

GREAT CASTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of Parish Council meeting held in Casterton Church Hall at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 23rd. 2021

In Attendance:

Councillors Mark Bush (MB) in the Chair, Alasdair Ryder (AR), John Sylvester (JS), Steve Barker (SB), Jo Milnes (JM) and Derek Patience, Parish Clerk. Also present were County Councillors David Wilby (DW) and Richard Coleman (RC), and one member of the public, David Clark

21.010 Apologies for Absence:

PC Laurie Appleton (LA)

21.011 Declarations of Interest

None

21.012 Minutes of Meetings held on 26th. May 2021

Annual Parish Meeting: Accepted as a true record, proposed AR, seconded JM, all in favour.

Parish Council Meeting: Accepted as a true record, proposed AR, seconded JM, all in favour.

21.013 Matters Arising from the Minutes not on the agenda

The Clerk wished to place on record his gratitude to Caroline Adams for deputizing for him at the May meetings.

21.014 Police Matters

No report received in the absence of a police representative. Laurie Appleton had indicated that the speed van had made frequent visits to Great Casterton, and in fact we had received the most visits in Rutland these past weeks. The subject of Volunteer Speedwatches was discussed. They had been successful in Ryhall and Essendine recently. MB said that no volunteers willing to undertake this activity could be found in the past, JS felt that volunteers were subject to abuse from drivers, and that drivers exceeding the speed limit would receive just an advisory letter, which would be ignored

The SIDs at the Church and the Plough were both out of action, the Church machine since June. Several reports to FixMyStreet eventually led to an email from Robyn Green advising that RCC were planning to upgrade the SIDs in Rutland in the coming year, and while this process was being carried through, no repairs would be undertaken on existing machines. The dataloggers were out of warranty. Our machines are failing to display speeds, but the dataloggers are still operative, and recent months' figures show that average speeds are rising, not surprisingly. The possibility that we should arrange for an engineer's visit ourselves was put forward, and it was agreed that the Clerk would obtain an estimate for the cost of this.

DW suggested that we look into the possibility of the introduction of a 20mph speed limit through the village, and fund the signage ourselves. Ryhall are proceeding with a scheme, without the sanction of Highways, again funding the scheme themselves. \he will

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arrange for Caroline Adams to forward copies of their costings. 20mph speed limits are only advisory, and not enforceable by law.

21.015 Financial Update

Current Position: The Clerk had circulated an up-to-date account showing the current position, with expenditure at £1,631.45 from income totalling £11,493.53, balance £5,585.96. The ring-fenced CIL money reserve is now £11,828.18, the election costs reserve £500, leaving a working balance of £13,258, which, even after remaining known expenditure for the remainder of the year, will result in an end of year balance well over the upper limit of reserves allowed. We shall therefore need to find some project to spend the excess on, or alternatively, set aside a new reserve for the possible play area. We can discuss this further at the next meeting, when next year's budget will be put before the Council.

21.016 Planning

Barkers: Development continues with the developers expecting to complete by Christmas. The perimeter wall has been reduced to the height required by the planners and it seems likely that the proposed electric gates will not now be installed.

The separate application for the development of the garage site was submitted, for six flats along Main Street to the Water Lane junction. The planners have received a lengthy objection from resident on the opposite side of Main Street, and have apparently asked for new plans to be submitted.

Bowls Green Proposals: No further developments here. The architects have sent us a copy of the revised layout of the site, with the play area now sited centrally, away from the roads. It is believed that there may be some movement on the application in the next few weeks.

Rutland Local Plan: DW reported that RCC had recently voted on the HIP funding of £29.4m and on a close vote was not adopted. This has massive implications, and as things stand, RCC no longer has a Local Plan and without one, it is difficult to see how things will progress, nor, indeed can the North Stamford development proceed as it was reliant upon the RCC housing number availability. It will result in RCC having no control over developments within the county, and developers will be able to progress without check. AR asked what the legal situation was – is the County Council legally allowed to continue indefinitely without a Local Plan. DW will look into the letter of the law and report back.

Pickworth Road: Local residents are watching the field closely for any developments following the installation of electricity and water supplies, but so far there has been no further action. They continue to complain about the speed of traffic, particularly farm vehicles, entering the village on this road.

21.017 Highways

Water Lane Widening: No further developments. We need to keep an eye on this as the planning process proceeds on the garage site.

Footpath to Graveyard: RCC have dealt with the dangerous branches on the tree alongside the footpath. The Forestry Officer had put forward his view that the tree over the river, on Diocese property, was not dangerous, and it was down to parental control over the

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perceived dangers to children it represented. The Chairman commented that these remarks dissolved any liability the PC felt it may have on the issue.

Travellers Rest, Ryhall Road: The owner of this property has erected a concrete-filled drum right on the kerbside, which constitutes a hazard to users of the verge, both vehicular and pedestrian. The matter has been reported to Rutland FixMyStreet, duly acknowledged, and we await developments, but no action has resulted, basically because of the difficulty of dealing with the owner. It was agreed that the Clerk should investigate the ownership of this property with the Land Registry, and progress from there. JM suggested that we should also look at the position regarding the exact Scheduled Ancient monument boundary – it could be that the work has been doing requires English Heritage consent.

SIDs and speeding: discussed under Police matters above.

21.018 Community Update re Covid-19

MB reported that 96% of adults within Rutland had now received double vaccinations, an excellent response, and Covid figures within the county were at an acceptable level. There are a number of outbreaks within local schools.

21.019 Visit of the High Sheriff

MB reported that the High Sheriff of Rutland wished to visit Great Casterton in late October. He wishes to meet members of the community and to see how people are addressing the challenge of climate change with initiatives biodiversity and sustainability. It was agreed that we should respond offering a day in the week commencing 25th. October, and MB asked that as many members as possible should make themselves available. His visit will commence at the Church, and the Chairman will show him around the village before refreshments at The Crown at 4pm.

21.020 Any Other Business

Dog Waste bins: SB had had a customer who complained that there are no dog waste bins provided within the village. It was understood that it was acceptable for dog waste to be deposited in ordinary litter bins. JS reported that there are currently only three litter bins in the village, one having gone missing, and we need to arrange for RCC to replace the missing. Bin. Any further litter bins we require would have to be paid for by us, as also would any dog waste bins, and the charge for emptying them would also fall on us. DW suggested that we contact Caroline Adams to let us have details of the cost of dog waste bins, and their emptying.

Main Street Pavements: DC felt that the footways alongside Main Street were in desperate need of a clean, there being much debris making it look untidy, as well as there being trip hazards. Clerk to pursue.

21.021 Date of Next Meeting:

On a date in early November to be arranged.

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