



PARSON DROVE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on
**Wednesday 20th November 2024 at The Pavilion, Main Road, Parson
Drove**

Attended by Councillors: A Rouse (Chairman), G Booth (Vice-Chairman), P Spriggs, P Unwin, R Fowler
& Cllr Williams

FDC Councillors: G Booth | CCC Councillor:

Members of the public: 0

Also Present: Sarah Phillips (Clerk)

308/24. To agree apologies for absence

Apologies had been received and accepted from Fenland District Councillor M Humphrey, D Cutler, S King and Y Reader.

309/24. To consider any requests by Councillors for dispensation.

Cllr Spriggs and Cllr Booth requested a dispensation for agenda item 330/24 Gardens and Allotments.

310/24. To receive Members Declarations of Interest

- Cllr Rouse declared a pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item 333/24 as an employee of FACT.
- Cllr G Booth declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 336/24 as he is a committee member of the Amenities 95 Management Committee

311/24. **Open Forum** – Public participation. Agenda item time limited to 15 minutes.

To allow up to 3 minutes for each member of the public who wishes to address the Council.

In the absence of Cllr Cutler the following was reported by Cllr Rouse.

PARSON DROVE AND WSM COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH (CSW)

The monitor has been returned to the Constabulary for repair. We have a temporary handheld replacement device. Using this device is not without problems. It looks like a mobile phone; therefore, the assumption is made that we are taking photographs. Should the Parish Council receive any complaints you can assure them that the device only shows the speed the vehicle is travelling at. It has no facility to take photographs. Should complainants wish to discuss further please ask them to either contact Cambridgeshire Constabulary or me by email: csw.wsmppdward@gmail.com In November we held 3 x 1-hour sessions in Parson Drove. The team continues to do its best to raise awareness with speeding.

BENCH – Installed in Back Road Murrow. I have been collecting feedback regarding the bench installed in Murrow. All information received has been positive. Throughout the summer many people who were crossing the fields to and from Parson Drove or walking Back and Front Road loop have been using the bench to break their journey. Murrow Street Pride has recently cut back the overgrown bushes so that none of the branches can reach anyone sitting on the bench.

SHUTTLEBUS I have circulated posters in Murrow and Parson Drove regarding the service which is being launched. I also have it advertised on the relevant pages on social media. The advertising will be ongoing. After the launch date I will make a new poster to reflect the ongoing service. The poster will be put before Parson Drove Parish Council for approval before I advertise it anywhere.

312/24. **To agree the minutes of the meeting** dated 9th October 2024.

The minutes of the meeting dated 9th October 2024 was agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

313/24. **Matters arising from previous minutes** not covered on the agenda (for information only)

A letter has been sent to The Limes re the overgrown hedge, there has been no further contact.

Contact has been made with the drainage board who have confirmed that they are not responsible for cutting the hedges. Cllr Booth confirmed that it was a verbal agreement with Cllr Reader and Cllr Spriggs in attendance. Cllr Booth has agreed to contact the drainage board to discuss further and remind them of the verbal agreement. Cllr Fowler has received a quote for £500 which is for 10 hours (£50 per hour) work to cut the hedge from the footbridge up to Swan Bridge. It was agreed that an agenda item be tabled for the next meeting for further discussions.

It was noted that the payment of £200 for St John's planter was not included in the payments. It was **RESOLVED** that this be paid.

It was noted that minutes from 12th June, agenda item 160/24 was resolved to continue with Auditing Solutions.

314/24. **Chairs report**

Cllr Rouse has informed FACT that all future correspondence is to be directed to the clerk as with any changes so they can be discussed with the parish council (PC). FACT will invoice the PC after completion of the first month.

Cllr Rouse has assisted the Flag Marshal, and the team are aware of when the flags need to be raised or lowered.

A discussion has taken place with Street Pride with regards to the trees along the roadside, either side of Swan Bridge. Some branches have been cut down which were obscuring road signs and light by the side of The Cage. Further trees will be looked at as well as cleaning some street signs.

Cllr Rouse has been in discussions with various people and has been suggested to contact Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust about the pond to see if they can assist making it safer, more accessible and a feature for the village.

315/24. **To receive the District Councillors Reports**

There has been no full council meeting with the next scheduled for 16th December. The local plan is still in progress and Cllr Booth is no longer a substitute on the planning committee. Taxi fares have been reconsulted on and the cabinet has agreed not to proceed with the increase.

316/24. **To receive the County Councillor Report**

No further updates have been received from Cllr King.

317/24. **Highways Matters**

- a. To report any new street lighting issues
No update to provide.
- b. Any Highways Issues to be raised by Councillors.
Silers Lane is now dangerous due to the drop in the road, there are also a number of potholes.
Highways are to be contacted.

Clough Bridge gas been hit by a vehicle, which has been reported but not planned to be addressed this financial year.
- c. LHI Funding 2025/2026
It was **RESOLVED** that an application is to be put in for a speed reduction along Main Road and suggested that CSW put one in for Church End.
- d. Capittally Funded Highway Maintenance Schemes
Areas that need attention are Silvers Lane, Main Road which is flooding near the church and school, and flooding along the bank.
- e. Whittlesey Relief Road Project Consultation
Noted by the PC.

318/24. **Planning Applications** – Decision Updates: **NIL**

319/24. **Planning Applications** - For comment:

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(a)		F/YR24/0804/F	Erect a single storey extension to rear of existing dwelling at 10 Sealeys Lane, Parson Drove, Wisbech	Applicant: Mr & Mrs Shane & Rachel Venters Agent: Pat Studio Ltd	Recommend approval.
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320/24. Planning Applications - Planning Committee Complaint F/YR23/0555/O

A response has been received. The PC did not feel that a thorough investigation has been completed as they had not spoken to the Chair and Head of Planning, which should have been done before a response was sent and done at Stage 1. The PC requested the clerk respond as such.

321/24. Planning Applications – Fen Reservoir – EIA Scoping and Consultation

The application was noted by the PC.

322/24. Finance Matters - National Pay Award for 2024/2025 and NI contributions

The PC noted and agreed.

323/24. Finance Matters - To agree the outstanding payments of the Council:

Councillors **RESOLVED** that the following payments be made.

Item	Description	Total Amount	Power to Spend	VAT Element
(a)	Royal British Legion (Lancaster memorial)	30.00		0.00
(b)	Street Pride	350.00		0.00
(b)	Locum Clerk back pay 23 weeks inc. 3 x 8 hours	115.92		0.00
(c)	Clerk back pay 8 weeks inc. 2 x 1 hour	40.92		0.00
(d)	Clerks October pay (month 8)	515.20		0.00
(f)	Clerks October Expenses	39.20		0.00

324/24. Finance Matters – To ratify payments made:

(a)	P. Spriggs – Purchase of slate	70.00		0.00
(b)	EE September Telephone Bill (Direct Debit)	24.60	LG Act 1972 S111	4.10
(c)	E-on – The Cage October Energy (Direct Debit)	38.52	Parish Councils Act 1957 S3	1.84

325/24. Finance Matters – Grant Applications

- a) Southea Parochial Church Council requested a grant for £750 which was proposed by Cllr Booth, seconded by Cllr Unwin and **RESOLVED** for payment.
- b)

326/24. Finance Matters – Wrydecroft Small Grants Programme

- (a) For Councillors to receive and consider the Community Benefit Fund Agreement
It was confirmed that the grants money is to be spent by September 2025.
- (b) To agree an action on advertising the Community Benefit Fund
A form for grants is available on the PC website.

It was agreed that further grant opportunities should be looked at and to be tabled as an agenda item for the next meeting for further discussion.

327/24. Finance Matters – Update on Unity Trust online banking

The clerk will update when further news is available.

328/24. For Councillors to receive an update regarding Tree Works in the Parish

- (a) Planning Applications
The clerk has received confirmation that two trees which were originally to be removed in Seadyke Pit had not been removed as they were still green when the work was being completed. The PC requested that this be put in writing.

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A discussion took place as to why the horse chestnut has been felled rather than receiving a crown lift and have requested that the reason be given in writing by the tree surgeon.

- (b) To receive quotations and decide upon an action

Two quotes were received, it was agreed that a further quote be obtained, and a decision will be made at the next meeting.

329/24. For Councillors to receive an update regarding Village Enhancements from Wrydecroft Windfarm Grant Award

- (a) To discuss the breakdown of grant money spent so far

A breakdown was provided and noted. It was agreed that anything else would be covered from the Community Enhancement fund.

The following items have been updated through agenda items 313/24 and 314/24.

- (b) Village Planters
- (c) Village Benches
- (d) Village Green Flagpole
- (e) Flags

330/24. Gardens and Allotments

- a) To report back on responses received from letters sent to tenants asking them to clean their gardens up or informing them that their tenancy is being terminated

Tenants have been contacted and the clerk confirmed there are now 5 vacant gardens.

The clerk has received a request from one tenant who received a termination letter to see if they could keep the garden. It was agreed that it would not be possible due to the number of times they had been contacted to keep the garden in a good state.

The clerk to contact those on the waiting list.

- b) To review the rents for the Gardens and Allotments

It was **RESOLVED** that the current rents are to remain as they are.

331/24. To discuss and decide an action for a Newsletter/Village Voices

To be deferred to the next meeting, as discussed in agenda item 328/24.

332/24. To agree working parties

- Village Green: Cllr Reader, Cllr Rouse and Cllr Spriggs
- Gardens: Cllr Spriggs and Cllr Booth
- Allotments: Cllr Fowler and Cllr Williams
- Highways: Cllr Rouse and Cllr Unwin
- Street Lighting: Cllr Fowler

333/24. For Councillors to receive an update for FACT Shuttle Bus Service

Discussed under agenda item 314/24.

334/24. Government Consultation for online meetings and proxy voting

The PC felt it was generally a good idea and the clerk to respond.

335/24. The Cage Maintenance

- a) Intruder Alarm Inspection update

The intruder alarm has been inspected and required a new battery.

It was noted that there has been watermarks on the wall of The Cage, which will need to be monitored but are currently not visible.

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A quote has been received for £4600 to re-point The Cage, an agenda item is to be tabled for the next meeting.

336/24. To receive Amenities 95 Management Committee Report

A quiz night has been held, and the next meeting is in December of which all are invited.

337/24. To receive police matters

It was agreed that the agenda item is to be removed.

338/24. To collate agenda items for the next meeting

As per the minutes.

339/24. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 11th December 2024

7:00pm

Parson Drove Village Hall, Main Road, Parson Drove

The following changed meeting dates have been agreed as:

- Wednesday 15th January to be moved to 8th January
- Wednesday 29th January to be moved to 22nd January (it was requested that this meeting be held in The Cage).

Meeting closed at 20.53pm