

Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th November 2011 in The Cage, Parson Drove.

Attended by Councillors G. Booth (Chairman), P Spriggs (Vice Chairman), J. Cook, P. Everett, & R. Scrimshaw and two members of the public.

11/233. Apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Councillors C. Bellamy & G. Bellamy & J. Tuck (C.C.C.)

11/234. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillor Booth declared a Prejudicial Interest in respect of Agenda item number 11/242, reason Councillor Booth is a Garden Allotment tenant and declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda item number 11/244 d), reason Councillor Booth is the Parish Council representative on the Safer Routes to School group.

Councillor Scrimshaw stated that he would not participate in discussions or voting on any planning matter as he was a member of the District Council Development Control Committee.

11/235. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.

The two members of the public raised their concerns over the proposed Exception Site for Affordable homes on land next to the Doctors Surgery, Church End, Main Road, Parson Drove. Their main concerns were the reduction in the value of properties as they are affected more in rural locations if near to an Exception Site, highway and road safety issues in view of speeding traffic and loss of the open space providing a view at this location.

11/236. Community Police Officers Report.

No report had been provided.

11/237. To approve & sign minutes of the meeting held on the 12th October 2011.

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

11/238. Matters Arising from the Minutes (For information only).

The Chairman advised that the developers had provided the 5 metres of footpath stipulated in the planning conditions for John Bends Way and so the footpath extension recently installed at the Parish Councils request was not part of a planning condition relating to John Bends Way. The Chairman agreed to inform the parishioner raising concerns on this matter.

11/239. To receive reports from County & District Councillors.

Councillor Scrimshaw advised that a new Officer had been appointed as the Development Control Manger at Fenland District Council and the recent Green Communities event was well attended.

Councillor Booth advised that following the recent Wisbech & District Neighbourhood Forum meeting one of the Police priorities would be Newlands Road in view of the number of recent incidences at this location.

11/240. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.

a) Letter from Fenland District Council regarding planning application by Dr D Hattersley, Planning Application No. F/YR11/0688/F, Agent Peter Humphrey Associates for the erection of a 2 storey 3 bed dwelling on land east of Southea House, 16 Main Road, Parson Drove.

Councillors were informed that a full tree survey was to be completed before the District Council made a decision on the planning application. The Enforcement Officer had decided to take no action regarding any trees already felled on the site.

b) Notification from Fenland District Council that the following Planning Applications have been granted approval.

1. Parson Drove Parish Council, Planning Application No. F/YR11/0671/TRTPO, No Agent, for works to 4 Lime Trees and 1 Sycamore Tree on the village green, The Bank, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

2. A Gray, Planning Application No. F/YR11/0625/F, Agent G Edwards, for the erection of a 2 storey 4 bed dwelling with detached double garage with playroom above on land east of Rosewood, Seadyke Bank, Murrow.

The Clerk advised Councillors that the District Council's Tree Officer had inspected the site in view of the concerns raised by the Parish Council but considered that no damage would be done to the trees on the adjoining land.

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

Councillors resolved to invite Mr Eady to attend a special Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 25th January 2012 in order for him to present full details of his proposals for future development on the site but to inform him that the Parish Council would not endorse any proposal before a formal planning application is submitted to the District Council. Councillors also agreed for the Clerk to contact Fenland District Council to obtain their views on development of this site.

d) Letter from Peter Humphrey Associates regarding further development along Back Road, Murrow.

Councillors resolved to reply advising that they would not support any further development along Back Road as they were concerned about the possible density of the development on the site and in view of highway safety issues even if the road was upgraded to an acceptable standard and a footpath provided.

e) To consider response received at the Public Consultation Meeting regarding the proposed Exception Site for Affordable Homes on Land at Church End, Main Road, Parson Drove.

Although there had been some objections and concerns raised by residents living near to the proposed site there had also been some support for the scheme from the 30 people who attended the public consultation meeting.

Councillors resolved to continue to pursue the site to the next stage subject to receiving confirmation that the homes would be Affordable Homes for people with strong local connections forever and that they would not all be rented but also some for shared ownership.

11/241. Accounts & Finance.

a) Councillors resolved to approve the following Invoices for payment:-

EON electricity for The Cage, £21.49. L.G.A. 1972 s.111.

Konica Minolta Business Solutions Ltd., photocopier quarter year rental charge, £51.30 & £39.05 for photocopies made in last quarter, total amount £90.35. L.G.A. 1972 s.111

T Blackamore, annual grass cutting & grounds maintenance, £4,101.96. O.S.A. 1906 ss 9 & 10.

b) To consider request for a grant from Fenland Volunteer Centre.

Councillors resolved to give a grant of £25. L.G.A. 1972 s. 137.

11/242 Gardens & Allotments

To receive a report on the collection of the annual Allotment & Garden Rents.

The Clerk advised that all of the Allotment rents had been received and there were only three Riverside Allotment Garden rents outstanding.

A complaint had been made by the adjoining tenant regarding the over grown condition of Garden Numbers 15a and 15b and the cost of the rent in view of the increase this year from £15 to £20.

11/243. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received.

a) Letter of thanks for the grant of £50 from Victim Support and request to include a short article about Victim Support in the next Parish Council Newsletter.

Councillors agree for the information to be included in the next Parish Council Newsletter.

b) Letter from the Information Commissioner confirming renewal of the Data Protection registration.

Noted by Councillors.

c) Letter from Fenland District Council advising of their Rural Capital Grants scheme and offering to attend a Parish Council Meeting to explain the requirements of the funding criteria.

Councillors suggested that this information be passed onto the Amenities 95 Committee.

d) Letter from the Community Foundation, Lincolnshire advising of a public consultation event on the 23rd November at Wisbech Council Chamber to determine resident's views on their grant categories for the Community Fund.

Information noted by Councillors.

e) Consultation document and questionnaire from Cambridgeshire County Council on the review of the subsidised Bus Service.

Councillors resolved to respond advising that they were against any cuts in the subsidised bus routes in deprived rural areas. The questionnaire could be completed by individual Councillors.

f) Consultation document from Fenland District Council on the Fenland Rail Development Strategy.

Councillors resolved to make no comment on the document.

g) Reminder from CPALC of the AGM on Saturday 3rd December, 10.00am at Bluntisham Village Hall and an update on the Localism Bill.

Information noted by Councillors. The Chairman would try to attend the meeting.

11/244. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.

a) Highway issues to be reported to Cambridgeshire County Council.

The Clerk was instructed to report:-

Subsidence in the road at Highside as there were some very big dips in the road,

Trees obstructing the highway along Highside and Elbow Lane.

To request the leaves on the footpaths along Main Road are cleared.

b) Faulty street lights to be reported to Cambridgeshire County Council.

No faulty streetlights were reported at the meeting.

c) To discuss and agree on a proposed location for a new street light.

Councillors resolved to explore the costs of providing a new street light along Station Road/Murrow Bank near to the access track over the village green to the Cage.

d) Email from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding the Safer Routes to School scheme.

Councillors were informed that the Safer Routes to School scheme funding was being cut by the County Council and so no more funding would be provided for future projects at the Payne School once the scheme already being planned had been completed. The Officer leading the Safer Routes to School scheme was anxious to use the funding already allocated to the Payne School and Councillors resolved for the scheme to proceed providing that the issues already raised with the Highway Officers are resolved but to date no response had been received from them.

e) To consider complaint made regarding the lack of visibility at the junction of Silvers Lane and Main Road, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to contact the County Council Highways reporting the trees obstructing the junction.

11/245 Queens Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in 2012.

a) Response from the County Council regarding land at Swan Bridge Farm becoming a Jubilee Wood.

The Clerk advised that the County Council had declined the Parish Council's request to plant trees to create a wood on the redundant land at Swan Bridge Farm as it was their intention to develop the area of land in the future.

b) Email from Fenland District Council advising of an Event Planning Advice Workshop on Thursday 1st December at 5.30pm in the Council Chamber at Fenland Hall.

Information noted by Councillors.

11/246. To receive an Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

Councillor Cook advised that the base for the skate ramp and 5 benches had been installed.

11/247. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

Councillor Cook asked who owned the land being considered as an Exception Site for Affordable Homes at Church End. The Clerk advised that an Agent was acting for the land owner.

11/248. Any other business (information items only).

Councillors suggested that the village website should be updated and refreshed to further promote the village and it was agreed that this would be included in the Agenda for further discussion at the next meeting.

Councillor Scrimshaw advised that the County Council were considering changing the catchment area for the Payne Primary School to exclude Back Road Murrow and we wait for more information on this matter.

11/249. Dates for future Council meeting(s).

Councillors resolved to hold an additional meeting on the 7th December to set the Precept for 2012/2013.

The normal monthly Council Meeting was agreed for the 14th December and the meetings for 2012 would continue to be held on the second Wednesday of each month.

Meeting closed at 10.20pm.