



PARSON DROVE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on
Wednesday 9th July 2025 at Parson Drove Village Hall, Main Road, Parson Drove

Attended by Councillors: P Spriggs, Y Reader, G Booth, A Rouse, P Williams, Cllr P Unwin

County Councillor: Cllr Osborn

District Councillor: Cllr D Cutler

Members of the public: 1

Also Present: Sarah Phillips (Clerk)

182/25. To agree apologies for absence

Apologies of absence were received from Cllr R Fowler.

183/25. To consider any requests by Councillors for dispensation.

None.

184/25. To receive Members Declarations of Interest

- Cllr G Booth declared an interest in respect agenda item 198/25 and 207/25 as he is a committee member of the Amenities 95 Management Committee,
- Cllr Rouse declared an interest in 205/25 due to being employed by FACT.

185/25. 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.

Report from Diane Cutler – CSW: Following on from Government directives for 'old style policing' Cambridgeshire Constabulary has made changes for police to engage more within the community. Officers stationed at Wisbech have been given Parson Drove Parish areas they will be responsible for. David Lovitt (Known as Trev) has been appointed to Parson Drove Parish as well as other parishes. I have had a meeting with him. He intends to drop into as many community events as possible. We are also arranging for Coffee with a Coppa to take place quarterly for residents to share any concerns. Arrangements with other officers will be made to cover the rest of our FDC ward with the same. When available he will join speed watch sessions to hold enforcement in Parson Drove. Our group will now have three different officers covering enforcement in their allocated parishes. The police have not quite managed to line up the parishes accurately, Matt Smart will be covering WSM, Leverington and elsewhere. A third officer Nicola Coaker will cover Guyhirn, Gorefield and potentially Murrow. I have met with Nicola and Trev to discuss Murrow not slipping through the net because of coming under two parish councils. Both the Murrow and Parson Drove officers have agreed that they will share enforcement in Murrow when needed. Unfortunately, Nicola has not yet taken speed gun training but has promised to do so. Matt for WSM coverage is speed gun trained, I have not had a recent meeting with him, but he is the officer I previously called upon to arrange enforcement in all the villages we cover. Because we know we have three different officers to approach for arranging enforcement rather than one I have made the Constabulary aware that my group can't have enforcement taking place in Parson Drove and WSM because they are already set up to do so but not in Gorefield, Guyhirn or Murrow.

A resident has been in contact about the speed device not working and speeding or vehicles on Fen Road. It was confirmed that the speed device is now working and CSW would attend Fen Road if they are made aware of times that speeding is happening. Every incident needs to be reported to the police.

186/25. To agree the minutes of the meeting dated 11th June 2025

The minutes of the meeting dated 11th June 2025 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

187/25. Matters arising from previous minutes not covered on the agenda (for information only)

There are another 2 tenants for the allotment gardens.

188/25. To receive the Chairman's Report

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- The Flag Marshall has stepped down due to a decline in health and will speak with his deputies to see if anyone else can take over.
- A discussion took place with Street Pride to see if they could help with the overgrown trees, it was confirmed that Street Pride do not have enough members to help. A walk around has since taken place with Cllr Reader and the clerk.
- VJ Day discussions have taken place, the vicar will be attending and names read out. A wreath is to be purchased costing £30, the flag will be put on the railings and the union flag be flown on the pole. Refreshments will be served in The Cage after the event. It was agreed for the clerk to contact East Anglian regiment to inform and invite them to the event.
- Elan City have solar twin pack speed devices available for £4499. It was agreed that a further 2 quotes are required and the clerk to obtain a grant from Wrydecroft.
- Work being done on The Cage will be completed by 3rd August. Gardens will be returned back to their original state. It will be requested that hooks and wire be installed for the climbing roses.
- A walkaround has been completed with Cllr Reader, Cllr Booth, Cllr Spriggs and the clerk for the condition of assets.

189/25. To receive the District Councillors Reports

At a recent meeting the new Unitary Council was the focus.

- From the 3 options put forward by all the council's involved each council will choose its preferred option which will be collated into one document to be submitted to the Government.
- Fenland is joining with Peterborough is in all three options. Full council will be given the chance to discuss options before cabinet members meet to make the decision on which option Fenland submits.
- FDC has put out a survey which can be filled in by individuals or by community groups.
- Some District councils have said they will hold district elections as scheduled in 2027 even though councillors will only be elected for less than one year. They will hold these alongside the election for the new Unitary Council which will be a shadow council until 1st April 2028.
- Fenland has said it will not hold district elections, therefore existing cllrs will continue until 2028.
- Mayoral Authority - Government do not want to change the boundaries of existing MCAs, so we have the current geography for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Looking at boundary changes would have constraints anyway because Lincolnshire has just elected their mayor and Norfolk and Suffolk will be electing a new mayor next May.
- The next full council meeting will take place on 24th July.
- Bin collection changes will be introduced next year.

Cllr Booth confirmed that the planning development without permission on a site on Seadyke Bank has been chased but no response has been received, this will now be raised with the head of planning.

190/25. To receive the County Councillor Report

Clough bridge is in a dangerous state of repair, as it is a listed bridge highways are putting tenders out. The cost of repairing the bridge will need to be split between Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire.

A meeting is due to take place on 23rd July with regards to speed limits on the crossroad at Swan Bridge, details of the meeting will be sent to the clerk.

191/25. Highways Matters

- To report any new street lighting issues and receive updates
A quote has been received to repair streetlight PC3 Main Road for £984.96+VAT. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote.
- Any highways Issues to be raised by councillors
Work has been carried out to one of the drains but there are still issues with the drains blocking.
- Publics Rights of Way Hierarchy
Councillors requested the following be submitted:
 - No 1 and No 2 to be upgraded to an A as the pathways are used a lot.

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- No 3, 4, 5 and 6 to be upgraded to the next level, they would be used a lot more if the conditions of the pathways were better.
- It was noted that No 7 has a locked gate but a key is available.

d) LHI update

Application 135 from PDPC for speed reduction on Main Road has now been accepted. Cllrs **RESOLVED** to accept the feasibility summary with a contribution of £2,500.

192/25. Planning Applications – Decision Updates: For information

F/YR25/0329/F	Change of use from existing dwelling to care home (C2), involving the removal of external staircase and balcony, and minor alterations to door and window arrangement at Selton House 49 Back Road Murrow Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4JW	Granted
F/YR25/0325/F	Erect 3 x dwellings involving the demolition of existing extension to 1 Main Road at Land North Of 1 And 7 Main Road Parson Drove Cambridgeshire	Refuse

193/25. Planning Applications - For comment:

F/YR25/0434/F	Replacement of windows at St Marks Methodist Church 39 Main Road Parson Drove Cambridgeshire Application was noted.
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194/25. Finance Matters – To receive a finance update and reconciled accounts

The clerk is to complete a VAT return for last year. There were no further questions.

Reconciliation and bank statements were signed off by Cllr Williams.

195/25. Finance Matters – To agree the outstanding payments of the Council:

Item	Description	Total Amount	Power to Spend	VAT Element
(a)	Clerks June pay	515.20	LG Act 1972 S112	0.00
(b)	Clerks June Expenses – includes working from home allowance	30.00	LG Act 1972 S112	0.00
(c)	Fenland District Council It was noted that Ref 1513 streetlight is not working but RESOLVED to issue payment.	6167.73		1027.96

196/25. Finance Matters – To ratify payments made:

(a)	Tesco Mobile	9.50	LG Act 1972 S111	0.00
(b)	E-on – The Cage May Energy (Direct Debit)	28.39	Parish Councils Act 1957 S3	1.35
(c)	CAPALC	507.18		0.00
(d)	Paul Tibbs Ltd	250.00		50.00
(e)	James Pest Control	65.00		0.00
(a)	EE April Telephone Bill (Direct Debit)	24.60	LG Act 1972 S111	4.10
(b)	E-on – The Cage April Energy (Direct Debit)	33.06	Parish Councils Act 1957 S3	1.57

197/25. Finance Matters – Grant Applications

None.

198/25. Finance Matters – Wrydecroft Small Grants Programme

a) Parson Drove Amenities 95 Management Committee (£1000)

It was proposed by Cllr Spriggs and seconded by Cllr Reader, all in agreement and **RESOLVED** to provide a £1000 grant which will be used to purchase games and some consumables at children events.

b) Parson Drove WI (£500)

It was proposed by Cllr Booth and seconded by Cllr Unwin, all in agreement and **RESOLVED** to provide a £500 grant which will be used to be able to continue to provide WI for the foreseeable future. Councillors suggested that more advertising should take place to promote the WI.

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199/25. To consider erecting a seat in the bus shelter

It was noted that a bench is in place next to the bus shelter, but it is not under cover. Cllr Spriggs suggested building a resting ledge. It was proposed by Cllr Booth, seconded by Cllr Unwin and **RESOLVED** that a resting ledge be installed with a maximum spend of £100.

200/25. To consider the purchase of Speed Indicator Devices

Discussed in the chairman's report 188/25.

201/25. To consider the purchase of a noticeboard

Options were provided by the clerk, it was felt that a much bigger noticeboard was required, and other providers be investigated.

202/25. To consider outcome of tree inspection

A tree inspection walk has taken place with details provided to councillors. It was agreed that quotes are to be obtained from Shaun Bowles, Iceni and Willock Farm for the reduction of the canopies. Applications for further tree work will be completed by Cllr Reader and the clerk.

203/25. To consider outcome of asset inspection

The asset inspection highlighted that work is needed for and quotes to be obtained for:

- Replacement posts
- Painting the war memorial railings – it was noted that some of the railings will need to be re-welded
- Painting of the seat

204/25. Website update

Cllr Unwin met with the website provider and confirmed that the website is now updated, events and news can now be used.

The provider felt that rather have a monthly subscription for any repairs and updates that this be done as and when needed.

Cllrs requested that email addresses are to be removed as they are not in use, and councillor responsibilities to be added.

The clerk informed councillors that it is now a requirement that the clerk has a gov.uk email addresses.

205/25. For Councillors to receive an update for the FACT Shuttle Bus Service

Numbers are still low. A final decision will be made in September.

206/25. The Cage Maintenance

a) To consider quotes received for signage

Cllr Reader received a quote of £200 to repaint the signage of The Cage and is the understanding that this will be paid for by Friends of The Cage.

207/25. To receive the Amenities 95 Management Committee Report

- The car show will be taking place on the 19th and 20th July; the actual car show is on 20th.
- Fencing is to be sorted.

208/25. To collate agenda items for the next meeting

- Noticeboard
- Gov.uk email addresses

209/25. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 13th August 2025 7:00pm

Parson Drove Village Hall, Parson Drove

The meeting was declared closed at 9.05pm.

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