

Parson Drove Parish Council

1561

Minutes of a meeting of Parson Drove Parish Council

Held on 9th November 2022 at 19:00

Notices of the meeting were posted on the village notice board, giving members of the public the opportunity to participate.

In attendance were Parish Councillors: G Booth (Chairman), P Spriggs, J Hunt and R Fowler.

Also in attendance were Clerk David Boyce as well as 9 members of the public.

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

198/22. To agree the apologies

Apologies were **agreed** for Councillors Unwin and Williams. Apologies were accepted for FDC Bligh and CCC King. The dispensation was noted for Cllr Killingworth.

199/22. To receive requests for Dispensations and record interests

For item 213/22 Cllrs Hunt and Booth recorded personal interests

For item 206/22. d. Cllr Booth recorded a personal interest due to being an allotment tenant. Cllr Fowler registered a personal interest. It was noted that, as a legal body, the Council was an interested party as it owned the allotments alongside the proposed plot. The Council **agreed** dispensation for all Councillors and the Council to be able to comment on the planning application.

The Chairman reminded Councillors that they could declare interests on items during the meeting.

200/22. Open Forum

A group of Parishioners came to the open forum to discuss their feelings on a planning application for 9 properties behind Ingham Hall Gardens. The public were concerned that the public consultation process would be open to manipulation, including adding opinions from individuals who were from outside the Parish as well as adding to the questionnaires after the event. Limitations such as GDPR were explained by the Chairman, as well as how to make their best representation. It was also explained that the Parish Council, as a statutory consultee, do not inhibit their

Parson Drove Parish Council

1562

opinion to just the public consultation results and consider each planning application carefully.

Another Parishioner wanted to make a comment about the poor level of follow up on Planning enforcement, as well as the response from the Planning Officer about how they couldn't cover all the enforcement items in the District. The Council noted the comments but explained the limitations the Council has other than passing the comment on.

The Council received an update from the Community Speedwatch, which included information on the great performance of the SID & the development of the volunteers using it, the motorists now receiving hand delivered third letters from the Police and the Police have now improved presence for checking speeds in areas where Community Speedwatch now operate. The Council were informed of the community engagement event held in Murrow.

201/22. To agree the minutes of the meeting on 5th October 2022

The minutes of the meeting on 5th October 2022 were **agreed** as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

128/22 a. Matter arising from previous minutes not covered on the agenda (for information only)

The chairman reviewed the minutes and updated the Council on positive moves forward with the Lancaster memorial project.

202/22. To receive the District Councillors Report

In FDC Blighs absence, Cllr Booth informed Councillors that there had been no full District Council meeting since the last Parish Council meeting but he had attended an Overage and Scrutiny meeting as well as an Audit and Risk Management meeting. He and FDC Bligh continue to work on Clarion Housing cases.

202/22. a. To discuss the Councils preferred polling districts and stations

The Council **agreed** to maintain the Village Hall as the polling station.

203/22. To receive the County Councillors Report

The Councillors received the report today and had not had time to properly go through it.

204/22. Highways Matters

The Council were unanimous in commenting that Long Drove, Murrow Bank and Church End were becoming a danger to Highway users with how badly they had

Parson Drove Parish Council

1563

broken up and fallen away. It was noted that the potholes down Silvers Lane had not been attended to and were becoming a lot worse.

204/22. a. To deliberate the Community Speedwatch Risk assessment for acceptance

The Council **agreed** the risk assessment as a reasonable mitigation of risk for the Community Speedwatch Group.

204/22. b. To report any new street lighting faults

There was a long conversation as to the street lighting issues and the outstanding invoice. It was noted that for the last two years only about 75% of the street lighting stock was working at any one time, that the Council had lost considerable grant money of £1000 per year as the replacement programme had not been completed correctly or on time even since the pandemic and that it had costed the Council time and money to constantly pursue the District Council to deliver some service around street lighting. It was said that Wisbech St Mary Parish Council had had their replacement scheme finished and was benefitting from greatly reduced electricity bills. The Council was made aware of the lower costs Wisbech St Mary Parish Council had as a result of their replacement scheme having been finished and that all these costs were an additional tax on rate payers and an unfair cost. It was noted that the portfolio holder, FDC Jan French, was responsible for Street Lighting at Fenland District Council and the Council **agreed** to invite her to the next meeting. The Council also **agreed** to gain CAPALC advice on invoicing the District Council in respect to the costs incurred including lost grant money, additional electricity costs, higher maintenance costs and additional administration costs.

204/22. c. To acknowledge road closure notice 2022/1069 between 26th September 2022 and 30th September 2022 for the repair of a burst water main.

The Council acknowledged the TTRO.

204/22. d. To acknowledge TTRO 59995431 road closure from 7th December 2022 to 11th December 2022 from Back Road> Front Road> The Pigeons> Back Lane> to repair a communications pipe

The Council acknowledged the TTRO.

204/22. e. To acknowledge road closure notice 2022/1115 between 4th October 2022 and 10th October 2022 to repair a burst water main

The Council acknowledged the TTRO.

Parson Drove Parish Council

1564

204/22. f. To acknowledge road closure TMO/32871 Main Road and Silvers Lane between 3rd January 2023 to 4th January 2023 to install a new electrical cable.

The Council acknowledged the TTRO.

204/22. g. To deliberate John Bends Way parking

Cllr Booth declared a personal interest prior to the item commencing. The Chairman then handed the meeting over to Cllr Spriggs. It was noted that the footpath was continually obstructed by cars regularly parking over the pavement. Discussion ensued as to ways to combat the issue such as yellow lines which would need a Local Highway Initiative or contacting the Police who do not enforce. The Clerk suggested reporting the obstructed highway regularly on Fix My Street.

205/22. The Council noted the Planning application decision updates as below:

205/22. a. F/YR22/1007/ENQDIS Building Land North West Of Southea Parish Church 37 Main Road Parson Drove Cambridgeshire [Application to seek confirmation of compliance of Condition 1 \(commencement of works\) relating to planning permission F/YR17/1092/F \(Erection of a 3-bed dwelling including the demolition of the existing Church Hall\)](#) Unknown

205/22. b. F/YR22/0728/F Fieldend Swan Bridge Parson Drove Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4JG [Erect an Annexe to side of existing dwelling](#) Granted

205/22. c. F/YR22/0387/F Fen Farm Long Drove Parson Drove Cambridgeshire PE13 4JT [Erect a hay barn](#) Granted

205/22. d. F/YR22/0388/F Fen Farm Long Drove Parson Drove Cambridgeshire PE13 4JT [Erect a grain store](#) Granted

205/22. e. F/YR22/0386/F Fen Farm Long Drove Parson Drove Cambridgeshire PE13 4JT [Erect an agricultural machinery shed](#) Granted

206/22. The Council deliberated the following Planning applications and **agreed** their comments as below;

206/22. a. Application F/YR22/3133/COND 27 The Bank Parson Drove Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4JD [Details reserved by condition 1 \(evidence of contract\) of planning permission F/YR22/0702/F \(Erect 1 x dwelling \(2-storey 4-bed\) involving demolition of existing dwelling within a conservation area\)](#) was noted.

Parson Drove Parish Council

1565

206/22. b. Application F/YR22/1195/F Woodthorne House 143 Back Road Murrow Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4JW Erect 2-storey rear extension, porch to front and insertion of first floor window to side of existing dwelling was discussed, where the concerns from the neighbour were noted. It was agreed to support the application as long as there was no loss of amenity to the neighbour.

206/22. c. Application F/YR22/1160/F Clough Cross Farm Marshalls Bank Parson Drove Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4JE Erect an agricultural building, formation of a cattle yard and extension of farm yard was unanimously supported.

206/22. d. Application F/YR22/1187/FDC Land North Of 6 Riverside Gardens Parson Drove Cambridgeshire Erect 1x dwelling involving demolition of existing buildings (outline application with matters committed in respect of access) was discussed, where it was commented that the application had been previously unsupported. Material concerns such as with the access problems, the site management issues that would arise, there not being any space on site to work and the parking issues it would create. It was noted that the turning circle proposed would not be sufficient and that it would cause delivery lorries to have to reverse down the road to reach the site. It was **agreed** to recommend refusal.

207/22. The payments of the Council were **agreed** as below;

207/22. a. Payments to make

- i. Clerks Salary (£486.03)
- ii. Working from home allowance (£25.00)
- iii. Clerks postage expense (£14.95)
- iv. Smith of Derby Clock service (12/10/22 Cage) (£272.40 including £45.40 VAT)
- v. FACT (Grant request) (£50.00)
- vi. ICO (£40.00)
- vii. S Spriggs (The Cage repairs) (£1025.00)
- viii. CPRE (£36.00)
- ix. British Legion Poppy Appeal (£25.00)
- x. LexisNexis (Arnold Baker 13th Edition) (£131.99)
- xi. Clerks and Councils Direct subscription (£14.00)
- xii. Tamar Computers (website) (£1166.40 including £194.40 VAT)

Except 207/22. a. v, where a discussion ensued around the problems FACT faced publicly in the past and about their support to the Parish during the pandemic. It was additionally **agreed** to offer some exposure on the new website with the grant payment. There was also a discussion around 207/22. a. xii, where it was **agreed** to pay 50% of the invoice (£583.20) prior to completion.

207/22 b. The Council noted Payments made;

- i. E-On (£33.00)
- ii. Wave (£20.00)
- iii. EE Telephone bill (£22.80 including £3.80 VAT)

Parson Drove Parish Council

1566

- iv. Clerks Salary September (£486.03)
- v. Working from home allowance (£25.00)

208/22 To discuss changing bank account provider

The Council deferred this item to next month.

209/22. To agree the tree works job specification

The Council received the job specification for the tree works from the Clerk and that he was awaiting quotes to be returned.

210/22. To appoint an internal auditor

The Council **agreed** to appoint Auditing Solutions LTD.

211/22. To discuss the Military Covenant

211/22. a. To appoint a Military Covenant Champion

The Council discussed a community champion and **agreed** to appeal to the community for someone to be the Champion for the Military Covenant.

211/22. b. To request the Doctors Surgery adopt the Military Covenant

The Council has been asked by a Wisbech Town Cllr to request Parson Drove surgery sign up to the Military Covenant. It was **agreed** to write to the Practice.

212/22. To hear the progress of the Website Working Party

The Council were informed that half the invoice was due payable prior to the website being completed. A plea for content was made.

213/22. To receive the Amenities 95 report

Cllr Hunt informed members that the Halloween Party which was free of charge had been a great success and that a Christmas party had been organised for the 17th December 2022 which was free for children, as well as a cabaret had been organised for the end of November.

214/22. To receive the Police report

No report was left in Cllr Unwins absence. There were no items to pass on.

215/22. To agree the outline dates for the 2023 meeting calendar

The Council **agreed** the outline dates for the 2023 meeting calendar

216/22. To collate agenda items for the next meeting

Parson Drove Parish Council

1567

- To discuss changing bank account provider

217/22. To agree a date, time and venue of next meeting -14 December 7pm at the Village Hall

218/22. Staffing matters

218/22. a. 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 Council **agreed** the item and the public were asked to leave. The public meeting ended at 20:43.

218/22. b. To discuss the NALC salary award for 1st April 2022 and agree, if any, back pay award.

The Council **agreed** the pay review.

218/22. c. To receive the Clerks review

The Council received the review.

The meeting closed at 20:51