

GREAT CASTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting

25th. May 2022

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Wednesday 25th. May 2022 in the Church Hall at 7.00pm

Councillors Mark Bush (MB) in the Chair, John Sylvester (JS) Steve Barker (SB) and Derek Patience, Parish Clerk, were present. In addition County Councillors David Wilby (DW) and Rick Wilson (RW) attended, together with 3 members of the public: David Clarke, Jill Bush and Marion Pitt.

A22.001 Election of Chairman

Mark Bush indicated his willingness to continue as Chairman, and was duly elected on the proposal of AR, seconded WA, all in favour. In accepting his office, he stated that this would be his final year as a Parish Councillor

A22.002 Election of Vice Chairman

As in recent years, no Vice Chairman was elected

A22.003 Apologies for Absence

Councillors Alasdair Ryder (AR) and Jo Milnes (JM), PC Benjamin Orton

A22.004 Police Report

No report in the absence of a police representative. In sending his apologies, P.C. Ben Orton forwarded a copy of the Beat report for the past month, which included just one relating to Great Casterton, an assault which took place at the BP Garage.

A22.005 Public Questions and comments

None

A22.006 Declarations of Interest

None

A22.007 Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report is appended to these minutes.

A22.008 Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 26th. May 2021

These had been approved at the Parish Council Meeting held on 23rd. September 2021. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

A22.009 Review and Adoption of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

Standing Orders and Code of Conduct: There have been no changes since the last Annual Parish Meeting and no further changes were currently necessary. They were adopted on the proposal of JS, seconded SB, carried unanimously.

Financial Regulations: Reviewed at the last Annual meeting, with no amendments during the past year, these were adopted again on the proposal of SB seconded JS and carried unanimously

A22.010. Review of Inventory of Assets

The Inventory of Assets have changed since last year, with the incorporation of the Clerk's laptop computer and the Jubilee Beacon and the IPAQ data reader, valued at £500, now written off. Total Assets currently £13,400

A22.011. Review and confirmation of Insurance Cover for all insured risks

The Clerk reported that we were entering the 3rd. and final year of the 3-year agreement entered into with Zurich Municipal. Cover remained at last year's figures (£12m Public Liability, Officials Indemnity £12m, £50k personal Accident), with inflation increases on Office Equipment and Street Furniture. Renewal Premium this year £357.68, an increase of £3 on last year's.

A22.012. Review of the Council's memberships of other bodies

1. Leicestershire and Rutland Parish Councils (Annual Sub £212.12)
2. Council for Preservation of Rural England – Annual donation £20

It was agreed to continue these memberships, on the proposal of JS, seconded MB, all in favour.

A22.013. Finance – Approval of Certificate of exemption, Annual Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement

Copies of these documents were circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, and the accounts had been subjected to the internal audit procedure by Katherine Ayton.

(a). Certificate of Exemption: The Council agreed to adopt this Certificate, on proposal of JS, seconded SB, all agreed

(b) Annual Governance Statement: approved on the proposal of JS, seconded SB, all in favour.

(c). Annual Statement of Accounts: approved on proposal of JS, seconded SB, all in favour.

A22.014. Review of Parish Council's policy for dealing with the press/media

There had been no change in this policy, which follows the format in para. 26 of Standing Orders. The policy was approved on proposal of MB, seconded JS, all in favour.

A22.015. Review of Parish Council's Risk Assessment & Management

A copy of this document was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the risk assessments and management thereof were adequate.

A23.016 County Councillors' Reports

DW gave a brief report on the current turmoil within the County Council, with a new leader having been elected which will hopefully settle things down. He complimented the Chairman on running an efficient and happy Parish Council, and congratulations on organising excellent Jubilee arrangements.

RW introduced himself as the new County Councillor, and said that he was on a steep learning curve in the position, but he would support DW fully and do his best to represent the Parish Council at County Council.

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.35pm

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2022

The main highlights since my last report have been the completion of phase 1 of the Barkers site, the final approval for the Plough site and with it the provision of a much need children's play area for the village. At the same time we have been beset by traffic problems, both speeding through the village and a bottleneck at the crossroads at school opening and closing times. In addition, hanging over the village has been the proposed development known as Stamford North, or in Rutland Quarry Farm. Add to that the Mallard Pass Solar Farm development which will not really affect Great Casterton except during the construction phase where the consequences for the village could be dire. Barkers phase 1 is nearly complete and most of the houses are occupied. Their entrance on Water Lane is going to add to the already bad congestion at the crossroads and it is disappointing that our representations to Rutland County Council to widen the lane and make alterations to the crossroads have come to nothing. If the Mallard Pass Solar Farm, or North Stamford were to go ahead the traffic situation is likely to be much worse and action will be needed. We await new proposals for Barkers phase 2, the original ones having been rejected on the grounds that the proposed flats were unsuitable, visitor parking problems and the proximity to the cross roads. The Plough development is now agreed for four houses and a playground, funded by the Developers, which we look forward to. No date yet for the start of construction. The Parish Council has gratefully received CIL money for Phase 1 of Barkers and presumably can look forward to more from the Phase 2 and for the Plough. The Parish Council has agreed that some of this will be spent on improving the entrance to the village, on the Jubilee Beacon and on a donation to a new heating system for the Church Hall. There is no doubt that the proposed Mallard Pass Solar Farm is a blot on the Rutland countryside as well as being detrimental for the quality of life for villages affected by it. Great Casterton is likely to be badly affected during the construction phase when fleets of large trucks will transit the village from the A1 to the already congested crossroads and the Ryhall road. They will pass through two Chicanes, listed houses and cause a hazard to the one thousand or more school children who come to the village every day. Consequently we are giving the Essendine Action Group our full support. The North Stamford Development, and Quarry Farm in particular, has the potential to affect Great Casterton with extra traffic, congestion on the roads and at the crossroads. There needs to be a link road between the Quarry farm site and an A1 junction and it is of great concern that none of this has been mentioned in the various planning papers from Stamford Town Council and South Kesteven District Council. All we have received so far are comments that this is the responsibility of Lincolnshire County Council (who have not commented). Finally I would like to thank the Parish Councillors for their work over the year, and in particular for our proposed Jubilee celebrations. A big thank you too to our Clerk, Derek Patience for his considerable contribution towards the smooth running of the Council.