

## **Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held in Parson Drove Village Hall on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 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 & 2 members of the public.

### **250/23. To receive apologies for absence.**

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

### **251/23. 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 262/23 as he is a committee member of the Amenities 95 Committee.

Cllr Rouse declared an interest in respect of Agenda Items number 258/23 as a resident of Brewery Close and Agenda Item Number 261/23 as a volunteer for FACT.

### **252/23. Open Forum – Public Participation.**

The two members of the public asked for the Parish Councils support in relation to Planning Application Number F/YR23/0852/O, Agenda Item Number 258/23 a.

The Chairman reviewed the previous pre-applications discussions relating to the access road being made up to an adoptable standard and a voluntary contribution of £50,000 being made to the Parish for community use. Clarification was also given by the applicant on the proposed sewerage provision.

Cllr Cutler reported on the speeding statistics following the recent Speedwatch checks carried out at Church End, Parson Drove reporting that speeding was only occurring at this location early in the morning and again in the late afternoon and early evening. In view of this future speed checks at this location would only be carried out at these times of the day.

### **253/23. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023.**

In view of the Clerk being absent due to illness there were no Minutes available and therefore this Agenda Item was deferred to the next meeting.

### **253/23. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> October. (Information only)**

The Chairman advised that as far as he was aware no actions had been carried out by the Clerk since this meeting due to illness therefore no information could be provided on any matters arising from the Minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> October.

### **254/23. To receive District Councillors Report.**

Fenland District Councillor G Booth advised that no recent Full District Council Meetings had taken place and therefore he had no report to make.

### **255/23. To receive County Councillors Report.**

County Councillor S King had sent an email report earlier in the day reporting on the current Highways issues.

Cllr King had been approached regarding the provision of a Zebra Crossing outside the

Alderman Payne Primary School and would be arranging a site visit with the County Councils Highways Officers to look into this request. Parish Councillors were invited to attend this meeting.

Following the recent meeting to discuss options for improvements to the Bellamy Bridge junction he was waiting for information from the Highways Officer on ideas put forward at the joint meeting but suggested that the 4 Parish Councils involved submitted a joint application under the LHI scheme for improvements to signage and road marking in the first instance. More involved alterations relating to the realignment of the roads at the junction would require funding from the TIP scheme and would be a project for the future.

Cllr Fowler advised that there were numerous pot holes along Silvers Lane, Sealeys Lane and a very large one on Marshalls Bank near to Clough Bridge. Cllr King advised that the new Highways Officer had requested that as many as possible of the new pot holes identified be reported using the County Councils reporting portal.

**256/23. Highways Matters.**

**256/23 a. To report any new street light faults.**

No new faults were raised.

**256/23. b. Minor Highways Schemes.**

The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council would be submitting an application for improvements to the Swan Bridge junction.

The Community Group application would be made for a speed limit reduction at Church End by the Speedwatch group.

**256/23. c. Winter Gritting Scheme**

As the application by the Parish Council for volunteers for this scheme should have been submitted to the County Council by the 31<sup>st</sup> October it was too late to register for this year but Cllr Fowler indicated that he had the equipment provided from previous years for safe keeping and would be prepared to volunteer for future years.

**256/23. d. The street lights near the Primary School.**

As the County Council had decided not to replace the old street light near to the School Councillors agreed that the Parish Council would consider funding the replacement street light. Clerk to obtain a quotation for this new street light.

**257/23 Planning Applications Decision Up-dates.**

257/23 a) F/YR23/0776/TRCA works to 3 Yew Trees within a conservation area at The Nurseries, 19 Main Road, Parson Drove, Wisbech PE13 4JA Granted.

257/23 b. F/YR23/0710/CERTIP Certificate of Lawful Use (Proposed); Erect a detached garage and car port to side of existing dwelling at Sherwood Lodge, 243 Main Road, Parson Drove, Wisbech PE13 4LF Permission not required.

**258/23 Planning Applications for comment.**

258/23. a. 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.

Councillors discussed the application and recommended refusal.

The proposed development encroached into the open countryside and would detrimentally impact the established line of built development for Parson Drove. This is also contrary to policy LP 12 Part A; sections (a), (b), (c) and (d).

Councillors noted that a Community Consultation however felt that the offer of a donation to community facilities will have influenced a large number of parishioners who indicated their support for the application. There is no formal agreement yet in place to provide this donation, therefore the community support has to be considered against this fact. The Parish Council were not happy to accept this as just a condition.

It was noted Access & Design Statement referred to the road being made up to an adoptable standard however were concerned that the access road would not be able to cope with the additional dwellings.

Therefore, as the application does not have support of the Parish Council it is contrary to the Neighbourhood Plan, policy 2 where Parish Council support is required for developments of 5 or more and should not be given planning permission.

Cllr Rouse had declared an interest and took no part in the debate.

258/23. b F/YR23/0855/VOC, variation of condition 11 (list of approved plans) relating to planning permission F/YR21/1307/F Erect 4 dwellings including temporary siting of a caravan to enable design changes on land north of 1 -5 Brewery Close, Parson Drove. Noted by Councillors.

**259/23. To agree the payments of the Council**

259/23 a. Payments to be made:

1. Clerks Salary £520.03
2. Clerks working from home allowance £30
3. Postage costs £ none presented.

259/23. b. Payments already made by Direct Debit:

1. EON £33.00 correct amount £48.32
2. Wave £20.00
3. EE Telephone £24.91 correct amount £22.80

259/23. c. Payments received

1. Fenland District Council Recycling credit 21/22 £145.28

259/23. d. Grant Request from Southea Parochial Church Council for grass cutting. Councillors resolved to approve a grant of £750 as per budget allocation.

**260/23. Village Voices**

The Chairman advised that the working group had held a meeting last week to discuss the way forward. It was established that the production of Village Voices took approximately 3 to 4 days a month and required a certain amount of expertise to design and collate before being printed. At present no-one was prepared to take on this commitment and Cllr Unwin

would make 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.

**261/23. FACT.**

Cllr Diane Cutler had prepared a draft questionnaire to ascertain the level of interest in the proposed scheme of a Shuttle Bus service between the villages of Murrow and Parson Drove to connect to the Excel bus either at The Horsefair in Wisbech or the A47 at Guyhirn.

A discussion took place on how best to reach people and whether to rely solely on Social Media via Facebook and Village Websites or whether to also provide a paper questionnaire delivered to every household. Councillors decided not to provide paper questionnaires and would approve the draft questionnaire in the next few days with some Councillors indicating their approval at the meeting.

**262/23. To receive the Amenities 95 report.**

Councillor Booth advised that the outside lights down the side of the village hall had now been installed. There was a Committee Meeting being held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November. Cllr Unwin asked to be notified of any future events planned for next year in order to avoid any clash with dates with events being organised by the Friends of St Johns Church.

**263/23. To receive the Police Report.**

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

**264/23. To collate agenda items for the next meeting.**

1. Consider quotes for refurbishment of the Bus Shelter & Fencing the Lancaster Notice Board
2. Parking and Streetlighting at the School
3. Village Sign Refurbishment
4. Update on works to trees on the Green
5. Update on works to the Cage
6. Maintenance of the Village Green

**265/23. To agree a date, time and venue of the next meeting.**

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 13th December 2023 at 7.00pm in Parson Drove Village Hall.

**266/23 Staffing Matters**

266/23. 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.

266/23. b. Staffing Matters

Update was noted and action agreed.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.