

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on 11 November 2020 at 19.00

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic and in line with new regulations, the meeting took place virtually & physically. Notices of the meeting were posted on the village notice board and on the council's website, giving members of the public the opportunity to participate.

In attendance were Parish Councillors: G Booth (Chairman), P Williams, J Hunt, R Fowler, C Killingworth.

Also, in attendance: and CCC Cllr S King, FDC Cllr S Bligh.

182/20. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from P Spriggs. It was noted that there is currently no Clerk and the Chair was undertaking the administration duties of the Council.

183/20. Requests for Dispensations.

None Received.

184/20. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Killingworth - 195/20. Prejudicial – Secretary of Amenities 95.

Cllr Booth & Cllr Hunt 195/20. Personal – Committee Members

Cllr Booth & Cllr Hunt 189/ 2 a) Prejudicial – Know the applicant and would not take part.

185/20. Public Participation - None.

186/20. Members approved the minutes of the meetings held on 14 October 2020.

187/20 Matters arising from the minutes not covered on the agenda (information only)

Minute 167/20 b) Works had been requested.

Minute 167/20 d) Response on white paper submitted.

Minute 167/20 h) SHELAA response had been submitted to FDC

Minute 167/20 K) Konica Minolta correspondence was still being investigated.

Minute 176/20 c) Discussion with Internal Auditor had not yet been organised.

It was noted Cllr Williams had also reviewed and signed copies of the Bank Statements.

188/ 20 Parish Council Vacancy – Co-option - No expressions of interest had yet been received.

189/20 Planning Matters - Applications made -

- a) F/YR20/0963/F - Erect a single-storey 2/3-bed dwelling including conversion of existing stables to plant room - Land North of Elbow Cottage, Elbow Lane Church End, Parson Drove – Recommend approval
- b) F/YR20/1010/F - Change of use of land to a traveller's site involving the siting of 2 x mobile homes and 2 x touring caravans, and the erection of 2 x Day Rooms and a 1.2m high (approx.) front boundary fence (retrospective) - Land East Of Sealeys Lane, Parson Drove – Recommend Refusal based on previous objections and highlight danger due to proximity of Mains Gas Pipe in the vicinity.

190/20 Notification of the planning decisions from Fenland District Council were noted:

- a) None

191/20 Correspondence – members are asked to note:

- a. Letters from Parishioners requesting the council reconsider its decision on planning application F/YR20/0910/F. After discussion of the points raised, It was resolved by a majority vote that the Councils previous comments would stand and no further comments would be made to the District Council.
- b. Request from Parishioner to help with progressing maintenance of the graveyard for St John the Baptist Church, Church End. It was agreed to obtain quotes for clearing the Churchyard from contractors before any decision is made. The chair would also contact the Churches Charity.
- c. Fenland District Council Review of Polling Places. Suggested the Village Hall continues to be used.
- d. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan -Noted.

192/20 Fenland District Council

- a) Reports - Cllr Booth confirmed that North Level had written to the Council confirming Back Road would be closed due to Culvert relining works. Cllr Booth had attended a meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny panel where it was confirmed Anglian Water would now likely be at the December meeting. Cllr Booth also highlighted at the meeting that most projects delivered by FDC focused on the towns, with little being undertaken in the villages. Cllr Bligh was continuing to deal with individual parishioner enquiries. Cllr Bligh was also attending a virtual update meeting on the Guyhirn Roundabout changes at the A47 and would report back.
- b) Street Lighting – The Chair had passed on a list of faulty lights following Cllr Fowlers inspection to the District Council. The Chair had spoken to the Assets team at FDC regarding replacement lights who confirmed that a report had been sent to the Clerk 6 July 2020 with the annual charge, however this information was not passed onto Councillors. It was agreed that the Chair would forward to Cllrs and then request a quote for replacement based on feedback received.

193/20 Cambridgeshire County Council

a) Reports

Cllr King reported that a working group would be looking at Local Highway Improvement bids process and he would be feeding back comments from the Parishes into this.

b) Highways matters

Potholes are reappearing along Silvers Lane. Cllr Spriggs had also raised the issue of flooding along Fen Road since the resurfacing had been completed. Cllr King agreed to investigate this.

The issue of damage to grass verges, mud on the road and number of road accidents due to harvesting of Maize was discussed. It was agreed to write to Pretoria Energy highlighting the Councils concerns.

194/20 Police Update Report

The local police had held a monthly remote meeting which Cllr Bligh had attended and highlighted the issue of speeding in the Parishes. It was noted there had been 2 reported crimes in the parish during the previous month. Cllr Williams agreed to attend future meetings.

195/20 Allotments

a) Update on Payment of rents

Approximately half the payments had been received, the Chair to chase up outstanding rents

196/20 Painting of the village sign. Update on actions

Quotes for cost of refurbishment to the sign had not yet been receive back.

197/20 Website Accessibility Code

Research is ongoing, however initial review would suggest there is limited impact.

198/20 Update on Wryde Croft grant

The Chair had now spoken to a manager at Cambridgeshire Community Foundation regarding the withdrawn grant. He had managed to persuade them to reopen the grant on the basis that the project is delivered as soon as possible with the appropriate documentation to be provided soon.

199/20 Parish Council Assets Risk Assessment Update

Cllr Booth & Williams had undertaken a review of assets, with the following observations:

- There were several small saplings around the pound that needed cutting back.
- The Cage bench & information sign needed cleaning.
- The east side down pipe on the Cage needed cleaning out.
- The vegetation at Seadyke Pit needed to be monitored.
- Bridge Drove bin needed to be repositioned.
- The wood on the bus shelter needed staining.
- The flower bed under the village sign needed repairing.
- It was noted that there is rust on the village sign.
- A small cherry tree near the butchers needs removing.
- The tree near the war memorial has branches that need trimming back.
- Further posts were still needed on the Green near the shop.
- It was agreed to ask Bowles Tree Surgeon to undertake an inspection of the Trees on the Green.

Cllr Hunt had reviewed the allotment gardens and it was noted a couple of the gardens were in a poor state. Cllr Spriggs had confirmed that the Fen Allotments were satisfactory.

200/ 20 Operation Bridges

It was noted that the Church will hold a book of remembrance. It was agreed that flowers would be placed at the war memorial.

201/20 Financial Matters

- a) AGAR Submission
Still waiting feedback, agreed the Chair would follow up.
Payments made
- b) CAPALC GDPR Scheme £50 - Noted
Payments were agreed and receipt noted for items c) to e).
- c) Cambridgeshire County Council – Speed Limit Amendment Application - £250 (payable to Chair as a card payment is required).
- d) Mrs Y Reader – Locum Clerk Services - £225
- e) CPRE – Membership - £36
- f) Update on Green Dog Walkers Scheme Cost to purchase items is £265
It was noted that this project had not been progressed by the previous Clerk. It was resolved by a majority vote to no longer progress this project.
- g) Noted credit received from CCC £656.11 – Verge Cutting
- h) Update on allotment payments – See 195/20a)

202/20 Amenities 95 Report

- a) Grant request towards repair of lights by tennis court. It was resolved wait to see if funding could be obtained elsewhere first such as Wryde Croft, given the costs involved.

203/20 Any Other Business (Information Items Only)

It was noted there was increased dog fouling by the Riverbank, which the Chair had reported. Cllrs also noted that there continues to be an issue receiving emails from the Councils account.

204/20 Staffing

Members are asked to consider a resolution for Council to exclude members of the public and press from the meeting pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the sensitive nature of the business to be transacted under this item. The resolution was passed unanimously. It was agreed to extend the recruitment for a new Clerk.

205/20 Date of next meeting 9 December 2020 - Noted

Signed as a correct record G. Booth (Chairman)

9 December 2020