

GREAT CASTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of Parish Council meeting held in Casterton Church Hall at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 3rd.November 2021

In Attendance:

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

21.022 Apologies for Absence:

Councillor Alasdair Ryder, County Councillor Richard Coleman, and PC Laurie Appleton (LA)

21.023 Declarations of Interest

None

21.024 Minutes of Meetings held on 23rd. Septewmber 2021

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

21.025 Matters Arising from the Minutes not on the agenda

1. Dog Bins: Quote for two dog bins to be obtained, and Clerk will contact RCC re missing waste bin at the Plough bus stop.

2. 20mph Speed limit: PC Appleton has advised that a 20mph speed limit cannot be enforced by the police, and that visits by the speed van would not be carried out in 20mph areas.

3. Fallen leaves: Clerk will arrange for a visit from the road sweeper to clear fallen leaves

21.026 Police Matters

No report received in the absence of a police representative.

21.027 Financial Update

a. Current Position: The Clerk had circulated an up-to-date account showing the current position, with expenditure at £2912.26 from income totalling £11,493.53, balance £24,305.15. The ring-fenced CIL money reserve is £11,828.18, the election costs reserve £500, leaving a working balance of £11,976.97, which, even after remaining known expenditure for the remainder of the year, will result in an end of year balance close to the upper limit of reserves allowed.

b. Draft Budget for 2022-23: The Clerk had produced an initial draft budget, which showed a final General Reserve figure of some £9510, almost twice the expected annual expenditure figure of £5057. It was suggested that the budget should include the provision of £1,000 for the purchase and installation of dog bins, and also for a donation to the village fete planned for next year, which it was suggested could be held in June in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Clerk will revise the budget and present them to the next meeting.

c. Approval of payment made to Unipart Rail: Following the discussion at our last meeting, the Clerk had obtained a quote of £495 + VAT for the two SIDs to be inspected by

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engineers from Dorman Varitext. It had been agreed to pay this in order to get these SIDs in working order again – see item 21.029c below.

21.028 Planning

a. 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 incorporates a hedge behind it.

Nothing further on the separate application submitted for the development of the garage site has been noted, 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.

The Clerk had enquired whether there was any further CIL money due on the developments, and was advised that the three payments made so far represent the full payment.

b. Bowls Green Proposals: Revised layout plans have been submitted, which show that the proposed new public footpath to the east of the development has been removed, and the developers have committed to equipping the play area at their expense. Extensive archaeological investigations are required by English Heritage. We have submitted comments on the revised layout expressing extreme disappointment on the removal of the footpath, which will now mean the only access to the play area will be through the main entrance on the main road, not very convenient for parents collecting children from the Primary school. Our comments also call for full inspection of the equipment in the play area to ensure it meets current safety requirements.

c. Rutland Local Plan: DW reported no further developments on this since the last meeting – an update is due in the next couple of weeks and he will more to report on this at our next meeting.

21,029 Highways

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

b. Travellers Rest, Ryhall Road: The Clerk had made enquiries at the Land Registry which show that it is unregistered land, and therefore the ownership of this property is not known. Inspection of the English Heritage plans of the Scheduled Ancient monument shows that the roadside verge under review lies outside the boundary.

c. SIDs and speeding: Subsequent to our sending the cheque to Dorman Varitext (see minute 21.027c. above), we have received an email from Charlie Wade at Highways, outlining their policy regarding the replacement programme, and advising that he could not grant our request to arrange for the repairs, on the grounds that they would need to satisfy themselves that the contractors are competent and properly covered by insurance to work on the highways. DW had spoken to him today and put our case to him, but had been unable to change his mind.

MB explained that Dorman Varitext are the manufacturers of the equipment, with whom we have an extremely good relationship since it was installed. There is no doubt about their

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competence to work on the machines, and we are satisfied on their insurance cover. DW suggested that we put these facts in our email reply to Charlie Wade

21.030 Community Update re Covid-19

MB reported that the figures within Rutland show a very high number of reported infections in Rutland (1151 cases), particularly in the eastern part of the county. A large percentage had now received double vaccinations, an excellent response, and the booster programme is now well under way. DW felt that it was still necessary to continue to follow the government advice on precautions to be taken, and it is important not to relax these.

21.031 Visit of the High Sheriff

MB reported that the High Sheriff's visit had gone very well and he was impressed with the warm reception he had received – out of all the villages he had been to, we were only the second to end the visit in the local pub! We had received a nice letter of thanks from him.

21.032 Any Other Business

Mallard Pass webinar: DW had joined in this webinar today, which outlined the plans for a large solar power farm in the Essindine/Carlby area, in close proximity to the National Grid power network link in Essendine. It is a joint venture between Windel Energy and a Canadian solar power company, and will cover a total area of 2175 acres, generating sufficient electricity to service up to 90,000 homes. It is part of the National Infrastructure project pursuing green energy.

21.021 Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 8th December 2021 in the Church Hall, 7.00pm

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.55 pm

The meeting was followed by a short private meeting of the Council to discuss the Clerk's performance assessment, and to confirm the increase of 5p p.h in his salary following the recent rise in the NALC pay structure, resulting in an increase of 90p per month, or some £10 per annum. The Council expressed their satisfaction with his performance, and granted him a bonus of £200.