

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14th December 2011 in The Cage, Parson Drove.

Attended by Councillors G. Booth (Chairman), P Spriggs (Vice Chairman), C Bellamy, G. Bellamy, J. Cook, P. Everett. (Councillor Scrimshaw attended later)
PCSO Martin Bogunovic, R. Reader (Friends of The Cage) and 1 member of the public.

11/258. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Councillor Scrimshaw as he was attending the District Council's Planning Meeting but subsequently attended the meeting at 8.30pm.

11/259. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillor Booth declared a prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item number 11/266 b) and left the room at the appropriate time. Reason - Councillor Booth is Chairman of the group.

Councillor Everett declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item number 11/267 f). Reason Councillor Everett is the Post Mistress of Parson Drove Post Office.

11/260. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

Mr Reader presented the Council with a cheque for £500 as a donation from the Friends of The Cage. He informed the Council that the managing committee were hoping to obtain more interest and some new members after Christmas ready for next year as they were running out of ideas.

11/261. Community Police Officers Report.

PCSO Bogunovic gave a report on the crime figures for the parish since the last meeting advising that there were no recorded crimes and the only incident recorded was persons with dogs seen on private farmland at Fen Road, believed to be poaching on the 21st November. At the recent community forum anti social behaviour in Newlands Road was adopted as a panel priority for the Police and partner agencies to address. Local officers from the Wisbech Neighbourhood Policing team had completed an engagement event in the road, speaking with all residents to discuss issues relating to anti social behaviour.

11/262. To approve & sign minutes of the meeting held on the 7th December 2011.

The minutes were taken as read, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

11/263. Matters Arising from the Minutes (For information only).

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

11/264. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

Councillor Booth informed Councillors that the District Council's Mobile Gym was being discontinued. Councillor Cook advised that it did not visit Parson Drove in November as previously advised.

11/265. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) Mrs L Ford, Planning Application No. F/YR11/0918/RM, Agent David Broker, erection of a 2 storey 2 bed dwelling on land east of 5 Swan Bridge Farm, Fen Road, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to support the application and recommend that approval is granted.

b) Email from R Delamore Ltd, regarding proposed future development on land at Parson Drove.

The Clerk advised that Mr Eady had accepted the invitation to attend the special Parish Council Meeting on the 25th January at 7.30pm to outline his proposal for future development on land owned by R Delamore Limited at Main Road, Parson Drove.

Councillors decided that the meeting should be held in St Marks Church in view of the possible number of parishioners wishing to attend the meeting.

c) Email from Circle Anglia regarding the proposed Exception Site for Affordable Homes on Land at Church End, Main Road, Parson Drove.

The Clerk advised that a response had been received from Circle Anglia confirming that the proposed Exception Site for Affordable Homes would be for ever and that shared ownership would be considered for some of the homes if financially viable.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to respond enquiring as to how they would ensure that the site was an Exception Site for Affordable Homes for perpetuity.

11/266. Accounts & Finance.

a) Councillors resolved to approve the following Invoice for payment:-
The Office Key, administration supplies, £96.91. L.G.A. 1972 s.111.

b) To consider a request from Fenland Rural Road Safety Action Network for a grant (deferred from last meeting).

Councillor Spriggs chaired the meeting for this agenda item as Councillor Booth had left the room.

Councillors resolved to give a grant of £50 providing the group obtain grants from other Parish Councils in Fenland. They also resolved to allow the group to use The Cage for their meetings for a year to save on venue hiring charges.

c) To confirm agreement of Precept for 2012/2013 at an increase of 15%, resulting in an approximate annual increase of £4.50 for a Band D dwelling and as advised by the District Council a large proportion of dwellings are classed as band B, which would result in an increase of approximately £3.

Councillors resolved to proceed with the increase in the Precept and for the Clerk to include the details of the increase in the next Newsletter.

11/267 Gardens & Allotments

To receive a report on outstanding Allotment Garden Rents.

The Clerk advised that all the rents had now been paid except for one Allotment Garden. Councillors resolved for a final reminder to be sent requesting payment by the end of January.

One tenant had moved out of the Parish and wished to vacate their Allotment Garden. Councillors resolved for this to be advertised giving priority to Parishioners but also considering applications from outside the parish.

The Clerk had been requested to ask Councillors to consider allowing fruit trees to be planted on the Community Allotment Garden. Councillors resolved to defer this to the next meeting when more information was available.

11/267. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Letter of thanks for the grant of £25 from Volunteer Centre.
Noted by Councillors.

b) Letter from the Boundary Commission confirming receipt of our comments on the proposed changes.
Noted by Councillors

c) Email from Road Safety Group attaching the minutes of the meeting held on the 8th November and advising that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th January 2012 at 7.30 in Guyhirn Village Hall.
Information noted by Councillors.

d) Information updates from NALC on Audit & Accountancy changes.
Noted by Councillors.

e) Document from Cambridgeshire County Council on taking forward Localism.
Information being passed to Councillors.

Councillor Scrimshaw arrived for the meeting

f) Information received regarding the consultation on the future of the Post Office. The Chairman outlined the content of the consultation document to Councillors and Councillor Everett also explained some of the proposals.
Councillors resolved for the Chairman to complete the questionnaire on behalf of the Council as they agreed that they did not want the Post Office to close in the future.

11/268. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.

a) Highway issues to be reported to Cambridgeshire County Council.
Clerk was requested to report the pot holes on the main road opposite The Bank, overhanging trees obstructing the highway at Elbow Lane and to ask Highways if the new garden brick wall being erected near to the railway crossing, Long Drove is encroaching onto the highway verge.

b) Faulty street lights to be reported to Cambridgeshire County Council.
Clerk requested to report the faulty street light at the top of Sealeys Lane.

c) To discuss request for a new street light along Back Road, Murrow.
Councillor Scrimshaw had been unable to contact the residents who had requested a street light along Back Road to determine the exact location but would contact the Clerk when he had obtained this information so that a site visit could be arranged with the electricity company when they visited Station Road/Murrow Bank to look at the electricity supply at this location for the proposed new street light.
Councillor Bellamy had also received a complaint that it was dark near to the village hall and a further street light was required at this location. The Chairman agreed to look into this.

11/269 Queens Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in 2012.

a) Response from the County Council regarding trees being planted along Green Lane, Church End, Parson Drove.

The response received from the Public Rights of Way Officer was read out to Councillors and as it was not favourable it was agreed that the suggestion of planting trees at Green Lane Church End would not be progressed.

Councillors requested that the Clerk obtain confirmation from the Tree Officer on the species of trees to be planted on the village green to replace the 3 Limes felled during the year and a tree to replace the old Oak tree.

11/270. To discuss the heating in The Cage.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to obtain quotations for some electric heaters for the Cage.

11/271. To receive an Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

Councillor Cook confirmed that the Skate Ramp had now been installed but the cost of Insurance was in excess of £2,000. It was suggested that the District Council be approached to see if they could assist with getting this reduced as they would be meeting committee members in January.

It had been reported that there were rats on the playing field around the Walnut Tree near to the MUGA. Councillors resolved for the Clerk to ask Fen Warreners to deal with this.

11/272. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

No questions were asked by Councillors

11/273. Any other business (information items only).

Councillor Scrimshaw informed the Council that the Travellers Site at Turf End Bridge was being cleaned up and refurbished, the District Council had appointed a new traveller liaison officer and interviews for a new head of Planning was being completed.

The Payne School were selling calendars to raise funds and also trying to get community clubs started, one idea was for a green club.

11/274. Dates for future Council meeting(s).

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 11th January at 7.00pm in The Cage and subsequent meeting on Wednesday 25th January at 7.30pm in St Marks Church.

Meeting Closed 9.15pm.