declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 19/151 b) as his family are related to the applicants.

Cllr Booth declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 19/158 as he is a member of the Amenities 95 Management Committee and Agenda Item 19/156 b) as he is an allotment garden tenant.

Cllr Spriggs declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 19/156 b) as his son is an Allotment tenant.

### **19/146. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.**

The Parishioner attending the meeting read out a detailed report on the Community Speed Watch Ward statistics since January 2019 highlighting that the majority of vehicles speeding were from the village being monitored or from one of the surrounding villages. The percentage of vehicles speeding in the 30mph speed limit was higher than those in the 40mph speed limits.

A report was also given on the progress of the projects being undertaken by the Murrow Street Pride Group.

### **19/147. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019.**

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

**19/148. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019. (Information only)**

Concern was raised by Councillors that a concrete base had been laid at the proposed traveller's site at Sealeys Lane although the planning application had not yet been approved. The Chairman advised that he had contacted the Planning Department regarding this and was advised that the planning application should be determined in the next week or so and no action would be taken until after then.

Cllr Fowler had kindly cut back the road side grass verges near to John Peck Close.

**19/149. Community Police Officers Report.**

The Clerk had not received a report for July at the present time. An email had been received from the Police inviting members to attend a Police & Crime Commissioner's Fenland Briefing on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August at 10.00am at the King Edward Community Centre, Chatteris. In view of the insufficient notice given about this event there were no Councillors able to attend.

**19/150. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.**

Cllr King reported on the discussions at the site meeting at Bellamy Bridge attended by Highway Officers, County Councillors, District Councillors and Parish Councillors following the recent work completed under the Local Highways Improvement Scheme. Amendments will be made to make the lining work widths bigger, the damaged bridge will be repaired but unfortunately there is nothing further that can be done to improve the signage. Subject to sufficient budget provision the road will also be resurfaced at the same time as High Side and Leverington Common so in order to have just one road closure the work will not be done until the end of September or October.

Cllr King advised that the road safety study for Fenland discussed at the last meeting will cost in the region of £151,000 but funding will be obtained from the Road Safety Trust and the Police and not the County Council.

District Councillor Booth advised that there had been 1 speed watch session when 259 vehicles had been monitored with 3 recorded as speeding. Fenland District Council were holding Parish & Town conference workshops for the preparation of the new local plan for the district on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September with one session in the afternoon and another in the evening.

**19/151. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.**

a) 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.

Councillors resolved to support the application and recommend approval subject the Tree Officer supporting the application.

b) 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.

Councillors resolved by a majority vote to support development on this site but not for the proposals submitted as they objected to the vehicular access on plot 4 on road safety grounds being too close to the junction of Silvers Lane. Councillors suggested 1 access only from the Main Road and smaller dwellings on smaller plots up to a maximum of 10 as supported by the emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan.

c) Notification from Fenland District Council that an appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against the decision to refuse the following planning application:

Mr P Bodger, Planning Application No. F/YR18/1073/PNC07, prior approval for change of use from light industrial (B1) to a 4 bed dwelling (C3) Stackwell Forge, Cloughs Cross Bridge, The Bank, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

**19/152. Highway & Street Lighting Matters.**

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

Councillors reported several large dips in the road along Highside but it was hoped that these would be rectified with the resurfacing work scheduled for late September early October.

The road surface at Church End was reported as being very poor but was scheduled for being resurfaced on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

The Clerk had received notification that Fen Road was due to be resurfaced from the 26<sup>th</sup> August to the 6<sup>th</sup> September when there would be a road closure.

Councillors reported that some SAT Navs did not recognise the Swan Bridge junction as being a junction and was perhaps partly responsible for regular accidents at this location.

The over grown hedge outside the telephone exchange had still not been cut back and was now completely blocking the footpath.

The road drains were flooding outside St Marks Chapel, Village Hall and at the top of Newlands Road.

b) To report any faulty Streetlights.

Cllr Spriggs advised that there appeared to be about 6 street lights not working along Main Road. The Clerk advised that some of these had been reported to her the previous week and the District Council had been requested to attend to the repairs.

c) Email from Fenland District Council advising that street lights PC3 Fen Road, PC17 Main Road and PC1 Elbow Lane recently reported as not working cannot be repaired and therefore requesting permission to replace the lanterns with a new LED lamp costing £257.63 each.

Councillors resolved to approve for all 3 lanterns to be replaced costing £257.63 each.

**19/153. Accounts & Finance**

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

Mrs Yvonne Reader, 1 months' salary & expenses, £547.44. L.G.A. 1972 s 112.

Illiffe Media Publishing Ltd., Staff Vacancy advertising in the Fenland Citizen and Online, £864 payment made, to be reimbursed to the Clerk. L.G.A. 1972 s 111.

Fenland District Council, new litter bin Back Road, Murrow, £370.49. H.A. 1981 s 301.

b) To consider a request from Murrow Primary Academy for a grant towards a new outdoor classroom cum shed. (Deferred from last meeting)

The Clerk advised that a response had now been received from NALC advising that a grant could be made to the Parent Teacher Association or the School Governors under Section 137 of the L.G.A. 1972. Councillors therefore resolved to give a grant of £50 as pupils from Parson Drove attend the school now and will do so in future years.

**19/154. Up-date on Neighbourhood Development Plan.**

The Clerk was requested to submit the final documents to the District Council.

**19/155. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.**

a) Email from Fenland District Council asking the Parish Council to consider joining the Green Dog Walkers scheme following interest being made by a parishioner.

Councillors resolved to query the high cost of the materials connected to the scheme and enquire if there were any free samples that they might be able to view.

b) Email from the County Council advising that W & M Travel will not be operating the Wednesday bus service to Peterborough after the 7<sup>th</sup> August and following a procurement process no replacement providers have agreed to provide this service.

Councillors noted this information and agreed that the only course of action now open to parishioners was to join FACT if they wished to travel to Peterborough.

c) Email from the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority advising of the public consultation until the 27<sup>th</sup> September on the Local Transport Plan for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough. (deferred from last meeting).

Councillors resolved to respond highlighting that the village was an area of rural isolation with no bus services and therefore consideration should be given to providing a shuttle service to the A47.

d) Email from North Level Internal Drainage Board advising that the Parish Council can rent the riverbank from Swan Bridge up to Murrow for £30 per annum. The Drainage Board will cut back the hedge this autumn but from then on it would be the Parish Councils responsibility to maintain the hedge as tenants. North Level could make a hole in the hedge for pedestrian access providing visibility was alright for crossing the road.

Councillors resolved to enquire with North Level Internal Drainage Board if they would agree to a 1 year tenancy initially as costs for maintaining the hedge and a strip of grass for walking would need to be taken into consideration in order to ascertain whether it would be financially viable long term and sufficiently used by parishioners to warrant the costs involved for maintenance.

e) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council inviting the Parish Council to join the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Against Scams Partnership.

Councillors resolved to defer this matter pending more information being provided by Cllr King.

f) 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. A working group has been set up for the proposed scheme and quotations are being obtained for the grant application to Wryde Croft Community Fund Grant.

Councillors resolved for a grant application to be submitted to the Wryde Croft Community Grants fund before the dead line for applications in this round of the 31<sup>st</sup> August. As quotations had not yet been received from the Patient Group the clerk was requested to submit the grant application for the maximum of £5,000 pending receipt of these. The Chairman agreed to assist the Clerk with the application in view of her annual leave during the month.

g) Invitation from Cambridgeshire ACRE to attend their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 2.00pm to 5.00pm at Little Downham Village Hall, Main Street, Little Downham.

There were no Councillors indicating a wish to attend the event.

**19/156. Risk Assessment.**

a) Up-date report on the annual inspection of Parish Council Assets.

The Clerk advised that Cllr Watson had kindly cleaned the seat at the far end of the village green and re-painted the seat near the War Memorial.

The replacement window for the bus shelter had been ordered.

The Clerk had met with the District Council's Tree Officer on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August to inspect the trees on the village green and he had recommended that an additional 2 trees to those already identified by the Parish Council be cut back. These were a Lime Tree outside 12 The Bank and a second Sycamore Tree outside the Butchers Shop.

Councillors resolved to proceed with applying for planning permission for the work to be done as recommended by the Tree Officer.

b) Up-date report on the annual inspection of the Riverside Garden Allotments & the Fen Allotments.

Cllr Spriggs advised that there had been no improvement to the Allotment Gardens since the inspection in fact nearly all the Allotment Gardens were now in a worse condition than at the time of the original inspection. As this was mainly due to the recent adverse weather conditions it was agreed to defer this matter for the time being.

**19/157. To receive a report from the Human Resources Sub-committee on the forthcoming staff vacancy for Parish Council Clerk.**

The Chairman advised that 13 applications for the vacancy had now been received and a short list of 6 candidates were being invited to attend interviews in September.

**19/158. Amenities 95 Management Committee report.**

Cllr Hunt advised that the cost of the existing electricity supplier was causing concern and the contract had therefore been cancelled with a new supplier being arranged by him.

Unfortunately a recent delivery from the Brewery was not checked in time resulting in a shortfall in a barrel of beer with the committee losing £135. The cleaner caretaker had resigned on the 15<sup>th</sup> July and had been presented with a leaving gift. There had been 10 enquiries for his replacement to-date. Boxes were being installed to create a raised garden feature at the front of the village hall. A new bench seat was being purchased by the Bowls Club in memory of John Cook. The CCTV monitor was broken and being replaced. Quiz Nights were being arranged for September, November, January and March.

**19/159. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.**

The Clerk was asked if any response had been received from the County Council Highways about the Zebra crossing outside the Alderman Payne School and BT about the repairs and painting of the telephone box in front of the Swan Inn. The Clerk advised that she was still waiting for a response on both issues.

The Chairman was asked if there were any laws relating to regular bonfires and he advised that as far as he was aware there were no strict rules on this matter.

The Chairman was asked if there were any plans for a skate park or new play equipment for the playing field following an approach being made to Councillors by local children.

The Chairman advised that there was already a skate ramp on the playing field and this was not likely to be up-graded or improved. New play equipment had been discussed with the District Council who advised that there was no funding available for this but the Amenities 95 Committee were hoping to look at providing some new equipment once funding became available after financing the refurbishment of the village hall.

The Chairman was asked if it would be possible to acquire the G W Vialls & Son sign to retain as part of the village history. Cllr Killingworth agreed to make enquiries with the trustees of the estate.

**19/160. Any other business (information items only).**

It was reported that there had been some minor vandalism on the playing field in relation to a seat and the football clubs advertising boards although some of these had been damaged in the recent strong winds.

It was reported that a tractor and tanker had parked on the village green whilst visiting the Post Office and Shop the previous day.

**19/161. Dates for future Council meetings.**

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm in The Cage.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm.