



PARSON DROVE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on
**Wednesday 10th December 2025 at Parson Drove Village Hall,
Main Road, Parson Drove**

Attended by Councillors: A Rouse (Chairman), P Spriggs, Y Reader, P Williams, P Unwin & R Fowler

FDC Councillor: D Cutler | CCC Councillor: A Osborn

Members of the public: 1

Also Present: Sarah Bligh (Parish Clerk)

322/25. **To agree apologies for absence**

Apologies of absence were received and accepted from Cllr Booth.

323/25. **To consider any requests by Councillors for dispensation**

- The Chairman, Cllr Rouse submitted a request for a dispensation under section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 to enable discussion on item 338/25 – FACT Shuttlebus
- It was noted that Cllr Rouse due to being a current employee of FACT sought permission to be allowed to address the meeting, remain in the room and hear the discussions.
- The request for dispensation was unanimously approved by Council.

324/25. **To receive Members Declarations of Interest**

- Cllr Rouse declared a prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 338/25 due to being a current employee of FACT.
- Cllr Rouse declared that a resident had contacted him about planning application 333/25(b), but he has no predetermination and remains open-minded.

325/25. **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.

- Cllr Diane Cutler as the Co-ordinator for the Parson Drove & Wisbech St Mary Ward Community Speedwatch (CSW), provided an update on recent activities. Over the past three months, there have been numerous police enforcement sessions conducted within Parson Drove. In her opinion, these enforcement sessions have had a noticeable impact on driver behaviour in the area.
- During CSW's recent sessions in Parson Drove, the group observed such a positive effect that three sessions were abandoned halfway through, owing to the absence of speeding vehicles. Consequently, the CSW team relocated to Murrow War Memorial, a location where speeding issues are known to persist, and set up operations there.
- The usual three-letter enforcement cycle, managed by Cambridgeshire Constabulary, remains in operation. Notably, the third and final letter in this process being delivered in person by a police officer.
- Additionally, a new system developed by the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) and CSW allows speeding incidents recorded by CSW to be reported directly to the NPT. While police cannot use CSW data for enforcement, they may visit registered owners of vehicles caught speeding excessively to inform them of the observation and provide advice. This approach aims to reinforce CSW's role by warning drivers that a police visit may follow if they are recorded speeding by volunteers.

326/25. **To agree the minutes (and confidential minutes) of the meeting** dated 12th November 2025

The minutes of the meeting dated 12th November 2025, and the confidential minutes dated 12th November 2025 were both agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

327/25. **Matters arising from previous minutes** not covered on the agenda (for information only)

- The Clerk reported that the review of the Financial Regulations and Standing Orders, as well as a newly created IT Policy will be on next month's agenda due to an increased workload during December.
- The streetlight in Ingham Hall Gardens has been reported to CCC regarding enforcement due to an overgrown conifer.
- The DD mandate for the provision of Microsoft 365 through Tamar has been brought to the meeting to be signed by the authorised signatories.
- The Clerk also drew attention to the discussions regarding the new village noticeboard, and although the agreed upon size fitted 16 A4 sheets, these were landscape and with all her paperwork being portrait, would have a lesser max capacity. This needs to be re discussed before final decisions are made and the noticeboard is ordered.
- A sign for the permissive walkway has been drafted; this will be circulated next month for consideration.

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328/25. To receive the Chairman's Report

- On 17th November 2025, the Chairman met on site with the Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) Highways Officer responsible for overseeing the completion of the Fen Road drainage scheme. Also in attendance were Cllr Spriggs and CCC Cllr Osborn. The meeting produced a constructive outcome, with all parties agreeing on the need to enhance communication with both local residents and the Parish Council before any adjustments to the current road closure are implemented. During the site visit, the provision of road planings for the permissive walkway was discussed and agreed. This measure aims to improve the height of the footpath where it connects to the wooden footbridge, thereby enhancing accessibility for users. Additionally, the repair of the road sign along with the wooden fencing at the Swan Bridge triangle, and the reinstallation of a crash barrier to the footbridge were discussed. It was agreed that these repairs would be referred to the relevant department to ensure that the necessary work is carried out.
- The Chairman also reported receiving communication from a resident concerning the construction of a structure on Main Road. In response, the Chairman advised the resident to contact Fenland District Council (FDC) Planning regarding any potential enforcement matters.
- In a separate matter, another resident contacted the Chairman about the installation of a caravan and a wooden structure on a building plot in Brewery Close. The Chairman similarly recommended that this resident approach FDC Planning for further advice.
- The Chairman concluded his report by noting that he has held numerous discussions with the Clerk in an effort to address and bring up to date all outstanding items.

329/25. To receive the District Councillors Reports

- Cllr Cutler reported that the next full Council meeting of Fenland District Council (FDC) is scheduled for Monday 15th December 2025. During this meeting, Cllr Booth is expected to address the agenda item concerning the proposed withdrawal of the Draft Fenland Local Plan (2019–2040) and the initiation of a new Local Plan. This new plan would be prepared under the revised plan-making system introduced by the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 and will aim to be completed within the next two years.
- Cllr Cutler further explained that the Government has revised the local plan process and imposed a deadline of 31st December 2026 for submitting plans under the current system. As a result, council officers are recommending that the Council commence work under the new planning process instead. Cllr Cutler observed that Cllr Booth is likely to remain sceptical about the feasibility of completing the new Local Plan within the two-year timeframe, especially given that the previous plan was not achieved over the past seven years. Additionally, as the agenda report does not provide an explanation of the new government rules process, Cllr Booth is also expected to raise questions on this matter.

330/25. To receive the County Councillor Report

- Cllr Osborn reported that there are ongoing road closures currently in place. These closures are necessary to facilitate the roll out of City Fibre, a project designed to provide local residents with enhanced options for faster broadband. The initiative forms part of the Cambridgeshire County Council connectivity programme, which aims to improve digital infrastructure and access for the community.
- In addition, Cllr Osborn noted that the area has experienced some localised flooding, primarily as a result of blocked drains and gulleys. However, he is increasingly able to address these issues effectively, owing to the establishment of new contacts who can assist in resolving drainage problems.
- Cllr Osborn reported that he intends to start a councillor surgery in Parson Drove during 2026.
- Cllr Osborn also reported he is in the process of setting up a Marine Training Corp for interested youths in Murrow.

331/25. Highways Matters

(a) To report any new street lighting issues – No discussion took place under this item

(b) To report any Highways Issues to be raised by Councillors.

- Cllr Williams reported a pothole at the top of Sealeys Lane just before the junction, Cllr Unwin expressed concern that many potholes are appearing in Church End and drew attention to one outside 313 Main Road.
- Cllr Reader reported that she had received a reply from Highways regarding the potholes along Seadyke Bank, that they have been inspected and agreed them to be dangerous, and will be repaired as soon as possible.
- Cllr Spriggs expressed frustration that none of the issues on Long Drove have been marked up as inspected and Silvers Lane has become unsurpassable to traffic due to rainwater filling the potholes, which hide the dangers of hitting one of these craters.
- Cllr Spriggs expressed frustration that the drain repairs outside 6 Fen Road causing flooding cannot be fixed by Anglian Water (AW) yet due to them needing their own road closure notice, even though the road is currently closed by CCC. Cllr Spriggs advised that AW aim to be on site once the CCC works have been completed.
- Cllr Spriggs raised the question of what CCC intend to do to the roadside verges of Bridge Drove (Johnsons Drove) as they have been greatly affected during the drainage works. The Clerk to follow up with CCC.

(c) To consider the 2026/27 Local Highways Improvement (LHI) Application.

- 1) Closing the slip road at Swan Bridge Junction to traffic exiting the village

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2) Footway extension along south side of Fen Road

3) 300m 40mph Buffer Zone with dragons' teeth road markings and signage on entrance to Murrow
Councillors considered three potential options for the forthcoming Local Highways Improvement (LHI) application period. The following views and considerations were discussed:

Cllr Spriggs expressed strong support for option 1, highlighting the persistent issue of limited visibility at the Swan Bridge junction. He noted that the area is often utilised in a way that resembles a roundabout, which increases the likelihood of accidents if the current slip continues to be used in such a manner. To address associated parking difficulties, Cllr Spriggs also proposed the introduction of a parking time restriction for the layby adjacent to the slip, as it is frequently occupied by vehicles throughout the day, creating difficulties for those seeking accessible parking at the village shop.

Cllr Reader expressed reservations about option 1, recalling that this proposal had previously been explored and the CCC Safety Officer did not endorse it as a safe improvement. In contrast, Cllr Unwin supported option 1, citing the high number of incidents at this location.

Cllr Spriggs reported that option 2, the footway extension, originated from discussions at the recent Fen Road meeting. He outlined that new drainage works have resulted in high kerbing, which would support the development of a full footway. However, Cllr Reader noted that this scheme has been submitted on several occasions but has never scored highly enough to be successful, often being deemed too costly for a single application. She further expressed disappointment that, despite a letter of support from the school in one year, the application remained unsuccessful. CCC Cllr Osborn indicated his support for the Fen Road footway extension, emphasising the benefits for pedestrian safety.

FDC Cllr Cutler expressed support for option 3, explaining that it arose from findings during Community Speed Watch (CSW) sessions. This proposal has garnered full support from the Police, who disagree with the direct transition from a 60mph to a 30mph speed limit, as currently experienced when entering Murrow from Parson Drove. Cllr Spriggs suggested that option 3 could be a joint application with Wisbech St Mary Parish Council for the 2027/2028 period, as the location sits on the boundary between the two parishes. Cllr Reader expressed her support for this approach.

The Clerk advised Councillors to remain mindful of the budget for the 2026/2027 LHI applications. It was noted that if an application is classified as complex, a minimum contribution of £2,500 would be required. Cllr Spriggs expressed concern regarding both the budget and the precept, suggesting that the Parish Council might opt not to submit an application in the next year. In response, Cllr Reader proposed focusing on a single application for 2026/2027, a recommendation that received unanimous support from the Councillors. Following further discussion, Cllr Unwin proposed that option 1, the Swan Bridge junction improvements, be put forward as the LHI application for 2026/2027. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Fowler and agreed by the Councillors present.

- (d) To discuss Fen Road Drainage Improvements – Road Closure and issues raised

The Chairman noted that the road closure period has been extended by two days.

Cllr Fowler expressed frustration with the limited progress on Fen Road, noting that the new kerbs have narrowed the appearance of the carriageway, which may cause lorries to mount the new griddles risking damage to both the griddles and road surface. He also raised concerns about a six-inch cast iron water main now being more vulnerable to damage due to changes in the road layout.

Cllr Williams raised the question whether CCC will make early contact with local residents and the Parish Council prior to phase two, so any concerns can be discussed, and no further mistakes are made. Cllr Spriggs reported that the Council Officer overseeing the project volunteered to attend a Parish Council meeting and listen to comments before phase two commences.

- (e) To suggest any roads or footpaths for the CCC Capitially Funded Highway Maintenance Scheme – deadline December 11th.

Cllr Fowler raised the suggestion of the Fen Road footpath, that has needed to be resurfaced for at least two years.

Cllr Reader raised the suggestion of Back Road, Murrow as the resurfacing was promised 15 years ago, and the road is still to be done. The Clerk to suggest these items via the dedicated CCC link.

332/25. Planning Applications – Decision Updates:

(a)	F/YR25/0771/TRCA	Works to 1x Holly Tree within a conservation area at Southea Grange 33 Main Road Parson Drove Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4JA	GRANTED
(b)	F/YR25/0763/TRCA	Works to 1 x Hornbeam within a conservation area at Village Green Station Road Parson Drove Cambridgeshire	GRANTED

(c)	F/YR25/0766/TRCA	Works to 1 x Cherry Tree and 1 x Maple Tree within a conservation area at Village Green The Bank Parson Drove Cambridgeshire	GRANTED
(d)	F/YR25/0764/TRCA	Works to 1 x Beech Tree and 1 x Maple Tree within a conservation area at Village Green Station Road Parson Drove Cambridgeshire	GRANTED

333/25. **Planning Applications** – For Comment:

(a)	F/YR25/0853/F	Erect 2 dwellings, involving demolition of existing extension at 1 Main Road Parson Drove Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4JA The Parish Council recommended REFUSAL based on the development overlooking into the school, overlooking into the private amenity space of 1 The Bank, Overlooking due to development being a 2 storey dwelling beside 1 storey dwellings, Backland Development and being in a conservation area. The Parish Council would consider support if the application was for single storey properties.	Applicant: Mr Sundavadra Agent: Distinct Designs UK Ltd
(b)	F/YR25/0870/F	Change of use of land for residential use and erect 1.2m (max) front boundary fence and 1.8m (max) rear boundary fence (retrospective) at Land North and East Of 124 Main Road Parson Drove Cambridgeshire The Parish Council recommended REFUSAL. They raised concerns regarding the reduced width of Silvers Lane caused by the boundary fence, and as the road is primarily used by agricultural traffic and the maximum road legal width being 3m, the fence remaining in this position would cause significant problems. Councillors also raised concerns regarding the loss of the potential for continuation of the footway across the top of Silvers Lane, which would be a significant issue should the other side of Silvers Lane be developed.	Applicant: Mr & Mrs Woulfe Agent: Swann Edwards Architecture Limited
(c)	F/YR25/0873/F	Erect 1 x self-build/custom build dwelling with detached double garage involving the demolition of existing buildings at Land North of Danlyn Long Drove Parson Drove Cambridgeshire The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL	Applicant: Mr & Mrs N Markillie Agent: Swann Edwards Architecture Limited
(d)	F/YR25/0899/F	Erect 1 x self-build/custom build dwelling with detached double garage involving the demolition of existing dwelling and buildings at Danlyn Long Drove Parson Drove Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4JT The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL	Applicant: Mr & Mrs N Markillie Agent: Swann Edwards Architecture Limited

334/25. **Finance Matters**

(a) To receive the Finance & Budget Report for 2025/2026 to date.

The bank reconciliation of 31st October 2025 balanced at £105,933.56 which was between the Santander Current Account of £53,315.51, the Santander Savings Account of £15,255.24 and the Unity Trust Account of £35,970.23; with £4,264.37 of unrepresented payments and £5,656.95 of unrepresented receipts. The report was agreed to and signed off by Cllr Pam Williams and unanimously agreed by Councillors.

(b) To receive the 2026/27 Draft Budget and Forecast Report from the Clerk.

The Clerk delivered the RFO Budget Setting Report for 2026/2027 to the Council with the recommendations that:

- All Cllrs to consider the first edition of the draft budget and liaise with the clerk to ensure that expenditure, allocation of reserves and proposed projects are correctly included.
- Council notes that the final budget should be signed off at the January Precept Meeting (ready for the precept demand submission to FDC by 4th February 2026).
- Council notes that any changes to the 'Tax Base' will alter the projected Precept figures contained within this report.
- Councillors to consider that the clerk's laptop is now four years old.
- Council notes the virement of £2000 from Streetlighting ACR into Clerks Salary to lower the overspend.

Councillors noted the report and agreed to the Clerks recommendations. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for her work and the delivery of a comprehensive report.

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(c) To note price increase to Unity Trust bank charges

The Clerk reported that with effect from 1st February 2026 the monthly account fee will increase from £6.00 to £7.00. Price increases will also affect cash deposits, cheque deposits as well as BACS payments which are calculated monthly but charged quarterly. This was noted by Councillors.

335/25. **Finance Matters** - To agree the outstanding payments of the Council:

Item	Description	Total Amount	Power to Spend	
(a)	Clerks November Pay – Includes 10 extra hours	£1108.42	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(b)	Clerks November Expenses – includes Working from Home Allowance	£38.49	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(c)	HMRC Tax & NI for Month 7 - Outstanding	£98.56	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(d)	HMRC Tax & NI for Month 9	£130.51	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(e)	P. Spriggs – Replacement posts on Village Green	£96.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 SS9-10	Agreed
(f)	P. Spriggs – Painting & Fitting of Cage Guttering	£287.00	LG Act 1972 S133	Agreed
(g)	SLCC Membership - Clerk	£202.00	LG Act 1972 S143	Agreed
(h)	SLCC – 14 th Edition of Charles Arnold Baker Book	£149.40	LG Act 1972 S111	Agreed
(i)	CCC - Murrow Bank Speed Reduction PFHI	£16715.75	Highways Act 1980	Agreed
(j)	Eon Next – November Energy for the Cage	£39.41	Parish Councils Act 1957 S3	Agreed

336/25. **Finance Matters** – To ratify payments made:

(a)	Tesco Mobile (Direct Debit)	£9.50	LG Act 1972 S111	Approved
(b)	FACT – Shuttlebus October	£295.46	LG & Rating Act 1997 S26	Approved
(c)	Bank charges – Unity Bank (Standing Order)	£6.00	LG Act 1972 S111	Approved
(d)	Parson Drove Pre School – Book Tokens	£15.00	LG Act 1972 S137	Approved

The Clerk requested that an additional invoice for the FACT shuttlebus for the month of November for £154.43 (No VAT) be paid, which was agreed to by Councillors.

Following all discussions, the Council **resolved** to **authorise** the expenditure for the month of November and **ratified** the payments already made, the outstanding payments would be paid by BACS from the Unity Trust bank account. The agreed invoices were checked and signed off by Cllrs Rouse and Unwin.

The Clerk reported on item 336/25(d) that as the Parish Council does not have a statutory power to buy book tokens, the money had to be granted to the Pre School as a Community Group under S137 of the Local Government Act 1972 for the purchase of the book tokens. The Pre School will be running the poster competition in the New Year and have forwarded thanks to the Parish Council for their support. Parson Drove Street Pride have also thanked the Parish Council for their involvement in a worthwhile project and look forward to seeing the posters.

337/25. **Finance Matters – Grant Applications**

- (a) Section 137 Applications - **Nil**
- (b) Wrydecroft Small Grants Programme - **Nil**

338/25. **FACT Shuttlebus** – To discuss the use and future of the community transport scheme provided by the Parish Council

The Chairman provided an update regarding the usage of the FACT shuttlebus over the past four weeks, noting that there had been no bookings during this period. Despite previous discussions in September and comprehensive advertising across all available media channels, there has been minimal uptake of the service, which the Chairman expressed disappointment about.

FDC Cllr Cutler recalled that initial interest in the shuttlebus was substantial, as evidenced by the results of the community survey carried out before its launch. However, Cllr Spriggs suggested that the lack of use might be due to the route, proposing that more residents would have utilised the service if it had run directly to Peterborough instead of Wisbech. The Chairman clarified that the original intention for the shuttlebus was to serve as a link to Wisbech Bus Station, enabling onward journeys for shoppers to locations including Kings Lynn, March, and Peterborough.

Cllr Williams questioned whether the decline in user numbers represented a developing trend or simply a general reduction in demand. In response, the Chairman stated that the service had never served more than four passengers at any one time, and this peak had only occurred during the school summer holidays.

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Cllr Spriggs voiced concerns over the continued operation of the shuttlebus, suggesting that it would not be a prudent use of the grant funding generously provided by Wrydecroft Windfarm if the service was not being utilised. The Clerk confirmed that, of the initial grant of £7,265, approximately £4,500 remained unspent.

Cllr Reader enquired about the notice period required by FACT to discontinue the service. The Chairman estimated that one month would be sufficient. After further discussion, Cllr Spriggs proposed that the Council terminate the shuttlebus service and return any unused funds to Wrydecroft Windfarm, this was seconded by Cllr Fowler and agreed to by the Council.

The Clerk requested that the Chairman notify FACT of the Council's decision and provide the necessary notice of service termination. FACT was also asked to submit a final invoice, after which the Clerk will arrange for the transfer of the outstanding grant balance to the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation. The Chairman agreed to send a formal letter to FACT, confirming the Council's decision and outlining the next steps.

339/25. Correspondence

- (a) Clerks & Council Direct Magazine – For Councillors to consider magazine subscription at £15.50 per Councillor per annum.

The Clerk reported that the magazine, which provides valuable advice and project ideas for Parish Councils and Councillors across the UK, would be beneficial for the Parish Council to receive. Cllr Reader shared that during her time as Clerk, she found the magazine useful, often saving articles to share with the Council, and expressed her personal interest in subscribing. FDC Cllr Cutler and CCC Cllr Osborn also requested to join the Parish Council's subscription at their own expense. After further discussion, it was agreed that all Councillors (except Cllr Booth, who already receives the magazine through WSM Parish Council) would subscribe to the bi-monthly publication. The Clerk noted that the clerk's copy is free, while the six Parish Councillors would cost £15.50 per year, and the two Non-Parish Councillors would pay £16.50 each per year.

- (b) CCC - RECAP Resource and Waste Strategy and RECAP Design Guide Consultation – This was **noted** by Councillors.

340/25. Allotments

- (a) To consider tenant request for a 13m x 6m Polytunnel on Garden Allotment 23

The Council considered a request from a tenant to install a polytunnel measuring 13 metres by 6 metres on Garden Allotment 23.

During the discussion, Cllr Spriggs reported that he had met on site with the tenant who expressed enthusiasm to proceed with the allotment. Cllr Williams enquired whether the installation of such a structure was permissible under the terms of the tenancy agreement. The Clerk clarified that the agreement allows for temporary structures, provided that specific approval is granted by the Parish Council.

Following further discussion, Cllr Reader proposed that the Council approve the tenant's request, subject to the condition that the tenant would be responsible for dismantling the polytunnel and removing any concrete fittings when vacating the allotment. This proposal was agreed upon by the Council.

The Clerk will write to the tenant to formally grant permission for the polytunnel, outlining the agreed conditions.

- (b) Cllr Booth asked the Clerk to relay a concern he had received from a resident in his absence; that the allotment access is in poor condition and whether anything could be done to improve this by working with North Level Internal Drainage Board (NLIDB)

Cllr Spriggs explained that the access has deteriorated due to heavy vehicles used by NLIDB for drain dredging, which, combined with recent heavy rainfall, has softened the ground. Additionally, a local farmer has been using the track to access their land while Fen Road is closed, contributing further to the wear. Cllr Spriggs suggested that additional road planings from Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) could be sourced and added to the track to improve its stability. Cllr Reader noted that access has been unofficially granted by NLIDB for at least 50 years, but since there is no formal legal agreement for the track as an official allotment access, any improvements should be undertaken in agreement with NLIDB. The Clerk was tasked to follow up with both NLIDB and CCC regarding possible improvements.

341/25. Assets & Maintenance

- (a) To discuss restoration of the Information Board beside the Cage

The Chairman examined the Information Board by the Cage and believes only the acrylic top layer needs replacement, with the information below likely intact. He will look into replacement options and update the Clerk.

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- (b) To consider quotes received for Tree Works to 1 x Beech (42), 2 x Maple (21 & 47), 1 x Hornbeam (3) and 1 x Cherry (13) within a conservation area.

The Clerk reported that obtaining quotes has been very challenging, and only one company DKO Wheatley has responded, providing prices for just a portion of the work schedule. The Clerk noted that the quote for the Hornbeam (3) was £120 (Exc VAT), and requested approval to proceed, as this issue was brought to the Council in response to a resident's complaint. This was approved by Council.

The Clerk reported on her meeting held on Wednesday 3rd December alongside Cllr Reader, with the Fenland District Council (FDC) tree officer. This meeting was prompted by the tree officer's initial recommendation to refuse the proposed height reductions to the trees lining The Bank. A discussion took place with a view to reaching a compromise on the maintenance of these trees.

During the meeting, the tree officer agreed that a reduction in the spread and weight of the trees could be achieved by removing any growth within three metres of the edge of the footpath (white line on the road). In addition, it was agreed to crown lift the trees to gutter height, not exceeding eight metres, ensuring that no branch larger than 10 cms in diameter would be removed. The works would also include thinning the canopy by 20%.

The tree officer identified the potential presence of disease in a few trees and advised that a comprehensive health check be conducted prior to commencing any work. It was noted that some trees might require felling, which would necessitate further planning applications. The Clerk has since obtained contact details for three specialist companies within the UK capable of carrying out in-depth tree health assessments.

The Clerk agreed to contact other Clerks and Council Officers to identify additional companies that could provide quotes for the required works. Cllr Reader informed the Council that the existing planning permissions are valid for two years, providing sufficient time to seek further quotations from a broader range of providers. It was agreed that the Clerk would meet with DKO Wheatley on site to explain the schedule of works, as most applications are now in the process of being granted, following the earlier meeting with the tree officer. Given the limited time available and the fact that only two council meetings remain before the start of the nesting season, it was resolved that financial approval to spend the entire maintenance budget allocated for trees and hedges (£5,650) may be given through discussions between the Clerk, Chairman, and Cllr Reader, who is the councillor responsible for the Village Green.

It was further advised that any chippings resulting from the tree works should be retained by the Parish Council for the purpose of spreading along the Permissive Walkway.

342/25. The Cage Maintenance

- (a) To receive an update regarding replacement guttering

Cllr Spriggs reported that all the guttering has been replaced, though he would like to adjust the section closest to the house due to a curve in the brick wall. The Chairman offered assistance with any necessary modifications. In addition, Cllr Spriggs confirmed that gutter guards have been installed to prevent leaf blockages. The Chairman mentioned that the refurbishment of the sign on the cage is still pending. Cllr Fowler reported he has not yet managed to contact the individual he initially approached regarding this work.

343/25. To receive the Amenities '95 Management Committee Report

FDC Cllr Cutler as the Secretary of Amenities '95, reported a positive update regarding the usage of the hall. She noted that bookings have increased, and the facility is being utilised regularly by the community. The recent purchase of games, bought for the Halloween event using a grant from the Parish Council, proved to be highly popular with both children and adults. Cllr Cutler expressed her delight, describing the games as lovely and anticipated they would continue to be well used at future events. She confirmed that these games are also scheduled to be used at the forthcoming Children's Christmas party, which is to be held on Saturday, 20th December 2025.

During the discussion, Cllr Reader enquired about progress on a possible collaboration with Cambridgeshire ACRE to develop a Community Hub. The Parish Council was updated that, as of the meeting, no contact had been made to advance this initiative.

344/25. To collate agenda items for the next meeting

Cllr Unwin – Facebook social media Page for Parson Drove Parish Council

345/25. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 14th January 2026 7:00pm

Parson Drove Village Hall, Main Road, Parson Drove

The meeting was closed at 9:20pm

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