**The Minutes of Parish Council meeting held in Casterton Church Hall at 7.55pm on Wednesday 17th.May 2023**

**In Attendance:**

Councillors Alasdair Ryder (AR) in the Chair, Jo Milne (JM), Steve Rowell (SR), Paul Douglass (PD) and Derek Patience, Parish Clerk. Also present were County Councillor David Wilby (DW), together with 5 members of the public.

**23.030 Apologies for Absence:**

County Councillor Kevin Corby

**23.031 Declarations of Interest**

None

**23.032 Minutes of Meeting held on 17th. May 2023**

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

**23.033 Matters Arising from the Minutes not on the agenda**

None

**23.034** **Police Matters**

No report in absence of police representative. The monthly Crime report had been received last week, and AR suggested that this should be posted to the website each month. The Clerk would do so.

**23.035 Financial Update**

1. Current Position: The Clerk had circulated an up-to-date account showing the current position. Expenditure £2,334.03, income totalling £9,218.83 including this year’s precept, £6215 and the first tranche of CIL in respect of the Bowls Green site, amounting to £1,764.17. Balance £19,817.35 comprising CIL Reserve £7386.85, Election Reserve £750.00, Play Area Reserve £2,500.00 and General Reserve £9,180.50.

2. Banking Arrangements: The Clerk reported that the transfer process had been fraught with problems because the Unity Trust mandate did not include former Chairman Mark Bush, whose signature was required by Barclays Bank. The Clerk has finally agreed with Unity Trust Bank for the transfer from Barclays to take place on 13th.July.

3. Cheque authorisations (retrospective for cheques issued since last meeting):

* 1. Plough Env.- Grass Cutting April £160.00
  2. Plough Env. - Grass Cutting May £160.00
  3. L.R.A.L.C - Course Fees £50.00 (x2)
  4. D.C.Patience – Net Salary £548.34
  5. HMRC – PAYE £137.00
  6. Steve Rudkin Elect. – SID fuse repair £72.00

Approval proposed AR, seconded JM, all in favour.

**23.036 Planning**

a. College Close: AR summarized the current position regarding this application, which continues to be pursued by the developers despite RCC’s assertion that the application would be refused. A further submission has been presented from the Developers alterations, which requires comments by 25th. July. JM commented that the number of houses had been reduced by 2 since their first application. The response of Highways Dept. is still awaited. It was agreed that the Clerk should submit comments on this latest submission in similar vein to our previous comments. DW reported that the application does not feature on the agenda of the next Planning Committee meeting on 18th. July, and he will advise us immediately when it does.

b. Barkers: The final house on this development has now been sold with completion due by the end of September. No application has yet been received in respect of the Garage site, although the Whites continue to negotiate with the Planners regarding what will be acceptable on the site. It is understood that the current suggestion is for two pairs of semi-detached and two detached houses. Access to the properties would be from the main road.

b. Bowls Green Proposals: Contractors were now on site and progressing well. AR had written to Tom Helliwell requesting an on-site discussion of the proposed play area, but, disappointingly, had receive no response yet.

c. Rutland Local Plan: DW reported that the process was ongoing, but there was nothing further to report.

d. Mallard Pass Solar Farm: PD had attended a meeting of the Action Group on our behalf, and had re-iterated GCPC’s traffic concerns and worries concerning the damage to children’s health from construction traffic passing through the village. RCC had indicated that their next involvement would be the Statement of Common Ground, following which the Inspectorate would be able to concentrate on those areas where there was disagreement. No date yet for this next stage of the process.

e. Quarry Farm/North Stamford/ A1 link: Nothing further to report.

f. Hanson Cement proposed quarry extension: The company is to apply for permission for its proposed extension to the north of its current quarry. They will be holding  a public exhibition to set out its proposals on Thursday, July 13, between 12pm and 9pm at Ketton Visitors Centre, which AR will attend, and report to the next meeting.

**21.037 Neighbourhood Plan**

AR suggest we should be considering the possibility of drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan for Great Casterton, along similar lines to that produced recently by Ketton PC. It would be a long process, 3-5 years, and expensive. PD agreed enthusiastically, it being a subject close to his heart, and he was quite prepared to do a full presentation on the subject to the next meeting. DW suggested that Neighbourhood Plans were not as effective as they were perceived to be, as they could be readily rendered ineffective by fresh Government legislation. He felt that it may prove better to revise the current Village Plan prepared in 2007. JM agreed that the process would be expensive and involve much work, and SR agreed that the cost was a major factor.

PD would present his findings to the next meeting.

**23.038 Village River Walk**

AR expressed his thoughts on the future of the circular walk alongside the Guash through the village. The banks had become grossly overgrown, which, together with fallen trees, etc. and unmaintained bridges, make access difficult. It is an amenity much used by residents which he would like to see improved. The far bank, of course, runs through Ketton & Tinwell parishes and is on land owned by the William Cecil Trust, who in the past few years had been reluctant to undertake clearance work. The bank on the village side is owned by the Diocese as far as the graveyard.

AR’s vision is to draw up document with proposals for the walk’s maintenance by volunteers within the village, of which there were plenty available. This would be presented to all stakeholders, viz. Ketton & Tinwell parishes, Cecil Trust, Diocesan authorities, etc.

DW suggested that CPRE and the Water authorities should be included. The latter had been very proactive in clearance of the Guash in Ryhall to improve fishing facilities.

**23.039 Highways**

1. HTWG: The Chairman reported that nothing had been heard from Highways regarding the crossroads issue since April. DW commented that Highways Dept. was currently a “Disaster zone“.
2. SIDs: The Clerk reported that all three SIDs are now working properly.

**23.040 Replacement Noticeboards**

SB has yet to obtain a quote for replacement of both noticeboards from his carpenter.

SR suggested that he could obtain quotes from local carpenters for replacements similar to the current boards.

**23.041 Any Other Business**

Village Sign: PD felt that a village sign would enhance the village green, where the current information boards were looking very tired. The Clerk reported that these boards had been part of an RCC project at the Millenium, and he had last year written to RCC requesting that they needed refurbishment, which drew no response. DW suggested that the design of a new sign could be a project for Casterton College. The Clerk suggested that a new sign could be charged to the CIL Reserve.

**23.042 Date of Next Meetings:**

Wednesday 13th. September 2023 at the Church Hall 7.00pm

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.15 pm