

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in Parson Drove Village Hall on Wednesday 13th December 2023.

Attended by Councillors: G Booth (Chairman), P Spriggs (Vice Chairman), R Fowler, P Unwin, Y Reader & A Rouse.

Fenland District Councillor Diane Cutler, County Councillor S. King, Clerk David Boyce & 3 members of the public.

267/23. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Cllr P Williams and Cllr M Humphrey (FDC).

268/23. To consider any requests by Councillors for Dispensations and record interests.

There were no requests from Councillors for a Dispensation.

Cllr Booth declared an interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 282/23 as he is a committee member of the Amenities 95 Committee.

Cllr Spriggs declared an interest in respect of Agenda Items number 275/23 as he rents and farms the adjoining agricultural land.

269/23. Open Forum – Public Participation.

The applicant for Planning Application F/YR23/0973/F Agenda Item Number 275/23a gave an overview of the planning application and asked for the Parish Councils support.

270/23 a. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 13th November 2023.

The minutes for the November meeting were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. As the Minutes for the October meeting had not been distributed to Councillors until 2 hours before the start of the meeting these were deferred again for approval.

270/23 b. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 13th November. (Information only)

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the 13th November.

271/23. To receive District Councillors Report.

Fenland District Councillor G Booth advised that following the review of the Polling Stations Parson Drove Village Hall would continue to be the designated Polling Station for Parson Drove. The District Councillors Allowances had been reviewed resulting in an increase of 11% to the total budget, following amendments to the independent review.

272/23. To receive County Councillors Report.

County Councillor S King had sent an email report earlier in the day reporting on the current status of the Highways issues previously raised. There were currently approx. 126 potholes reported that had not yet been repaired. Gorefield Parish Council had offered to submit an LHI bid for the initial improvements to the Bellamy Bridge junction with the Parish Council's contribution being divided between Gorefield, Wisbech St Mary and Parson Drove based on the size of each respective Parish.

A site meeting had been held with the Highways Officer to discuss the request for the provision of a Zebra Crossing outside the Alderman Payne Primary School. A Zebra Crossing would cost over £38,000 and two flashing signs would cost approximately £8,000. A separate LHI Bid to reduce the speed limit to 20mph could be made by the Primary School, which the

Council agreed it would support.

Cllr Reader advised that a bollard on the village green had been knocked over due to a red car connected to the school parking problems being parked on the corner on the edge of the village green making it difficult for large vehicles. It was agreed for the Clerk to ask the school to request people attending the school not to park on this bend.

273/23. Highways Matters.

273/23 a. To report any new street light faults.

The Chairman had chased up the street light fault at Sealeys Lane but was still waiting for a response. It was noted the Hedge outside Open Reach on Fen Road, was still overgrown.

273/23. b. Minor Highways Schemes.

The Clerk advised that he had not yet submitted an application for improvements to the Swan Bridge junction. The Chairman pointed out that the application deadline was the 12th January 2024.

273/23. c. Parking and street lighting at the school.

Item discussed under 272/23.

274/23 Planning Applications Decision Up-dates.

F/YR23/0932/AGI Construction of a drainage inspection pit with associated hardstanding and pipework, Old Eau Farm, Seadyke Bank, Murrow – further information not required.

F/YR23/0027/F Erection of a 2 storey 4 bed dwelling with integral garage involving demolition of existing dwelling and alterations to the existing access at Fairview Barn, Johnsons Drove, Parson Drove – granted permission.

F/YR23/0852/O Erect up to 9 dwellings (outline application with matters committed in respect of access) on land south of 12 – 24 Ingham Hall Gardens, Parson Drove, Wisbech. Cllr Rouse advised that this planning application had been refused at the Planning Development Committee meeting held earlier in the day.

275/23 Planning Applications for comment.

275/23. a. F/YR23/0973/F erection of a single storey 3 bed dwelling with detached double garage and associated works involving the removal of the existing caravans and storage containers on land north of 27A Main Road, Parson Drove.

Councillors recommended approval is granted subject to a condition being imposed to ensure continued access for the field to the rear of the property.

275/23. b F/YR23/3147/COND, Details reserved by conditions 8 (CEMP), 9 (landscaping and biodiversity enhancements), and 10 (lighting design strategy) of planning permission

F/YR23/0319F erection of a 3 storey 5 bed dwelling and detached 2 storey garage involving the demolition of existing dwelling and the temporary siting of 2 mobile homes during construction at Fir Trees, Silvers Lane, Parson Drove.

Application noted by Councillors.

Cllr Spriggs advised that he had been contacted about a garage not being built in the correct position at the development being undertaken at the top of Silvers Lane. Concerns were also raised about a site being prepared for some form of development along Seadyke Bank, next to

the existing Travellers site, without planning permission. The Chairman advised that these matters had been raised with the District Council, but they were recruiting for Enforcement Officers so that appropriate action can be taken.

276/23. To agree the payments of the Council

276/23 a. Payments to be made:

1. Clerks Salary £520.73
2. Clerks working from home allowance £30
3. Postage costs £4.45
4. Poppy Wreath £27.50

276/23. b. Payments already made by Direct Debit:

1. EON £48.32
2. Wave £18.34 from a remaining credit balance of £78.99
3. EE Telephone £24.91

276/23. c. Payments requested.

1 Information Commission Office annual fee £40 recommended a new direct debit is set up - Agreed.

277/23 Update on the Wryde Croft grant application.

The Chair reported that he had requested that the grant application for £5,000 be increased to £10,000 for refurbishment of the village green, at the Wyrde Croft Panel meeting, which was agreed.

Changes were to be made to the grant process whereby a grant of £5,000 would be given to the Parish Council for distribution to local Community Groups who wished to apply for smaller projects, this is likely to take place in the new year.

278/23 To agree the Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation prepared and presented by the Clerk was agreed.

279/23 The Village Green

1. Update on the tree works

The Clerk was still waiting for the quotation for the work to the fallen tree in the village pond. The delay on the work to the two trees on the village green was due to an inconsistency on the tree identification numbers used by the Clerk and the Planning Decision Notice issued by the District Council and the contractors could not complete the work until this was rectified.

2. Update to works on The Cage

The Chairman had contacted Turners Contracting requesting a meeting, but they had not yet responded.

3. Maintenance of the Village Green

This matter was still outstanding. It was agreed when the annual grass cutting tender is issued to include quote for weed and feed of the village green.

4. Refurbishment of the Village Sign

The Clerk had received a revised quotation for £1,750 and a contract for the work to be undertaken requesting to a deposit of £875 being paid in advance. Councillors resolved to accept the quotation but required some assurance as to how soon the work would be completed before paying the requested deposit.

280/23. Village Voices

Cllr Unwin was still making enquiries with local publishers to try and see if this could be outsourced to a local firm similar to the production of the Fens Leaflet but to date was not having any success. It was noted a formal group would need to be established if successful in finding someone to take on the editorial role.

281/23. Update on the FACT Questionnaire.

Cllr Cutler reported that she had accessed some responses to the questionnaire (25 out of 200 plus received) and had analysed these but in order to access all of the responses a payment would be required. There were various levels of subscription and these need to be investigated. Councillors agreed that all responses to the questionnaire should be obtained in order to ensure an accurate reflection of demand was obtained and agreed to reimburse Cllr Cutler with the costs involved.

282/23. To receive the Amenities 95 report.

Cllr Booth advised that the trees contributing to the cracks in the village hall walls had been removed. New Fire Regulations came into force from October 2023 requiring a detailed Risk Assessment and a quote of £600 was agreed to undertake this. These new regulations may have to be implemented for The Cage.

283/23. To receive the Police Report.

Cllr Unwin advised that there was no report to give at this present time.

284/23. To collate agenda items for the next meeting.

1. Quotation for work to the Bus Shelter
2. Quotation for the fencing around the Lancaster Sign

285/23. To agree a date, time and venue of the next meeting.

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 7.00pm in Parson Drove Village Hall with a subsequent Meeting being held in The Cage on Wednesday 17th January 2024 to agree the budget and Precept.

286/23 Staffing Matters

286/23. a Members are asked to consider a resolution for the 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.

Councillors resolved to approve the resolution.

286/23. b. Staffing Matters

See confidential minute.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm.