

GREAT CASTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of Parish Council meeting held in Casterton Church Hall at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 19th.January 2022

In Attendance:

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

21.047 Apologies for Absence:

Councillors Alasdair Ryder (AR), Steve Barker (SB) and PC Laurie Appleton (LA)

21.048 Declarations of Interest

None

21.049 Minutes of Meetings held on 8th.December 2021

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

21.050 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.

21.051 Police Matters

No report received in the absence of a police representative.

21.052 Financial Update

a. Current Position: The Clerk had circulated an up-to-date account showing the current position, with expenditure at £4,410.15 from income totalling £11,493.53, balance £22,807.26. The ring-fenced CIL money reserve is £11,828.18, the election costs reserve £500, leaving a working balance of £10,479.08. A further invoice from RCC in respect of streetlighting for the year before last (2019-20) had been received and paid, it having been overlooked by RCC at that time. After known expenditure the end of year balance is likely to be in the vicinity of £7,500.

b. Precept Request 2022-23: The precept has been set at £5,650 after allowing for inflation at 3%, and was formally approved, MB proposing, seconded JM ,all in favour

21.053 Planning

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

b. Bowls Green Proposals: Their application has been taken to a full planning committee, which AR attended, taking the opportunity to address the meeting. There had been a misunderstanding regarding the footpath and play area, which, with both the PC and the developers in full accord, will now feature in the final approval. We have, in effect, got what we had wanted, a play area funded and equipped by the developers and a footpath through from Pickworth Road to the bus stop on OGNR. Both would be handed over to GCPC on completion with the responsibility for maintenance – RCC had said that they would not adopt the footpath.

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The misunderstanding with the planners would probably have not been cleared up had AR not attended and addressed the meeting, and the Chairman expressed the council's gratitude to him.

c. Rutland Local Plan: DW reported no further developments on this since the last meeting – an all-party working party has started work on the way forward, and an update is due in the next couple of weeks and he will have more to report on this at our next meeting.

d. Mallard Pass Solar Farm: MB has been in regular touch with Trevor Burfield, Chair of Essendine PC, who is also chairman of the action group formed recently, and which met recently and a further meeting is scheduled for next week. This group will need to be in a state of readiness for future, and a scoping report from the developers (a preliminary assessment of potential size and scope of available research) is due shortly and debate will become lively when this is published. Our MP, Alicia Kearns, had visited the site, and had raised the matter in Parliament, receiving a particularly non-committal response from the Minister. She has promised to continue to engage with this proposal.

DW urged that 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. There are many environmental and logistical problems to be discussed.

21,054 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, particularly if the Mallard Pass Solar Farm gets the go-ahead, as pressure on the crossroads in the village are bound to increase.

b. SIDs and speeding: signs are now fixed and functioning properly.

c. Village Green. The Clerk had submitted an application for registration of the green as an Asset of Community Value.

d. Entrance Gates at chicanes. An application for enhancement of the village entrances at both chicanes on OGNR has been submitted, and acknowledged. An engineer will have to do a viability assessment, and will be in touch in due course.

21.055 Community Update re Covid-19

MB reported that the figures within Rutland were still high, with 529 infections reported in the week to 13thg. Jan. A remarkable 75% of adults had now received a booster jab. 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.

21.056 UPP Broadband

JM and AR had attended a meeting with a representative of this company, who are carrying out extensive works in the area bringing high speed fibre broadband to Lincs and Rutland, and wish to bring this to Great Casterton, using existing infrastructure where possible. It was basically a sales pitch, outlining the benefits of switching to them. Main benefit is very high download speeds (up to 900mbs) at very competitive cost (£23 p.m. initially). Businesses will be able to access even higher speeds, again at very competitive cost.

21.057 Queen's Jubilee June 2022

An initial working group comprising SB and the Vicar had been formed, and further volunteers were required from around the village. JM and AR will be involved from GCPC. It is generally agreed that there should be an enthusiastic response to the Jubilee from all within the village. Arrangements were in hand to use the field behind the Crown, on which SB will arrange for a marquee to be erected. The village will participate in the

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nationwide beacon lighting, and the PC will purchase a beacon cradle, to be erected either on the village green (JM's suggestion) or in the churchyard near to the footpath leading to the hall. The Clerk will enquire whether permission will be required to erect this.

A flyer giving details of the proposals will be circulated (with the Church newsletter?) and the opportunity will be taken within this to alert villagers to the Mallard Pass proposals at the same time.

21.057 Waste bins

The Clerk reported that RCC can provide further waste bins at ca.£100 including installation, and these would be added to their collection schedule. It was agreed that we should order a further four bins to be located as follows:

1. Opposite the entrance to the footpath to the graveyard at the chicane
2. Water Lane, adjacent to the bridge
3. At the chicane at the Plough end of the village, adjacent to the footpath.
4. Between College Close and High Crescent.

The Clerk will place our order forthwith.

21.058 Any Other Business

Noticeboards : MB asked whether the noticeboards needed refurbishment. It was felt they were in reasonable order at present, but the notices within desperately needed updating. Clerk to arrange.

County Council by-election: DW reported that a by-election for the vacancy on Ryhall and Casterton ward will be held. He knew of one candidate, Richard Foster, a former RAF pilot.

21.046 Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 9th.March 2022 at the Church Hall, 7.00pm

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.00 pm