

# GREAT CASTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

**The Minutes of Parish Council meeting held in Casterton Church Hall at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>.December 2021**

## **In Attendance:**

Councillors Mark Bush (MB) in the Chair, John Sylvester (JS), Alasdair Ryder (AR), Jo Milnes (JM) and Derek Patience, Parish Clerk. Also present was County Councillor David Wilby (DW) and one member of the public, Peter Winstanley

## **21.034 Apologies for Absence:**

Councillor Steve Barker and PC Laurie Appleton (LA)

## **21.035 Declarations of Interest**

None

## **21.036 Minutes of Meetings held on 3<sup>rd</sup>. November 2021**

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

## **21.037 Matters Arising from the Minutes not on the agenda**

1. Village Entrance Chicanes. The Clerk has made application to RCC Highways for “gateways” to be installed at the main entrances to the village, and for the signs to be replaced. Acknowledgement of the application has been received, but nothing further yet.

## **21.038 Police Matters**

No report received in the absence of a police representative. LA had indicated that the PCSO may be able to come, according to duties on the evening.

## **21.039 Financial Update**

a. Current Position: The Clerk had circulated an up-to-date account showing the current position, with expenditure at £3,024.20 from income totalling £11,493.53, balance £24,193.21. The ring-fenced CIL money reserve is £11,828.18, the election costs reserve £500, leaving a working balance of £11,865.03, 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, which he will overcome by the creation of a separate play area reserve.

b. Draft Budget for 2022-23: The Clerk had produced a revised draft budget, which showed a final General Reserve figure of some £6067, compared with the expected annual expenditure figure of £5880, which included the provision of £700 for the purchase and installation of dog bins,

c. CIL money : These funds can only be spent on community infrastructure improvements, and the proposed play area will certainly fall into that category. The money has to be spent within 5 years of receipt – we received this money in three tranches at six-monthly intervals, the first in April 2020, and this tranche must be spent by April 2025, otherwise it will revert to RCC

## **21.040 Planning**

a. Barkers: Development continues with the developers expecting to complete by Christmas.

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.

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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 all-party working party has been created to work on the way forward, and an update is due in the next couple of weeks and he will more to report on this at our next meeting.

d. Mallard Pass Solar Farm: MB had received a number of emails from the Chairman of Essendine PC on this project, and also one from our MP, Alicia Kearns. He had drafted a reply to the latter, which he presented to the meeting. AR felt that it was not quite strong enough, and questioned the “Why Rutland” approach. It was agreed that the reply will be re-drafted by AR in the next few days and submitted as soon as possible.

DW reported that an Action group had been formed and he had attended a meeting yesterday, which was well attended and understandably had produced forthright views on this development. He said that it covers a huge area, not just within Rutland but includes land in SKDC in Carlby as well. The development had caught RCC on the back foot, and came as a surprise to all. There are many considerations to be looked at, not least the impact on the property prices in the locality, not to mention the environmental issues, loss of arable land, security issues, wildlife, etc. He felt that a member of GCPC should get involved with the action group, as this issue is going to overshadow all other current planning issues (St. Georges, Woolfox, etc.) in the coming months

### **21,041 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: Nothbng further to report. RCC clearly are not going to take action on this.

c. SIDs and speeding: An engineer is due to visit GC tomorrow to fix these signs.

d. Village Green. The Clerk had applied to HM Land Registry for details of ownership of the Green, to be advised that it is unregistered land, and therefore the hold no details of its owners. There are two options open to us: (a) Apply for registration as a village green (as Essendine have done with their, much larger, green). This involves an application form to RCC giving details of ownership, and requires that the village residents complete a questionnaire as to how they use the green. The completed questionnaires have to accompany the application. (b) to apply to RCC to have the area designated as an Asset of value to the Community. This is added to the County Councils list of protected Community assets, and should any application for development be received the community would be flagged up immediately. The Clerk recommends option (b), as we do not have the details of ownership to allow its designation as a Village Green, and nor do we have to deal with questionnaires around the village. It was agreed to go ahead with option (b) .

### **21.042 Community Update re Covid-19**

MB reported that the figures within Rutland show large increase in reported infections in Rutland particularly in the eastern part of the county. Many of these relate to the schools in the county. JM reported that the increase in Rutland was some 50% higher than the

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national average. A large percentage of the population 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.

### **21.043 Dog Bins and Waste bins**

The Clerk reported that dog bins can be obtained for around £125 each, plus installation costs. The RCC website indicates that they do not supply dog bins, but suggests that normal litter bins may be used for dog waste. Biffa do a weekly collection service for dog waste bins at a cost of some £20 p.m. The clerk was requested to enquire of RCC whether they can supply and fit further litter bins (one at each of the Chicanes at either end of the village and one in Water Lane, and whether there are charges for emptying these.

### **21.044 Operation London Bridge**

MB reported that LRALC had issued a notice regarding this plan, which covers the arrangements for the State funerals of senior members of the Royal family, quite why now is not clear. These plans have been in place for many years, and there are no indication of expectation of implementation in the near future other than, of course, that the Queen is now 95 years old.

### **21.045 Any Other Business**

Remote Meetings: LRALC had sent round a note to the effect that Zoom meetings could now be resumed in view of the increase in Covid cases, and the impact of the Omicron variant of the disease. It was agreed that we should follow this course for the time being.

### **21.046 Date of Next Meeting:**

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022 as a “Zoom” meeting, 7.00pm

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.10 pm