

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Annual Meeting held in the Cage on Wednesday 15th May 2019.

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

Fenland District Councillor S Bligh, County Councillor S. King & 2 members of the public.

19/83. To receive Declarations of Acceptance of Office from elected Councillors and their completed Register of Interests Forms.

The 6 elected Councillors completed their Acceptance of Office Declarations and handed in their completed Register of Interest Forms to the Clerk.

19/84. To elect a Chairman & Vice Chairman and to receive their acceptance of office.

Cllr Booth was nominated by Cllr Killingworth for the office of Chairman and this proposal was seconded by Cllr Hunt. There were no other nominations and Cllr Booth was therefore duly elected as Chairman and completed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Cllr Spriggs was nominated by Cllr Hunt for the office of Vice Chairman and this proposal was seconded by Cllr Killingworth. There were no other nominations and Cllr Spriggs was therefore duly elected as Vice Chairman and completed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

19/85. To fill the one vacancy on the Parish Council by co-option and to receive their Declaration of Acceptance of Office & completed Register of Interest Form.

Mrs P Williams had indicated her wish to be co-opted onto the Parish Council to fill the one remaining vacancy and there had been no other applications.

The Chairman proposed that Mrs Williams be co-opted onto the Parish Council and this was seconded by Cllr Spriggs and agreed by Councillors. Mrs Williams therefore duly completed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office as a co-opted member of the Parish Council.

19/86. To receive apologies for absence.

There were no apologies.

19/87. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations.

There were no requests from members for Dispensations.

19/88. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Cllr Killingworth declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 19/101 as she is an Officer of the Amenities 95 Committee.

Cllr Hunt declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 19/101 as he is a member of the Amenities 95 Committee.

The Chairman declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No 19/101 as he is a member of the Amenities 95 Committee.

Cllr Spriggs declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 19/95 c) as his son rents land from the applicant.

19/89. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

The member of the public informed the Council that Murrow Street Pride group was approaching its first anniversary and had received a grant to plant up an area of land linking Front Road with Back Road, Murrow.

Speed Watch checks continued to be held in Parson Drove & Murrow and the Clerk was asked if any information was yet available regarding their request for assistance relating to using the Parish Council's bank account for a grant payment to purchase wheelie stickers. The Clerk advised that she had not yet received a reply from CAPALC.

19/90. To receive and approve the annual John Bends Charity Accounts.

The Chairman advised that as the Clerk to the John Bends Charity had not been able to arrange the completion of the audit of the accounts this matter would have to be deferred to the next meeting.

19/91. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th April 2019.

The Minutes were taken as read, agreed as a true record after amending the date from 2021/2022 to 2020/2021 on page 1397, Agenda Item Number 19/74 a) relating to the resurfacing of the road at Church End and signed by the Chairman.

19/92. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 10th April 2019. (Information only)

Cllr King confirmed that each of the 3 Parish Councils involved in the LHI scheme for Bellamy Bridge would receive an invoice for their contribution.

The Clerk advised that due to unforeseen circumstances the Internal Audit visit arranged for the 30th April had been cancelled by the Auditors and the Internal Audit was now being conducted by post and email.

The Age Concern Hub session held in The Cage on the 8th May had not been well supported by local residents but the organisers were intending to hold another session on Tuesday 9th July 10.00am to 12 noon.

19/93. Community Police Officers Report.

An emailed report had been received by the Clerk for March and April, neither of which highlighted any crimes or incidences in our parish.

19/94. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

District Councillor G Booth advised that in view of the May elections there was nothing to report from the District Council and that their next meeting would be held on the 23rd May.

County Councillor S King advised that the highways issues raised by Councillors at the last meeting had either been actioned or were in the process of being attended to, this included the Highways Department agreement to repair the damaged railings at the culvert along Bridge Drove. The County Council had recently had a meeting when protesters were present raising the issue of Climate Change. The disposal of the existing County Council Offices at Shire Hall was also discussed in a closed session by the County Council.

At a recent meeting of the Highways & Infrastructure Committee it was agreed that the County Council would increase their contribution under the Local Highways Initiative schemes from £10,000 to £15,000 per scheme.

The County Council currently had 28 staff vacancies out of a full staffing role of 193 and were finding it very difficult to recruit skilled and qualified staff.

Cllr King advised that he had made enquiries with Biocow to see if they would attend a future Parish Council Meeting in view of concerns raised by Councillors at previous meetings. As they had agreed to attend a meeting it was suggested that we invite representative to attend the June Parish Council meeting to give a presentation followed by a question and answer session.

Grants were again available from the County Council's Innovate & Cultivate fund and this information was of interest to Cllr Hunt and Cllr Williams.

19/95. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

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.

Councillors resolved to support this application in relation to the conversion of the garage but only supported the replacement of the brick wall if the character of the existing wall was retained due to its unusual design which complimented the Conservation Area.

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.

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

c) Mr & Mrs N McCarter, Planning Application No F/YR19/0329/F, Agent Swann Edwards Architecture Ltd., change of use of existing annex to self-contained 2 bed dwelling including erection of a porch to front & formation of a new vehicular access to The Bungalow, Long Drove, Parson Drove (retrospective).

Councillors resolved by a majority vote to support the application as the property was already there and should continue to be used as a self-contained dwelling.

d) Email from the District Council's Enforcement Team advising that they had investigated our concerns relating to vehicles parked next to Yucca House and there is currently no breach of planning control.

Response noted by Councillors but it was agreed that the situation should continue to be monitored.

19/96. Highway & Street Lighting Matters.

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

Councillors advised that the tarmac was breaking up on the bend at Highside.

Councillors enquired as to what type of re-surfacing was going to be completed along Fen Road and Church End, Cllr King agreed to make enquiries.

The Chairman advised that he had reported several footpaths in need of repairs but had been informed that they did not meet the required criteria for repairs.

b) To report any faulty Streetlights.

Councillors reported one faulty street light along Main Road.

19/97. Risk Assessment.

a) To review the level of Insurance cover.

Councillors reviewed the current level of insurance cover and resolved to make no alterations to the insurance cover.

b) To consider ROSPA reports received for village pond, swings on village green & playing field.

Councillors were informed that there were no issues arising from the inspection of the swings on the village green. The Pond report referred to the overgrown roadside verges obstructing the warning signs and the nettles around the litter bin both of which would be rectified in the next few days. Councillors agreed that the report for the Playing Field should be passed onto Cllr Killingworth for the attention of the Amenities 95 Committee.

19/98. Accounts & Finance

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

Mrs Yvonne Reader, 1 months' salary & expenses, £541.87. L.G.A. 1972 s 112.

NALC, LCR membership renewal fee, £17. L.G.A. 1972 s 143.

EON, electricity for The Cage, £100.61. L.G.A. 1972 s 133.

CAPALC, subscription renewal & GDPR renewal, £444.84. L.G.A. 1972 s 143.

Zurich Municipal Insurance, renewal premium, £916.76. L.G.A. 2000 s101

Playsafety Ltd., ROSPA annual inspection, £246.60. P.H.A. 1875 s 164.

Holbeach Memorials, cleaning of War Memorial, £712.80. W. M.A. 1923 s1.

b) Letter from Stephen Barclay MP asking if the Parish Council would give a donation towards the Read to Succeed Campaign again this year. (Deferred from last meeting)

In view of receiving confirmation from the Alderman Payne Primary School that they did receive the books last year Councillors resolved to give a donation of £50 again this year. L.G.A. 1072 s 137.

c) Letter from Parson Drove Patient Group requesting assistance by applying to the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation for a grant to provide a Defibrillator on the external wall of Parson Drove Doctors Surgery.

The Chairman advised that he had attended a meeting of the Patient Group to discuss this request with them and to clarify some points.

Councillors resolved to agree to apply to Wryde Croft Community Fund for a grant for the purchase, installation and future maintenance of a Defibrillator, to be positioned on the outside wall of the Doctors Surgery, subject to the Doctors Surgery agreeing for the electricity supply to be provided from the surgery and they being responsible for any electricity costs.

d) Letter from the Secretary of Wisbech Stroke Club requesting a grant/donation towards an outing for members.

After some discussion on the possible benefits to local residents Councillors resolved to defer this request to the next meeting pending Cllr Hunt obtaining some additional information from the Wisbech Stroke Club.

e) To consider a request for bins to be provided along Back Road and Mill Road, Murrow. Councillors resolved to provide a litter bin along Back Road Murrow, near the public footpath and as most of Mill Road falls in the Parish of Wisbech St Mary to enquire if they would provide one at Mill Road.

19/99. Up-date on Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The Chairman advised that there was one final document that was required by the Planning authority, which was quite extensive and this was now being prepared by the working group.

19/100. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Letter of thanks from Murrow Book Café for the grant/donation of £50.

Noted by Councillors.

b) Email from Salvation Army Trading Company Ltd., asking if they could site a Clothing recycling bank on the Parish Council's land.

Councillors pointed out that the recycling clothing bank already positioned on the village green was for the Salvation Army Trading Company. Councillors resolved not to move this as requested by a parishioner during public participation at the last meeting as there was not another suitable site and the recycling bin was well used by parishioners. Councillors also resolved to inform the Salvation Army Trading Company that they did not have another area of land suitable for second recycling bank.

c) Email from local resident offering to print "No Dog Fouling" stickers to place on Parish Council Street lights.

Councillors resolved to accept this kind offer.

19/101. Amenities 95 Management Committee report.

Cllr Hunt advised that the refurbishment of the village hall was progressing well and the new front door would be red. Once the refurbishment was finished in June the committee were planning to hold some type of celebration event. A grant of £2,000 had been secured from Tesco's towards new chairs for the village hall. The football club were organising a three day adventure event for local girls and boys and there may be a small cost of £3 to £4. The committee are looking into obtaining a better deal on their electricity in view of the high costs. The new car park is going to be gated off to try and stop the practice of dough nutting and only being opened up for major events.

19/102. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

Cllr Hunt asked why so much paper was being generated by all the forms required by the Electoral Commission relating to the Parish Council Elections. The Clerk agreed to ask the Electoral Commission.

19/103. Any other business (information items only).

Cllr Spriggs advised that some of the Garden Allotments were still untidy. Councillors suggested that a letter be sent to all tenants advising of the annual inspection agreed for Wednesday 3rd July reminding tenants that the allotments should be maintained to an acceptable standard.

Councillors expressed the view that the Oak tree behind the Bus Shelter should be felled or severely pollard as it was only used by children as a climbing frame and would never grow and mature properly.

The Clerk advised that the Landlady of the Swan Inn had requested permission to site a Bouncy Castle on the village green on the 27th July and this request had been granted subject to the necessary Public Liability Insurance being in place.

Advertisements for the Clerk vacancy would be completed in the next few days asking for applications by the 5th July.

19/104. Dates for future Council meetings and to agree a date for the next HR Sub-committee.

The next Parish Council Meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 12th June at 7.00pm in The Cage.

It was agreed that the HR sub-committee meeting would be held on Wednesday 10th July at 6.30pm followed by a Parish Council Meeting at 7.00pm.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm.