



# PARSON DROVE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Precept Meeting held on  
**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at Parson Drove Village Hall,  
Main Road, Parson Drove**

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

Members of the public: 1

Also Present: Sarah Bligh (Parish Clerk)

## 25/26. To agree apologies for absence

Apologies of absence were received and accepted from Cllr Williams, FDC Cllr Cutler and CCC Cllr Osborn.

## 26/26. To consider any requests by Councillors for dispensation – None Received

## 27/26. To receive Members Declarations of Interest – None Received

## 28/26. 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.*

No discussion took place under this item.

## 29/26. Planning Applications – Decision Updates: **Noted**

(a)	F/YR25/0853/F	Erect 2 dwellings, involving demolition of existing extension at 1 Main Road Parson Drove Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4JA	GRANTED
(b)	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	REFUSED

## 30/26. Finance Matters

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

The bank reconciliation of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 balanced at £85,539.97 which was between the Santander Current Account of £52,790.81, the Santander Savings Account of £15,280.75 and the Unity Trust Account of £18,821.06 with £1,352.65 of unrepresented payments. The report was agreed to and signed off by Cllr Yvonne Reader and unanimously agreed by Councillors.

Cllr Reader proposed that the remainder of the budget left unspent for Maintenance & Risk Maintenance of Assets at the end of this financial year (which is forecast to be approximately £1300) be moved into an allocated cash reserve for 2026/27 for the repair of the war memorial railings. This was agreed by Councillors.

Cllr Reader surmised that the budget for the Maintenance for Trees and Hedges will be exhausted by the end of the financial year due to the works approved at the last meeting, however if this remains unspent due to works or invoicing delays this needs to be moved into allocated cash reserves. This was agreed by Councillors.

The Clerk recommended that the unspent budget from this financial year for Local highways Improvement Schemes be added to the Minor Highways Improvements Schemes allocated cash reserve to be able to finance the £2500 and £3500 contributions committed to the most recent LHI schemes approved for delivery. This was approved by Councillors.

Cllr Booth proposed that both the unspent budgets for streetlighting (£500 for energy costs, and £1000 for repairs and maintenance) be placed into the streetlighting – Energy & maintenance allocated cash reserve at the end of the financial year and then vired back into the 2026/27 budget at the start of the new financial year. This was agreed by Councillors.

- ***Cllr Booth proposed that members consider a resolution for 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 to discuss the pension contributions for the Clerk as the figures affected the***

**budget. This was seconded by Cllr Unwin and agreed by Council. The members of the public present and the Clerk were duly asked to leave at 7:20pm**

- **Cllr Booth proposed that the Council moved back into open session at 7:40pm and the Clerk & public re-entered the meeting.**

(b) To consider and agree on the Budget and Precept for 2026/2027

Councillors discussed the budget for 2026/27 taking into account the allocated cash reserves and the anticipated financial situation at the end of this financial year as discussed earlier in the meeting. The budget as detailed below was proposed by Cllr Booth, seconded by Cllr Spriggs and agreed by Councillors.

The precept demand of £23,176.00 was proposed by Cllr Booth, seconded by Cllr Unwin and agreed by all present.

Councillors resolved to set a Precept of **£23,176.**

BUDGET & PRECEPT 2026-2029				
Expenditure	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Clerks Salary, HMRC & Pension	£7,000.00	£13,400.00	£14,070.00	£14,773.50
Clerks Expenses	£500.00	£500.00	£525.00	£551.25
Grass Cutting and Open Spaces	£5,500.00	£6,250.00	£6,562.50	£6,890.63
The Cage - Equipment Purchase & Maintenance	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	£1,575.00	£1,653.75
Insurance & General Admin	£2,500.00	£2,750.00	£2,887.50	£3,031.88
Audit Fees	£800.00	£850.00	£892.50	£937.13
Maintenance of Trees & Hedges	£6,250.00	£6,250.00	£6,562.50	£6,890.63
Section 137 grants	£400.00	£250.00	£262.50	£275.63
Churchyard Grant	£850.00	£900.00	£945.00	£992.25
Allotment Expenses	£250.00	£275.00	£288.75	£303.19
Street Lighting Energy Costs	£500.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Street Lighting repairs and maintenance	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Maintenance & Risk Management of Assets	£2,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,050.00	£1,102.50
Clerk & Councillor Training	£0.00	£1,000.00	£1,050.00	£1,102.50
Parish Council Election Costs	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Local Highway Improvement schemes	£4,000.00	£2,500.00	£2,625.00	£2,756.25
Privately Funded Highways Improvement Schemes	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Community Projects	£0.00	£1,000.00	£1,050.00	£1,102.50
Chairmans Allowance		£50.00	£52.50	£55.13
<b>Total</b>	<b>£33,050.00</b>	<b>£38,475.00</b>	<b>£40,398.75</b>	<b>£42,418.69</b>
Estimated Income	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Bank Interest	£250.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
VAT refund	£3,750.00	£5,000.00	£4,500.00	£4,500.00
Concurrent Functions Grant FDC	£5,329.00	£5,329.00	£5,329.00	£5,329.00
CCC grant for cutting roadside verges	£650.00	£670.00	£675.00	£675.00
Garden & Allotment Rents	£3,000.00	£3,300.00	£3,300.00	£3,300.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£12,979.00</b>	<b>£15,299.00</b>	<b>£14,804.00</b>	<b>£14,804.00</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE LESS INCOME PRECEPT</b>	<b>£20,071.00</b>	<b>£23,176.00</b>	<b>£25,594.75</b>	<b>£27,614.69</b>
Increase/Decrease %		<b>+15.47%</b>	<b>+10.44%</b>	<b>+7.89%</b>
Tax Base	464	469		
Council Tax Per Band D Property	£43.26	£49.42		
Increase/Decrease %		<b>+14.24%</b>		

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<b>Allocated Cash Reserves</b>	2025/26	2026/27
Street Lighting	£25,090.00	£17,726.98
Street Lighting - Energy & Maintenance	£2,940.44	£2,940.44
Cage - Renovation Fund	£12,203.00	£7,142.96
MVAS	£5,000.00	£0.00
Community Projects	£2,000.00	£1,000.00
Election Costs	£3,202.00	£3,202.00
Minor Highways Improvement Schemes	£15,564.00	£3,848.25
Capital Receipts Reserves	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
Contingency Cash Reserves	£4,328.98	£4,328.98
Wrydecroft FACT Shuttlebus	£7,013.00	£4,549.76
Wrydecroft Grant North Level Drainage Board	£1,597.00	£937.00
Wrydecroft Grant - Community Grant	£2,925.00	£0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£86,863.42</b>	<b>£50,676.37</b>

Cllr Booth proposed that the clerk produces a full precept increase explanation for circulation on social media. The Clerk to follow up.

Cllr Booth also proposed that the clerk produces the Parish Council contribution for the Parish Post magazine which would include contact details and the Chairmans report. This was agreed by Councillors.

The Clerk reported that a meeting has been arranged with the Highways Maintenance Officer for 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 10am at the Cage to update to the Parish Council on all Highways matters, which would also include the portfolio holders for Highways, which are Cllrs Rouse and Unwin.

**31/26. Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026

7:00pm

Parson Drove Village Hall, Main Road, Parson Drove

**The meeting was closed at 9:00pm**