

Parson Drove Parish Council

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Minutes of a meeting of Parson Drove Parish Council

Held on 8th March 2023 at 19:00

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 Spriggs, J Hunt, P Unwin.

Also in attendance were CCC S King, Clerk David Boyce as well as three members of the public.

Cllr G Booth Chaired the meeting and opened it at 19:00.

50/23. To agree the apologies

The Council noted the dispensation **agreed** for Cllr C Killingsworth. The apologies of Cllrs Fowler & Williams were **agreed**. The Council received apologies from FDC Bligh.

51/23. To receive requests for Dispensations and record interests

The Council recorded the personal interests of Cllrs Booth and Hunt for item 66/23. The Council were reminded by the Chairman that they could register an interest at any time during the meeting.

52/23. Open Forum – Public participation. To allow up to 3 minutes for each member of the public who wishes to address the meeting on agenda, with a time limit of 15 minutes. Don't forget you can also raise your issues to the Clerk via parsondroveclerk@outlook.com

A member of the public brought up the issues of speeding down Murrow Bank since the surface repairs, noting four accidents at the bridge since Christmas 2022, with Air Ambulance attendance on at least two occasions. The Chairman informed the public that the Council had had ongoing frustrations at achieving a resolution of this issue as Highways had placed a barrier to all suggested or cited set precedents being implemented so far. It was noted that the current MVAS scheme being implemented would begin to support the issues down this road. A member of the public reported potholes down The Bank between numbers 14 and 30.

A representative from the Community Speedwatch informed the council of their successes this year, including successfully encouraging all neighbourhood police officers to gain the qualification to use the speed trap gun and for the numbers of

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guns to be increased from 1 to 4. It was also noted the Police participation in enforcement checks had increased, including Main Road in the regular checking moving forward. The sessions held by Community Speedwatch had also been very successful with a reduction in speeding noted.

53/23. To agree the minutes of the meeting on 8th February 2023

The Council **agreed** the minutes of the meeting on 8th February 2023 as a true record of the meeting.

53/23 a. Matter arising from previous minutes not covered on the agenda (for information only)

The Chairman reviewed the minutes and informed the Council that two allotments had been let, with around two more to let.

54/23. To receive the District Councillors Report

In FDC Blighs absence, Cllr Booth informed the Council that Fenland District Council had announced a 2% reduction in their component of the Council Tax, the Parish Council Precept saw a 2.3% overall decrease due to the increase in housing in the area. Cllr Booth also informed Councillors that FDC Bligh had explained that she did not intend on standing again and on behalf of the Council offered thanks for her service to the area.

55/23. To receive the County Councillors Report

It was noted that the County Councillor had circulated his report earlier in the day. CCC King explained he was pleased to be able to attend meetings again and was well on the mend. There was a discussion about some recent dragon patcher work completed which was felt insufficient, where CCC King explained that at this time of year the work to repair potholes is a temporary measure at best and that the paint marking is the authorisation by the Highways Officer to carry out the works. CCC King then noted that the Highways and Transport committee meeting had happened the day before and it was looking into sustainable repairs to Highways with an unstable substrate, such as many roads face in the Fens. The issue of the Anglia Water covers was also raised as it was raining just prior to the meeting and highlighted the issues that their level was causing residents. CCC King explained that he had pushed back on the identification of the drain covers outside the Bowling Green only and that all of them were required to be levelled appropriately to repair the problems.

56/23. Highways Matters

The Clerk informed the Council that he had had a quote from the Drainage board for the walkway which went into many thousands and so he had got an indicative quote

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from a local arborist which was also a couple of thousand. It was **agreed** to seek quotes from Swan Bridge to the White footbridge, then from there to Murrow. The Clerk explained to the Council that there should be some directional signage for the public to explain who is responsible etc, where the Chairman informed that the Drainage Board had committed to doing this.

56/23. a. To report any new street lighting faults

There were no new street lighting faults to report. It was noted that a resident had drawn attention to the Elbow Corner light which had been installed but was not working. Cllr Booth told the Council he had been informed by the District Council that they had had problems with Cable Testing Limited output problems, supply issues as well as faults in newly installed systems. It was noted that of the 43 replacements that Parson Drove had initially requested, only 17 had been completed (39%). The Council **agreed** for Cllr Booth to respond to the District Council.

56/23. b. Minor Highways Schemes

The Clerk told the Council that there had not been time to apply for the LHI bid that closed on the 6th January, but that the 20 mph schemes were now open. The Parish Council noted its disappointment that the deadline for the two schemes it had proposed in October had been missed. Cllr Booth told the Council that the costs for the MVAS scheme had scaled up to approximately £17,500.00 + VAT which was an increase of around a third. The £5,000.00 already accounted for from a grant was already available, as well as minor highways monies in reserves. The Council **agreed** to fund the additional funds required to finish the scheme.

56/23. c. The Council **agreed** to seek public opinion via a consultation on Back Road to amend to 20mph and agree the proposed consultation and to work with Wisbech St Mary Parish Council as to the content and delivery.

56/23. d. The Council acknowledged TTRO 2023/235 Silvers Lane between 6th and 9th March 2023 for new electrical connection works.

56/23. e. The Council acknowledged TTRO 23/382 Long Drove on the 24th February 2023 for emergency water repair works.

Cllr Booth noted that the diversion route of over 20 miles to avoid 50 yards of road could have been avoided and that this should be caught more often moving forward, with pushback to the Highways Officer for a more rational process to be proposed.

57/23. Planning application decision updates

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57/23 a. The Council noted that F/YR22/3133/COND Details reserved by condition 1 (evidence of contract) of planning permission F/YR22/0702/F (Erect 1

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x dwelling (2-storey 4-bed) involving demolition of existing dwelling within a conservation area) 27 The Bank Parson Drove Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4JD was Refused.

58/23. Planning applications for comment

58/23. a. The Council **agreed** comments on F/YR23/3021/COND **Details reserved by condition 2 (construction environmental management plan) of Planning permission F/YR22/0386/F (Erect an agricultural machinery shed)** Pending consideration were to note the technical application.

58/23. b. The Council **agreed** comments on F/YR23/3023/COND **Details reserved by condition 2 (construction environmental management plan) of Planning permission F/YR22/0388/F (Erect a grain store)** Pending consideration were to note the technical application.

58/23. c. The Council **agreed** comments on F/YR23/3022/COND **Details reserved by condition 2 (construction environmental management plan) of Planning permission F/YR22/0387/F (Erect a hay barn)** Pending consideration were to note the technical application.

58/23. d. The Council **agreed** comments on F/YR23/0097/VOC **Variation of condition 14 (list of approved drawings) of planning permission F/YR21/1502/F (Conversion of existing agricultural buildings to 2 x dwellings (2-storey 4-bed) involving the erection of a single-storey side extension and detached garages, and the demolition of 2 x agricultural buildings) - alterations to window arrangement and the installation of solar panels** Pending consideration were to note the technical application.

59/23. The Council **agreed** the payments as below:

59/23. a. Payments to make

- i. Clerks Salary (£486.03)
- ii. Working from home allowance (£30.00)
- iii. Postage costs (£3.48)
- iv. T A Blackamore (£4093.46 including £682.24 VAT)
- v. ACRE membership (£60.00)

59/23 b. Payments made

- i. E-On (£33.00)
- ii. Wave (£20.00)

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- iii. EE Telephone bill (£24.91 including £4.98 VAT)

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Cllr Booth registered a personal interest in the next agenda item being on the Parson Drove Street Pride committee.

- 59/23. c. The Council **agreed** to pay the Grant requests received as below;
i. Parson Drove Street Pride (£400.00)

60/23. To receive the bank reconciliation

The Council received and **agreed** the bank reconciliation for 31st January 2023 as below:

31/01/2023

Opening balance	
42765802	£110,745.02
Opening balance	
05546583	£14,827.18
add receipts	£31,550.80
less payments	£18,394.32
unpresented cheques	£0.00
<i>Total</i>	£138,728.68

Current balance	
42765802	£123,883.72
Current balance	
05546583	£14,844.96
unpresented cheques	£0.00
<i>Total</i>	£138,728.68

Line 8 check = £0	£0.00
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*Unpresented cheques

<i>Total</i>	£0.00
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61/23. To discuss the grass outside the Village Green (Cllr Spriggs)

Cllr Spriggs expressed his dissatisfaction regarding the small piece of the Green in front of the bus shelter being used by School users during collection and drop off times, as well as customers of the shop using it as an exit route from the shop. It was noted that this was a topic of discussion before, where bollards were suggested and quoted but the Council did not agree to go ahead. It was **agreed** to report to

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Highways as an issue as the kerb and surface was damaged of the Highway and footpath, there was no dropped kerb here.

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62/23. To discuss the Parish Council Elections

The Clerk informed the Councillors that they were required to complete their nomination forms and return by hand to the Elections team, who were encouraging appointments for all prospective Councillors. It was also noted that the change to this election period of the requirement of voters to produce ID, which could at the least be obtained from the District Council without a charge. The Clerk offered any Councillor support with their paperwork including obtaining a copy. It was noted that there would potentially be one vacancy and for any new applicants who were unsure to contact the Clerk or the Chairman for more support.

63/23. To hear the progress of the Website Working Party

Cllr Unwin informed the Council that he had chased Tamar IT who suggested a live date in April but was requested before the end of March for at least a test link.

64/23. To receive an update on the Lancaster Bomber Project

Cllr Pam Williams was not present to give an update, however it was noted that the wording on the book had been agreed and invites had started to be circulated.

64/23. a. To receive the request for identification.

The Clerk circulated printed forms of what was required to be identified for the purpose of legally transferring over the site of the Lancaster bomber information board and requested that Councillors complete as soon as possible.

64/23. b. To adopt the activity of the memorial weekend for the purpose of public liability insurance.

The Council **agreed** to adopt the activity of the memorial weekend for the purpose of public liability insurance.

65/23. To discuss the Coronation arrangements and requests

It was noted that there had been a meeting to co ordinate the celebrations between the community groups involved, where the Amenities 95 committee were running an event on Saturday and the Friends of St Johns were holding a musical event on the Sunday.

66/23. To receive the Amenities 95 report

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Cllr Hunt informed the Council that there was a meeting this Saturday coming, with the AGM the following week.

67/23. To receive the Police report

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Cllr Unwin informed the Council that the Police had not met, that there was a meeting pencilled in for this Friday with the understanding of it potentially being cancelled. School parking had been raised with the police and they had scheduled a drive by to observe further.

68/23 To collate agenda items for the next meeting.

- To discuss a way forward for the Cage roof

69/23. To agree a date, time and venue of next meeting

The Council **agreed** to meet on the 12th April 2023 at 19:00 at the Village Hall.

The meeting was closed at 20:52