



PARSON DROVE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 16th September 2026 at Parson Drove Village Hall, Main Road, Parson Drove**

Attended by Councillors: P Unwin (Vice-Chairman), P Spriggs, P Williams & Y Reader
Members of the Public: 2

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Paul Unwin and opened at 7pm.

199/26. To agree apologies for absence

Apologies of absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Booth, Swannell and Fowler, FDC Cllr Humphrey, FDC Cllr Cutler & CCC Cllr Tirrell as well as the Parish Clerk Sarah Bligh due to illness.

200/26. To consider any requests by Councillors for dispensation

201/26. To receive Members Declarations of Interest

- Cllr Reader declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 215/26 noting that a close family member is an allotment tenant.
- Cllr Spriggs declared a pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 216/26(e) as the contractor quoting for the work.

202/26. 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.

- The meeting received a written report from FDC Cllr Diane Cutler, in her capacity as Community Speedwatch (CSW) Co-ordinator. It was reported that five CSW sessions had been completed during the month, monitoring the three solar-powered SID devices installed within Parson Drove. Two further sessions had been scheduled. Following completion, Cllr Cutler would prepare a report for the Clerk to incorporate into the monitoring report associated with the grant funding.
- Two residents addressed the Parish Council to raise concerns about alterations to an existing dwelling and ancillary annex listed under agenda item 209/26(a) & (b)

203/26. To agree the minutes of the meeting dated 19th August 2026.

The minutes of the previous meeting were not available for consideration. Councillors resolved to defer approval of the previous meeting's minutes until the next Parish Council meeting.

204/26. Matters arising from previous minutes not covered on the agenda (for information only)

Matters arising were deferred until the previous minutes had been formally approved.

205/26. To receive the District Councillors Reports

The written report from Cllr Diane Cutler was received and noted.

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The following matters were highlighted:

- A petition regarding the lack of rugby and football facilities in March was positively received. A motion was passed that developer Section 106 contributions should be specifically directed towards sporting facilities in the town.
- Cllr Booth had highlighted that Fenland District Council policy and the Local Plan support sporting facilities and that the process should be progressed.
- A motion concerning NHS services and the potential impact of proposed reductions at Queen Elizabeth Hospital was passed. The potential for increased services at North Cambs and Doddington Hospitals was also discussed.
- It was proposed that the NHS Trust be invited to an Overview and Scrutiny meeting to answer Councillors' questions.
- The Government's Local Government Reorganisation programme and timetable had been paused and were under review. Consequently, District Council elections would take place in 2027 on the existing district boundaries.
- Fenland District Council would formulate a response welcoming the pause and review, although uncertainty remained regarding the future of the proposed reorganisation.

It was noted that Cllr Gavin Booth had been given the opportunity to comment on the report and had not requested any amendments.

206/26. To receive the County Councillor Report

Apologies had been received from the County Councillor.

No report was presented.

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207/26. Highways Matters

- (a) To report any new street lighting issues
No new street-lighting issues were reported.
- (b) To receive the 2026/2027 Capital Highway Maintenance Programme
The Capital Highway Maintenance Programme was deferred for consideration at the next meeting.
- (c) To discuss the resurfacing extent of Silvers Lane and the response from CCC.
Cllr Reader referred to correspondence from Cambridgeshire County Council advising that the whole of Silvers Lane had not been intended for resurfacing and that the section towards Murrow remained untreated. Councillors noted that the Parish Council had always understood that the whole road would be resurfaced under the 2024/2025 Capital Highway Maintenance Programme, based on information previously provided verbally by the former County Councillor. The Council had not been made aware of the maps referred to by the County Council. The Clerk to respond to Cambridgeshire County Council expressing the Council's dissatisfaction and requesting urgent works to the remaining untreated section. It was also agreed that the Dragon Patcher would not be an appropriate remedy.
- (d) To report any Highways Issues to be raised by Councillors
The following highway concerns were raised for reporting to Cambridgeshire County Council:
Long Drove: significant ridges and numerous potholes were reported, with concerns regarding road safety.
Harold's Bank: poor road condition and potholes were reported.
High Side: significant deterioration and potholes were reported.
Concerns were raised regarding the condition of Murrow Bank and the potential for further deterioration during periods of heavy rain and freezing weather. The condition of safety railings at the end of Church End was discussed following a recent road traffic incident. It was noted that responsibility for the railings may need clarification between the relevant authorities. The Clerk to report the above highway concerns to the appropriate authority and request an update.
- (e) To discuss the potential purchase and funding options for a fourth Solar SID device.
The Council discussed the potential purchase and funding of a fourth solar-powered SID device. It was noted that the existing device on Fen Road had experienced repeated battery issues. Funding opportunities for a replacement device were also discussed. Further information was required regarding potential funding and purchasing options. Council agreed to defer the matter until the next meeting, pending an update from the Clerk.

208/26. Planning Applications – Decision Updates: NIL

209/26. Planning Applications – For Comment:

(a)	F/YR26/0604/F	Alterations to existing dwelling including conversion of existing garage to create additional living accommodation involving replacing garage doors with 2 x windows, replace rear 2 x windows with patio doors, replace oil tank with air source heat pump, erect a stone style door surround to west elevation and erection of a detached 1-bed annexe ancillary to existing dwelling at The Hollies 10 Main Road Parson Drove Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4JA <i>The Council considered both (a) and (b) planning applications together:</i> The Parish Council <u>supports</u> the application for <u>alterations to the existing dwelling</u>, subject to the recommendations and requirements of the Conservation Officer being fully incorporated into the revised plans and any resulting conditions. <i>The Council separately considered the proposed detached one-bedroom annex.</i> The Parish Council <u>objects</u> to the <u>proposed detached annex</u> on the grounds of its design, scale and appearance within the setting of a listed building and conservation area, its detached and self-contained nature, potential road-safety and traffic implications, potential noise and disturbance, and concerns regarding its impact on the character of the area.
(b)	F/YR26/0605/LB	Alterations to a listed building including conversion of existing garage to create additional living accommodation involving replacing garage doors with 2 x windows, replace rear 2 x windows with patio doors, replace oil tank with air source heat pump and erect a stone style door surround to west elevation at The Hollies 10 Main Road Parson Drove Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4JA
(c)	F/YR26/0609/F	Siting of a static caravan/mobile home ancillary to existing dwelling (part-retrospective) at Fenleigh Common Road Throckenholt Cambridgeshire PE12 0QY The Parish Council has no specific comments to make and will support the Planning Officer's recommendation.

210/26. Finance Matters

- (a) To agree the NALC 2026-27 National Salary Award.

The Council considered the 2026/27 national salary award applicable to the Clerk and agreed to approve the 2026/27 national salary award.

211/26. Finance Matters - To agree the outstanding payments of the Council:

Item	Description	Total Amount	Power to Spend	
(a)	Clerks August Salary (Inc Back Pay)	£1099.37	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(b)	Clerks August Expenses – Working from Home Allowance	£30.00	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(c)	HMRC Tax & NI for Month 6	£148.55	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(d)	NEST Pensions for Month 6 (D/D)	£88.24	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(e)	Eon Next –Energy for the Cage (D/D)	£18.83	LG Act 1972 S133	Agreed
(f)	Santander Acc Fees – August	£4.99	LG Act 1972 S111	Agreed
(g)	Unity Trust Acc Fees – August	£7.00	LG Act 1972 S111	Agreed
(h)	James Pest Control – Moles on Village Green	£65.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 SS9 -10	Agreed

212/26. Finance Matters – To note payments made:

(a)	Tesco Mobile (Direct Debit)	£9.50	LG Act 1972 S111	Approved
(b)	Tamar IT – August Microsoft 365 (Direct Debit)	£11.38	LG Act 1972 S111	Approved
(c)	Tamar IT – August SentinelOne (Direct Debit)	£4.74	LG Act 1972 S111	Approved
(d)	Wave – Water for the Cage	£27.86	LG Act 1972 S133	Approved
(e)	R J Vasey Builders – Manhole Repair at Cage	£180.00	LG Act 1972 S133	Approved

The Council approved authorisation for expenditure covering the months of July & August. In addition, it formally noted all payments that had previously been made during this period.

213/26. Finance Matters – Grant Applications

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

There were no Section 137 or Wrydecroft Small Grants Programme applications to consider.

214/26. To discuss and compile consultation response for Cambridgeshire Rights of Way Improvement Survey

The Council considered information relating to the Cambridgeshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan and associated survey. The Council noted that the documentation appeared primarily to provide information regarding the progress of the existing plan and future challenges for countryside access through to 2031. Members discussed local rights of way, byways and bridges and the importance of maintaining access. The item was deferred until the next meeting as Councillors had not had an opportunity to review the consultation document fully. The Council hoped that the consultation deadline would not have passed.

215/26. To receive the 2026 Asset & Allotment Inspection Report on behalf of the Clerk

The Council noted that some asset maintenance requirements had already been discussed, with further matters considered under Agenda Item 216/26.

Following the allotment inspection, letters had been sent in July to tenants of allotments 8b, 15a and 22 requesting that their plots be cleaned and maintained to an acceptable standard.

Two tenants, 15a and 22, had made no progress. Tenant 8b had undertaken only minimal work on a small section. It was agreed that the Clerk issue further letters requiring the allotments to be brought up to an acceptable standard by the end of October, failing which the relevant tenancies would be terminated.

216/26. Assets & Maintenance

- (a) To receive an update on the Permissive Walkway including
 i) Quote for hedge cutting DJ Rowell £792.00 - Councillors resolved to accept the quotation.
 (b) To receive an update on the BT Kiosk

Cllr Reader reported that the Clerk was understood to have applied to the Wrydecroft Community Grant Scheme, following compilation of the required quotations for the project.

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(c) To receive an update on Tree Works & Consider Tree Report

The Council considered the Tree Report and identified three trees requiring urgent attention:

- Horse Chestnut Tree No. 21 on the Village Green – fell.
- Willow Tree No. 55 at the Pond – fell.
- Willow Tree No. 71 at the Pond – pollard.

A quotation had been received from DM Tree & Landscape Contractors. It was resolved that the Clerk submit the necessary planning application for the three trees and obtain further quotations for the proposed works. Further consideration would be given at the next meeting to the wider programme of works identified within the Tree Report.

(d) To receive an update on the Community Orchard – No update available.

(e) To consider remedial works quotes (No VAT) from Peter & Stephen Spriggs following Asset Inspection:

- i) Paint Bench Black/Green - £250 – Councillors resolved to accept this quotation.
- ii) Jubilee Bench Clean Down & Stain - £270 – Councillors resolved to accept this quotation.
- iii) War Memorial Railings – Sand down and repaint (2coats) - £1175 + £175 - A further quotation of £2,000 (Exc VAT) had been received from Mortons Blasting for removal, sandblasting and repainting of the railings. It was resolved to accept the £2,000 (Exc VAT) quotation as this was considered the better option. It was noted that the expenditure would take the Maintenance of Assets budget over budget and that a virement would therefore be required, potentially from the allocated street lighting reserves or general reserves. It was agreed that the work should not commence until after the Remembrance Day Service.
- iv) Wooden Posts 2 x 7” and 3 x 9” – £375 – Councillors resolved to accept this quotation. Cllr Spriggs advised that an additional post might also be required.
- v) Clock Tower Woodworm treatment in Cage - £275 – Councillors resolved to defer this work pending completion of the structural report.
- vi) Cage Roof Cut Inspection Hole (Re Board, Replaster & Repair) – £485 - The proposed extent of the areas requiring removal of plasterboard for inspection by the Structural Engineer was discussed. Councillors considered that the quotation might be insufficient given the extent of the work now required. Concern was also raised regarding the dust and debris that would be generated and the need to remove the contents of the Cage before works could commence. Cllr Williams agreed to arrange a meeting with the Friends of the Cage to discuss removal of the contents.

217/26. To receive the Amenities 95 Management Committee Report – No report was given

218/26. To collate agenda items for the next meeting

As several matters had already been deferred to the next meeting.

The annual review of allotment rents was the only item identified for inclusion on the next agenda

219/26. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 14th October 2026

7:00pm

Parson Drove Village Hall, Main Road, Parson Drove

The meeting was closed at 9:00pm

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