

# Parson Drove Parish Council

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## Minutes of a meeting of Parson Drove Parish Council

Held on 16<sup>th</sup> August 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, A Rouse, R Fowler & P Unwin.

Also in attendance were FDC Cutler and CCC S King, Clerk David Boyce.

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

172/23. To agree the apologies

Apologies were **agreed** for Cllr Williams and FDC M Humphrey.

173/23. To note the expiry of the period for Notice of Casual Vacancy and accept any nominations for co-option.

The Council were informed that the Elections team at Fenland District Council had not received the necessary requests for an election and so the Council were free to co-opt. The Clerk explained that no interest had been registered with him. The Council **agreed** to advertise the casual vacancy and request applicants send a return to the Clerk expressing their interest.

174/23. To receive requests for Dispensations and record interests

Cllr Booth registered a personal interest in item 187/23. Councillors were reminded that they could register their interests at any time during the meeting.

175/23. Open Forum – Public participation.

The Community Speedwatch representative explained to the Council that focus had been changed and four sessions were held near the village hall and Silvers Lane where it was found there was a greater compliance to the speed limit & so the focus would be on the ends of the road near the 5 Bells pub and the school. It was noted that the police continued to support. An appeal for further volunteers was made to increase the number in Parson Drove to help facilitate sessions going forward. The MVAS had been returned from Murrow but had some reprogramming difficulties to change it down from 40 to 30mph so will need amending before it is moved.

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176/23. To agree the minutes of the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023

The Council **agreed** the minutes with some amendments.

176/23 a. Matter arising from previous minutes not covered on the agenda (for information only)

It was noted that, following using the website, that it was complex and took a lot of time to load, amend and add things to it. It was suggested that this was added to the agenda for the September meeting. It was noted that the Clerk had submitted the Wryde Croft Wind Farm application.

177/23. To receive the District Councillors Report

Cllr Booth informed the Council that the District Council had had a meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> July where a review of District Councillors allowances was to take place. The Parish Council representatives were agreed for the conduct committees. It was agreed to set up Rural, Projects and Culture committees.

178/23. To receive the County Councillors Report

CCC King's report had been received earlier in the day. The Council noted that the correspondence regarding the investigation to move speed limit signs for Church End hadn't had not identified the appropriate location at the settlement limits. Cllr Spriggs suggested that signage denoting "advisory 20mph limit" signs be erected, which CCC King offered to follow up.

179/23. Highways Matters

It was noted that the 40mph signs that were on residents wheelie bins down Fen Road were now incorrect. The Community Speedwatch representative had commented that they had contacted residents to request that they now remove those stickers. The reported footpath down Fen Road was noted as to having had some filling in but were not sufficiently finished. Potholes down Sealeys Lane were noted. It was also commented that the trees had grown over the road along Long Drove and were restrictive to agricultural vehicles.

179/23. a. To report any new street lighting faults

It was noted that no follow up had been received to date in regard to the disputed street lighting recharge and this would need to be followed up.

179/23. b. Minor Highways Schemes

It was acknowledged that the Alderman Payne Primary School had collated children's letters requesting a 20mph speed limit outside of the school, where it was discussed that other community groups could make LHI bids as well as

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the Council. It was noted that the Swan Bridge scheme had been suggested to be completed as an LHI bid possible through the Community Speedwatch group.

179/23. c. Bellamys Bridge (Cllr Booth)

It was noted that the red lines had finally been refreshed. A meeting had been organised with the other Parish Councils for the 30<sup>th</sup> October.

179/23. d. The Council noted TTRO 2023/867 from 4<sup>th</sup> August 2023 to 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025 on Long Drove, Black Drove and Hooks Drove for telecommunications works

179/23. e. The footpath outside 33-35 Fen Road

The footpath outside 33-35 Fen Road was brought up as needing further attention.

CCC King then left the meeting.

180/23. The Council noted the planning application decision updates as follows;

180/23. a. F/YR23/O352/F Erect a dwelling (3-storey 5-bed) and formation of a new access Land North Of 222 Main Road Church End Parson Drove Cambridgeshire Granted

180/23. b. F/YR23/O248/F Erect a 2-storey extension to side of existing dwelling and alterations to access, involving demolition of existing garage 19 John B/ends Way Parson Drove Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4PS Granted

180/23. C To receive parishioner feedback to comments on planning application F/YR23/0555/O

The Council were informed that Cllr Booth had received applicant feedback regarding application F/YR23/0555/O disputing some of the Councillors discussion. It was noted that all comments were made in good faith and are usually commented upon by other statutory consultees during the planning application.

181/23. The Council **agreed** the following responses to the planning applications for comment;

181/23. a. To agree a position on the March Rail Ticket Office Closure consultation

The Council **agreed** it was a vital service and should remain open.

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181/23. b. F/YR23/O610/TRCA Works to 30 No Conifer trees, 1 No Silver Birch tree and 1 No Oak tree within a Conservation Area Mulberries 23 Main Road Parson Drove Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4JA was recommended for approval following tree officers report.

181/23. c. F/YR23/O645/F Erect a single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling involving the demolition of existing canopy and conservatory The Palms 36 Main Road Parson Drove Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4JA was recommended for approval.

182/23. The Council **agreed** the payments of the Council as follows;

182/23. a. Payments to make;

- i. Clerks Salary (£486.03)
- ii. Working from home allowance (£30.00)
- iii. Postage costs (£4.45)
- iv. W Shepherd (Vintage bus Lancaster Bomber) (£250.00)
- v. Poppy wreath (Lancaster Bomber event) (£25.00)
- vi. Icen Tree Care (The Green tree works) (£400.00)
- vii. Adrian Chapman (Lancaster bomber event) (£74.47 including £12.41 VAT)

182/23 b. Payments made;

- i. E-On (£48.32)
- ii. Wave (£20.00)
- iii. EE Telephone bill (£17.66 including £4.98 VAT)

182/23. c. Payments already agreed and made (for Lancaster Bomber)

- I. Cllr Williams reimbursement expenses (£114.23)
- II. CNM Highways LTD (Lancaster Bomber Memorial) (£480.00 including £80.00 VAT)

183/23. To receive the bank reconciliation

183/23. a. To receive the bank reconciliation for 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023

The Council **agreed** the bank reconciliation for 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023.

183/23. b. To receive the bank reconciliation for 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023

The Council **agreed** the bank reconciliation for 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

184/23. To discuss the request for a grant from FACT (Cllr A Rouse)

Cllr Rouse declared an interest in this item but presented the request to councillors. FACT are trying to put a bus service together to collect people in the villages and take to where the main X1 route ran to improve accessibility to the main towns and cities. The group were appealing for funds to start the service. It was noted that the

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costs would be needed to understand the contributions needed, as well as the option of applying to the Wryde Croft Wind Farm. It was noted that the funds would be better placed being considered for the next years precept.

185/23. Repairs to the Cage roof (Cllr P Spriggs)

It was noted that the roof scaffolding had been erected but no date had been supplied for the works to commence. The inclement weather was commented on.

186/23. Village Voices (Cllr P Unwin)

The Council were told that some progress had been made and enquiries had been made by an individual about taking over the editing. It was noted that the magazine currently runs costs at a deficit of approximately £2,000.00 but this may be because new advertisers are not currently being sought.. It was noted that some distributors had withdrawn their volunteering offer as of October. The discussion went around how it could be maintained and Cllr Unwin was looking into options around paying someone to keep it going. It was **agreed** that the Council would contribute £500.00 toward keeping the magazine alive.

187/23. To receive the Amenities 95 report

Cllr Booth informed the Council that the Car show had been held and although it was a success the weather had dampened proceedings in comparison to other years. Bookings were ongoing, as well as the insurance claim for the crack in the wall.

188/23. To receive the Police report (Cllr Unwin)

Cllr Unwin informed the Council that he had attended the meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> July where he was informed that the 6 officers and 2 PCSO's for the area were trying a new approach to policing via assigned areas. Cllr Unwin explained that he had brought up the parking issues around the shop and school where he was assured that the Police would do some attendance when possible. Issues with drones being flown over resident's properties were reported. A recent agricultural theft was noted. It was also reported that Anti-Social Behaviour and motorcycle thefts were on the increase in Leverington. The Police also explained that Nitrous Oxide regulations were on their way and that speeding continued to be the priority.

189/23 To collate agenda items for the next meeting

- Website
- FACT
- Village Voices

200/23. To agree a date, time and venue of next meeting

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It was **agreed** to meet in the Village Hall on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The asset inspection was agreed for 18:30 on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

201/23. Staffing matters

201/23. 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** and members of the public were asked to leave the meeting at 20:47.

201/23. b. Staffing matters

The Council **agreed** to open an investigation.

*The meeting closed at 21:12*