

Parson Drove Parish Council

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Minutes of a meeting of Parson Drove Parish Council

Held on 14th June 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, P Williams, R Fowler & P Unwin.

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

Cllr G Booth Chaired the meeting and opened it at 19:02.

122/23. To agree the apologies

Apologies were received and **agreed** from Adrian Cook and Tania Cook. Apologies were also received and noted from CCC King.

123/23. To receive requests for Dispensations and record interests

Cllr Booth noted his personal interest in item 141/23. Councillors were reminded that they could declare an interest at any point during the meeting.

124/23. Open Forum – Public participation.

Murrow Street Pride noted that the Back Road planters were now full of summer bedding plants, as well as litter picks being well attended so far this year.

Community Speedwatch explained that sessions had been carried out and it was felt successful as the speeds being recorded now were lower than when the Speedwatch had begun.

125/23. To agree the minutes of the meeting on 10th May 2023

The Council **agreed** the minutes of the meeting on 10th May 2023. The council also received the Parish Assembly minutes of the 10th May 2023.

125/23 a. Matter arising from previous minutes not covered on the agenda (for information only)

The Chairman reviewed the minutes and there were no matters not already on the agenda.

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126/23. To receive the District Councillors Report

Cllr Booth explained that Nick Meekins was the Chairman for this year and Mr Bowden was the leader of the Council. The Local Plan Consultation comments were noted as being on the website. The need for recruitment of officers had been raised as an issue. The District Council had only had its Planning committee meet so far.

127/23. To receive the County Councillors Report

Cllr Kings report was noted. A discussion around the marked potholes down Silvers Lane, Long Drove and Swan Bridge Farm ensued where it was remarked that the potholes had been left so long the paint was now wearing away. The Council acknowledged that the update on Fen Road was that it was still in planning and noted that everything received either slow or no progress.

128/23. Highways Matters

A 1.5 mile traffic jam was noted at Swan Bridge, as well as another accident in the same location between a car and a lorry where the car driver was taken to hospital. It was asked whether any other representative could go to meetings about it in Cllr Kings absence.

128/23. a. To report any new street lighting faults.

The Clerk explained that there had been a response from the Officer in charge of the street lighting replacement scheme and repairs, who explained that CoVID-19 issues and difficulties working with UK Power Networks had led to only 17 of the 42 replacements to be completed to date, and that this is why they did not get the works done in line with the grant offered. The Officer had also noted that the electrical charge was generated as an unmetered service and therefore charged whether the electricity had been used or not. Councillors discussed their frustrations with how disadvantaged Parishioners had been as a result of the District Council, financially as well as a lack of amenity of the streetlights that hadn't worked for upwards of three years. The Clerk explained that the Council was currently in the contract and that it would be in the Council's best interests to get the replacement works finalised as all the background work had been done toward this already. The Clerk explained that the Councils dispute could be rationalised down to around £1500 in electricity and lost grant money and therefore seeking independent legal advice or starting legal action with the District Council could cost more than the utility that the Council could generate out of a legal dispute. It was **agreed** to contact CAPALC for their advice on the matter. It was **agreed** to formally start the dispute process with Fenland District Council. It was **agreed** to request that all the outstanding replacement LED's be completed by September 2023 and that payment will be made once completed. The Council **agreed** to request a cessation of the outstanding invoice in lieu of electricity not used for £500.00 per year for the last three years.

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128/23. b. Minor Highways Schemes

Cllr Booth informed the Council that there had been no new progression on the subject.

128/23. c. To update the Council on the Permissible Walkway Scheme progress

The Clerk informed the Council that the signed agreement was with the NLIDB and the legal processes were now being awaited to register the walkway.

128/23. d. To discuss a weight limit on Silvers Lane

Cllr Booth told the Council that he had been approached by a member of the Public who suggested that the limit on the road could be reduced to help prevent the road being used as a cut through for Agricultural and Articulated vehicles. The Council deliberated the item, including noting that neither vehicle would choose the road due to how poorly it was maintained, the width causing access prohibitions. The Clerk informed the Council that this would fall under the new LHI bid process. The Council **agreed** to suggest to the County Council that the limit be reduced to save on road repairs.

128/23. e. To receive the Back Road survey

The Council learned that 90% of respondents were in favour of the new limit of 20mph. There had been some constructive feedback sent with it which was noted. The Council **agreed** to progress the application.

129/23. The Council noted the planning application decision updates as follows;

129/23 a. F/YR23/0097/VOC Agricultural Building South East Of Bridge Farm Long Drove Parson Drove Cambridgeshire 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 Granted

130/23. The Council considered the following planning applications for comment and **agreed** the following;

130/23. a. The Treading Bank Solar Farm consultation was explained and then deliberated, where it was noted that the consultation was held quite a way from the intended site, which was half of the previous Treading Bank Wind Farm.

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Approximately 50 people attended, who were informed that the application should be put in around late summer.

130/23. b. F/YR23/O466/F Wayside 21 Back Road Murrow Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4JW Erect a rear/side extension to existing dwelling and installation of front access gates (2m high max) was recommended for approval.

130/23. c. F/YR23/O473/F Land North Of 75A Back Road Murrow Cambridgeshire Change of use of land for domestic purposes and erection of 2-storey double garage with office over, garden room and shed (part retrospective) was recommended for approval.

130/23. d. Resubmission of F/YR23/0352/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 was recommended for approval.

131/23. The Council **agreed** the payments as below:

131/23. a. Payments to make;

- i. Clerks Salary (£486.03)
- ii. Working from home allowance (£30.00)
- iii. Postage costs (£6.70)
- iv. Microsoft subscription (£59.99 including £10.00 VAT)
- v. North Level District Internal Drainage Board (Permissive walkway legal fees) (£728.00 including £66.00 VAT)
- vi. Holbeach Memorial Company (renovations, war memorial, installing information board site) (£4146.00 including £691.00 VAT)
- vii. Holbeach Memorial Company (turf for information board site) (£347.00 including £57.00 VAT)
- viii. Malcolm and Sues Print Shop (£127.20 including £21.20 VAT)
- ix. Motive (second half of invoice for Information Board (£804.00 including £134.00 VAT)

131/23 b. Payments made;

- i. E-On (£33.00)
- ii. Wave (£20.00)
- iii. EE Telephone bill (£28.49 including £4.75 VAT)

131/23. c. Payments agreed by Clerk and Chairman;

- i. CMN Highways LTD (Traffic Management Lancaster Bomber) (£400.00)

132/22. To receive the internal auditors report

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The Council **agreed** to reconvene to receive the internal auditors report once it was received.

133/22. To complete the AGAR and annual audit return

The Council **agreed** to defer this item to allow for the internal auditors report.

134/23. To discuss changing bank accounts

The Council deliberated the options, including the rapidly declining branch network. It was noted that there was little difference in the different options and it was **agreed** to look into switching to Natwest.

135/23. To discuss the investment strategy

The Council discussed the amount of earmarked funds yet to be spent, the changes to base interest rates and the increase in savings interest. It was **agreed** to look into moving some into the CCLA once the bank account had been moved.

136/23. To hear the progress of the Website Working Party

Cllr Unwin informed the Council that the website was now live and that he and the Clerk had had initial training on editing the website. Councillors were also informed that they would have received their new emails and log in details but any issues to contact Cllr Unwin. An appeal was made for typed information for the news section.

137/23. To receive an update on the Lancaster Bomber Project

The Council were informed that the event had gained some momentum, with road closures in place and extended, with a guest list of approximately 150 people so far. The works were well under way for improving the war memorial and the

138/23. To appoint one representative to the Leverington Ffeoffes Committee

It was agreed that Cllr Pam Williams would be the representative for Parson Drove Parish Council.

139/23. To appoint six representatives to the John Bends Charity (three every 2 years)

The Council **agreed** to appoint Cllrs Gavin Booth, Pam Williams and Paul Unwin and to then appoint as appropriate.

140/23. Wryde Croft Community Fund

Cllr Booth told the Council that the Committee had been considering making Parish Councils hubs for local groups to apply for a fund to directly distribute within the community, which they hoped would reduce the administration required.

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140/23. a. To appoint one representative to the Wryde Croft Community Fund Committee

The Council **agreed** to appoint Cllr Gavin Booth to be representative to the Wryde Croft Community Fund Committee.

141/23. To receive the Amenities 95 report

Cllr Booth informed the Council that a meeting had been held where the committee agreed to pursue a variation of the licence to enable events on the field.

141/23. a. To appoint representatives to the Amenities 95 Committee

The Council **agreed** to appoint Cllr Tania Cook to the Amenities 95 Committee.

142/23. To receive the Police report

Cllr Unwin informed the Council that a meeting had not been held still, however it was hopeful one could be conducted on the 23rd of June.

142/23. a. To agree a response to the District Dog Control PSPO consultation

The Council noted the consultation comments.

142/23. b. To appoint a representative to the Police

It was **agreed** to reappoint Cllr Paul Unwin.

143/23. To appoint the HR working party

It was **agreed** to appoint Cllrs Gavin Booth, Peter Spriggs and Paul Unwin to the HR working party.

144/23. To collate agenda items for the next meeting

- To agree a bid to Wryde Croft Wind Farm

145/23. To agree a date, time and venue of next meeting

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

The meeting was closed at 21:35