

## **Minutes of Parson Drove Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2011 in The Cage, Parson Drove.**

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

### **11/195. To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies had been received from PCSO Martin Bogunovic.

### **11/196. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.**

Councillor Everett declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 11/201, reason she lives along The Bank.

Councillor Scrimshaw declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 11/205, reason this project is being lead by the Street Pride Group and Councillor Scrimshaw is Chairman of the group.

Councillor Scrimshaw also declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 11/202 and did not take part in any discussions or voting for this Agenda Item, reason a member of the District Council Development Control Committee.

### **11/197. Public Participation – To allow up to 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting.**

The Agent for the Planning Application 11/202 b for the erection of a dwelling on land east of Rosewood, Seadyke Bank, Murrow advised that a revised plan had subsequently been submitted and explained the changes made.

### **11/198. Community Police Officers Report.**

A written report had been forwarded to the Clerk advising that there had been no recorded crimes and 1 incident of anti social behaviour since the last Council Meeting.

### **11/199. To approve & sign minutes of the meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2011.**

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

### **11/200. Matters Arising from the Minutes (For information only).**

The Chairman advised that he has raised the issues relating to John Bends Way brought to the Councils attention at the last meeting but was still waiting for the reply from the District Council.

The District Councils Mobile Gymnasium was to be launched in Parson Drove on the 28<sup>th</sup> October and opening for regular sessions from the 1<sup>st</sup> November.

The Skate Ramp had been ordered from Wicksteed and a site meeting with them was planned for Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September.

Confirmation had been received from Roddons Housing Association that a grit bin could be sited at the top of Springfield Road and this had now been ordered from the County Council.

Confirmation had been received that the invited representatives from the Housing Association and the District Council could attend the public consultation meeting on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October regarding the Exception Site for Affordable Housing at Church End, Parson Drove. The village hall had been booked for the meeting and advertising was being prepared.

**11/201. To receive reports from County & District Councillors & to discuss approach** made to District Councillors by R Delamore Ltd., proposing a new development on land to the rear of properties along Main Road & The Bank, Parson Drove.

The Chairman advised that both District Councillors had been invited and attended a meeting with R Delamore Ltd who asked how they could do more for the local community. Development on the company's land at Parson Drove was raised as they wish to move all their business operations to Wisbech St Mary. A request to attend a Parish Council Meeting to discuss this possibility was made by the company. Councillors resolved to respond advising that were declining the request to attend a Parish Council Meeting as they would not support any development in the parish at this location.

The Community Grants letters are on hold waiting for a decision on what amount could be allocated. It is hoped that a decision will be made in the near future.

Councillor Scrimshaw advised that Parson Drove had received a Silver Gilt award in the Anglia In Bloom Small village competition.

**11/202. Planning Matters & Applications for consideration.**

a) L Allen, Planning Application No. F/YR11/0616/RM, Agent David Broker for the erection of a 2 storey 4 bed dwelling with attached 2 bed annex on land east of Liswyn, Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved by a majority vote to support the application as it had incorporated some of the changes requested and was in keeping with adjoining and nearby properties.

b) 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.

Councillors resolved to support the application as it would compliment the area but would require a full tree survey to ensure no damage would be done to the trees on the adjacent land.

c) C Coates, Planning Application No. F/YR11/0644/F, Agent T Dorling, for the erection of a 15 metre high (hub height) wind turbine at Hundred Acre Farm, Harolds Bank, Parson Drove.

Councillors resolved to support the application as it was a sustainable development.

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

M & L Buckenham & Gomm, Planning Application No. F/YR11/0514/RM, Agent R Swann for the erection of a 2 storey 4 bed dwelling on plot 2 land north of 69 79 Back Road, Murrow.

J. Askey, Planning Application No.F/YR11/0460/LB, Agent K Elener, for erection of porch to the rear of existing dwelling at Apple Crumble Cottage, 318 Main Road, Church End, Parson Drove.

Information noted by Councillors.

e) Update report regarding site meeting with FDC Planning Officers and CCC Highway Officers to discuss future development along Back Road, Murrow.

As the previously arranged meetings in August had been cancelled Councillors provided the Clerk with a list of dates in October in order that a further meeting could be arranged

f) To agree on response to Fenland District Council regarding the consultation on the Fenland Communities Development Plan – Core Strategy & Statement of Community Involvement.

Councillors resolved to make the following comments on the document.

**Page 15 Policy CS1 - Spatial Strategy, The Settlement Hierarchy & the Countryside. Small Villages.**

In all of the small villages development is too limited; the permitted group of dwellings should be increased from two or three dwellings to no more than four or five dwellings to ensure that the small villages are sustainable.

**Pages 18 & 19 Policy CS2 - Growth & Housing**

Town and Parish Councils who have obtained the Quality Parish & Town Council status should have more influence on planning decisions.

**Page 21 Policy CS3 - Meeting Housing Need**

The Council supports the need for affordable housing but considers that the financial contributions to the District Council being suggested are excessive and too restrictive and will therefore deter and discourage housing development. Councillors were particularly concerned that the level of financial contribution suggested will deter private self build dwellings and small builders developing single dwellings on infill sites.

Councillors suggested that the level of financial contributions to the District Council should be reduced as follows.

a) No financial contribution for 1 single dwelling. A 5% financial contribution towards affordable homes for 2 to 9 dwellings.

b) 10% of the dwellings as affordable homes on sites for 10 to 99 dwellings.

c) 12% of the dwellings as affordable homes on sites over 100 dwellings.

The Council considers that affordable housing in rural locations should be allocated on the basis that those with a local connection should be offered housing first. This policy should follow the same criteria as that for Exception Sites for Affordable Housing. This would help to ensure that rural locations support the housing needs of local residents and not force people to move out of the area in which they have lived the majority of their lives.

**Page 22 - Suitable new Gypsy & Traveller sites**

b) New sites should be located within major developed settlements and not within reasonable travelling distance of a settlement. This will ensure that the appropriate infrastructure and services are available to support the needs of this group.

**Page 33 Policy CS6 - Wisbech  
West Wisbech**

Improvements to vehicular movement to address the congestion on the local highway network is already urgently required and needs to be in place before this area is developed further.

The Wisbech Port Area and surrounding highway network is also already very congested and improvements are required to cope with future new development.

Strong support should be given to proposals for the reintroduction of the March - Wisbech railway as another means of public transport between the two Towns.

**Page 47 Policy CS10 - Rural Areas Development Policy**

**Section A**

An additional criteria should be incorporated in this section acknowledging that greater notice will be taken on the views of the Parish/Town Councils, Fenland District Ward Councillors and adopted Parish Plans.

The continuation of a defined Development Area Boundary in the rural areas should still be retained as this provides clarity on permitted development in the rural areas.

**Page 50 Policy CS11 - Supporting & managing the Impact of a Growing District.**

**b) Developer Contribution**

The existing Section 106 Policy with contribution levels should be reviewed and amended in the interim until the Community Infrastructure Levy regulations are in force so that each development contributes towards the infrastructure.

**11/203. Accounts & Finance.**

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

Anglian Water, half year water rates for The Cage, £24.91. L.G.A. 1972 s.133

Moore Stephens, External Audit Fees for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011, £172.80.

Accounts & Audit Regs 1998

Mrs Y Reader, Clerks quarter year salary & expenses, £1,256.68. L.G.A. 1972 s.112

b) To consider quotation received for the cleaning of the War Memorial.

Councillors resolved to defer any decision on this matter as to date only one quotation had been obtained and the Clerk was requested to try and obtain a second quotation.

c) Notification from External Auditors, Moore Stephens that the audit for the Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 has been completed with no issues arising from the audit.

Information noted by Councillors.

**11/204. To discuss and agree on suggestions for the proposed traffic calming measures to the Swan Bridge junction for the County Council to consider.**

Councillors resolved to submit a plan for consideration with the following suggestions for improvements to the junction.

1. New Road Signs - Stop Sign instead of Give Way Sign on Fen Road before crossing over Swan Bridge and Stop Sign on Main Road B 1166 near to traffic Island. Large Junction Sign on Murrow Bank at least 100 yards back from the junction.

2. Removal of hedge on Swan Bridge, Murrow Bank, B1187 to improve visibility.

3. A build out either side of the junction on the B1187.
4. Orange rumble strips on the approach road from Murrow, along Murrow Bank B1187
5. Close off the B1166, nearest to the War Memorial side of the traffic island, to traffic wishing to enter the B1187 from Main Road.

Councillor Bellamy suggested that a mini roundabout would be the most effective solution and although previous discussions with the County Council Highways Officers had resulted in them responding that this option would be too expensive Councillor Bellamy agreed to enquire about the costs involved.

#### **11/205. Risk Assessment**

Concerns raised relating to the Pond Project, cracked tree branch, litter and noise. Councillors resolved for the cracked tree branch to be removed as soon as possible.

#### **11/206. To debate & respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received from:-**

- a) Email from resident regarding the grass cutting of the village green.  
Complaint noted, Councillors resolved for the Clerk to request that the grass is not cut so short and as it is in very poor condition for re-seeding and feed to be applied.
- b) Letter from Fenland District Council advising of a review of Polling Districts & Places and requesting the Council complete a consultation feedback form by 30<sup>th</sup> September.  
Councillors completed the consultation feedback form at the meeting.
- c) Invitation from Cambridgeshire ACRE to take part in a focus group to look at how ill health can be prevented & good health promoted amongst working age people.  
Information noted by Councillors.
- d) Letter from FDC advising that they are working with Cambridgeshire ACRE in supporting Parish Councils with Parish Plans. Email from Cambridgeshire ACRE requesting information on the progress of the Action Plan from the current Parish Plan and offering to meet with members of the Parish Council to discuss doing a refresh of the Parish Plan.  
Councillors resolved to invite the Cambridgeshire ACRE Officer to the next meeting.
- e) Letter from Fenland District Council enquiring as to whether we are considering holding an event rather than erecting a commemorative structure to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee in June 2012 and if so if there is sufficient demand will hold an event workshop.  
  
Councillors resolved to defer responding to this until after the deadline for responses to the survey sent out at the start of September. The Chairman advised that he had received one offer of help and Councillor Everett advised that she had only received one returned form.
- f) Information from Cambs County Council on grant funding sources for commemorative trees for the Queens Diamond Jubilee.  
The Clerk was requested to make further enquiries about the grants available.

g) Letter from Fenland District Council advising of the public consultation of a review of Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Conditions.

Information noted by Councillors.

i) Invitation for a Councillor to attend the annual meeting of Leverington Feofees on the 20<sup>th</sup> September.

The Chairman agreed to try and attend the meeting.

**11/207. Street Lighting & Highway Matters.**

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

The Clerk was requested to contact the County Council regarding the progress of the Safer Routes to School scheme and send a reminder regarding all of the outstanding highway issues still not resolved.

b) Request from the CCC Highways for feed back on the quality of repairs to Murrow Bank.

Councillors resolved for the Clerk to respond advising that the repairs had been completed to a high standard.

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

Clerk to report again the street light outside Snips.

**11/208. To receive an Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.**

Councillor Cook advised that the architect's plans for a new village hall had been received and considered by a sub committee who decided that some alterations were required. The grant application had been submitted and they were now waiting for a response. A Gymkhana was being held on the playing field on the 25<sup>th</sup> September. The matter of the fallen and dead trees on the playing field was being looked into.

**11/209. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.**

No questions were asked by members.

**11/210. Any other business (information items only).**

Councillor Cook advised members that a petition is being completed by customers of the Swan Inn regarding the delay in providing a beer garden and improvements to the car park area. The Clerk was requested to include this item in the Agenda for the next meeting.

**11/211. Dates for future Council meeting(s).**

The next meetings were agreed to be held in The Cage, Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 9<sup>th</sup> November and 14<sup>th</sup> December.

Meeting closed at 10.08pm.