

GREAT CASTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of Parish Council meeting via “Zoom” video-link at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 10 March 2021

In Attendance:

Councillors Mark Bush (MB) in the Chair, John Sylvester (JS), Alasdair Ryder (AR), Steve Barker (SB) and Derek Patience, Parish Clerk. Also present was County Councillor David Wilby (DW)

20.084 Apologies for Absence:

County Councillor Richard Coleman (RC), PC Laurie Appleton (LA), David Clarke

20.085 Declarations of Interest

SB declared an interest in 2, Old Great North Road (Planning Application)

20.086 Co-option of New Councillor

Jo Milnes was co-opted as a Parish Councillor on the proposal of AR, seconded SB, the completed Acceptance of Office and Register of Interests forms having been delivered to the Clerk prior to the meeting.

20.087 Minutes of Meetings held on 13th. January 2021

Accepted as a true record, proposed SB, seconded AR, all in favour

20.088 Matters Arising from the Minutes not on the agenda

SIDs Data connections: Dorman Varitext had advised that the connection problem is a Microsoft issue over which they have no control – it is due to a lack of provision within Windows 10 of “COM Ports” which are required to make the connection. AR and the Clerk will liaise to see if the problem can be overcome.

Footpath to Graveyard: Nothing done by SKDC re broken step – RC was going to contact colleague at SKDC, but, in his absence, DW was unaware whether he had done so.

Centrebus no.9 service: Limited service covering school times has now been restored.

20.089 Police Matters

No report received in the absence of a police representative. Laurie Appleton had sent apologies for this meeting, and said he can make Annual Meeting if it is held on proposed date of 19th. May.

MB expressed his dissatisfaction with the lack of police representation over a long period. DW suggested an appropriately worded letter to the Inspector at Oakham, copied to LA and to the Police Commissioner.

20.090 Financial Update

Current Position: The Clerk had circulated an up-to-date account showing the current position, with expenditure at £5,645.84 from income totalling £12,645.95, balance £15,723.88. The ring-fenced CIL money reserve is now £6,505.50, the election costs reserve £250, leaving a working balance of £8,968.38, which is near the upper limit of reserves allowed. This represents the end-of-year position, unless unforeseen expenditure arises in the remainder of the month.

He noted that the payment had now been received for grass-cutting last year – £619.85 – and £125 has been received from GCPCC as their 50% share of website fees.

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20.091 Planning

Barkers: Development continues, albeit slowly, with two houses now believed to have been sold. A planning application has been submitted for the perimeter wall, and electric gates – MB noted that this must be a retrospective application, as the wall is in place, and electricity supply installed for the gates.

Bowls Green Proposals: No further developments here. The Planning Dept. has asked for a re-designed layout for the site, awaits revised layout plans. The Clerk will speak informally to the architects to ascertain progress.

North Stamford: The Stamford Neighbourhood Development Plan has been submitted to SKDC and is now open for consultation for six weeks. MB noted that our response regarding traffic was incorporated within the report, but rejected by “Stamford First” as an [Lincolnshire CCSKDC](#) issue, and felt that no further comments were necessary. DW felt that we should still submit comments to SKDC to re-iterate our views. Our response, due by 18th. April, will be discussed at the next meeting.

Rutland Local Plan: DW reported that little is happening on this project at present, in current circumstances. He said that RCC had received Government funding of £29.4m for the project, to cover required infrastructure such as roads, upgraded electricity provision and a primary school, which would be built early in the development. This funding does not cover upgrades needed for the A1 to cope with extra traffic.

20.092 Highways

Water Lane Widening: No further developments. DW suggested that we need to keep prodding the Highways Dept. on this issue.

Footpath to Graveyard: The broken step on the path has still not been repaired by SKDC. The Clerk had written to Neil Tomlinson regarding the dead tree, and this had produced a response from the Forestry Officer, who is to meet the Chairman on site on 25th. March. JS mentioned that the tree over the river, on Diocese property, was also dangerous, and the Chairman will also take up the matter of the tree with the Diocese.

Burghley Close salt bin: The Chairman was disappointed in RCC’s response, and suggested that we take the matter up again during the course of the summer. DW suggested getting support from the Primary School, whose staff use it for parking.

20.093 Community Update re Covid-19

DW reported that the infection rate in Rutland had reduced greatly and is currently at 63 per 100,000. With the schools having just returned, the need for continued vigilance was stressed. The outbreak at the prison has now been contained.

20.094 New Design Guidelines consultation:

RCC had produced a consultation on revised building regulation guidelines and the Chairman had studied the lengthy document. He did not feel there were any comments necessary from GCPC.

20.095 Any Other Business

Flooding: DW drew attention to the missive from RCC requiring advice of flooding issues within the parish. Councillors noted the following areas:

1. Opposite the Crown
2. Water Lane, near the bridge
3. Under the bridge at the A1 junction.

The Clerk will make appropriate reports.

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20.096 Date of Next Meetings:

Wednesday 14th. April at 7.00pm – Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 19th. May at 7.00pm – Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 19th. May at 7.30pm – Parish Council Meeting

The Chairman commented that current legislation allowing meetings to be conducted remotely expires on 7th. May, and further legislation will be required to allow its continuance

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.05 pm