**The Minutes of Parish Council meeting held in Casterton Church Hall at 7.55pm on Wednesday 15th.November 2023**

**In Attendance:**

Councillors Alasdair Ryder (AR) in the Chair, Steve Barker (SB), Paul Douglass (PD) and Derek Patience, Parish Clerk. Also present were County Councillors David Wilbv and Kevin Corby, together with 10 members of the public.

**23.056 Apologies for Absence:**

Councillor Jo Milnes.

**23.057 Declarations of Interest**

None

**23.058 Co-option of Parish Councillor**

The Chairman welcomed Ben Shelbourn, who has agreed to be co-opted as a Parish Councillor. The Clerk confirmed that he had completed the necessary paperwork. The Chairman proposed his co-option, seconded PD, all in favour.

**23.059 Minutes of Meeting held on 13th. September 2023**

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

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

College Cliose: The Chairman reported that the Stancliffe planning application had been formally rejected by RCC Planning Committee, and that they had six months in which to lodge any appeal with the Secretary of State.

**23.061** **Police Matters**

No report in absence of police representative. The monthly Crime report had been received last week, which the Clerk had circulate and posted to the website. The Chairman reported that there had been a burglary recently at Rivers Edge, OGNR.

**23.062 Financial Update**

1. Current Position: The Clerk had circulated an up-to-date account showing the current position. Current Balance £19,857.35 comprising CIL Reserve £7,094.86, Election Reserve £562.31, Play Area Reserve £2,500.00 and General Reserve £9,660.18.

2. CIL Account: The Clerk had circulated an up-to-date account showing payments and expenditure so far, and stressed that each tranche had to be expended within five years of receipt. The first two tranches of the Barkers development had already been expended, together with some £190 of the third tranche of £5,322.68, which has to be used by April 2026. The replacement noticeboard will account for £2,070 of the balance, leaving £3,062.68 to be used before April 2026

3. Cheque authorisations

(1) £ 135.00 – GCPCC Room Hire 2023

(2) £35.00 – ACR Computers Ltd – Internet Security renewal

(3) £45.00 - ACR Computers Ltd – LaptopRepair

(4) £80.00 – Plough Env. – Grass Cutting October

Approval proposed AR, seconded PD, all in favour.

4. Budget 2024-25

The Clerk had circulated a draft budget, showing an increase of 5% in the Annual Precept from £6,215 to £6,540, with similar income expenditure and income to the current year. The precept request has to be approved at the January meeting and submitted by January 15th.

**23.063 Planning**

a. Rutland Local Plan – Regulation 18 Review. The Chairman reported that the Consultation period for this part of the Plan will run until January 15th. and he encouraged councillors and residents to read through the document and submit their comments by that date. It represents the last opportunity for all to comment of the development area proposals within it – there are three new areas suggested: (1) land to the rear of the College; (2) land to the rear of properties in Pickworth Road, former allotments; (3) land to the rear of properties in Ermine Rise. It was noted that Great Casterton is now classified as a larger service centre. The PC’s response will be discussed and approved at the January meeting.

b. Quarry Farm/North Stamford/ A1 link: There had been little further progress. AR had attended a recent presentation by Allison Homes discussing their Monarch development.

A Statement of Common Ground between RCC and SKDC has yet to materialize. A proportion of some 700 houses will form a substantial part of Rutland’s total requirement of 2,000 to 2041, although they are not specifically mentioned in the current review. There was still concern regarding infrastructure improvement requirements, roads, medical, etc. - the provision of doctors – both Empingham Surgery and Stamford’s were overloaded already.

DW urged the PC to keep hammering on with the infrastructure issue.

BS commented that there was currently little empathy from the College and the village, and we should work on improving this situation.

c. Mallard Pass Solar Farm: The consultation period ends tomorrow, and the matter will now go to the Inspectorate for the final decision, expected in the New Year. DW praised the tireless work put in by the Action Group.

**21.064 Neighbourhood Plan**

PD outlined what was involved in producing a Neighbourhood Plan. It was a lengthy and costly process, although grant funding is available to assist with this. It does however have legal standing in planning processes. It would require full approval from residents, and, indeed volunteers from amongst them to assist, and a referendum would be required to fully support it. An initial flyer would need to be prepared for circulation within the village. All members of the PC were in favour of pursuing the process. PD will consult other PCs on how they produced their Plans, as well as designing a flyer and presenting it to the next meeting.

DW reiterated his fears that there was a lot of time and money involved, which could all be in vain if, as was possible, Government could overrule the provisions of a Neighbourhood Plan.

**23.065 Highways**

a. SIDs. The Clerk reported that the SID opposite Ermine Rise was again nor functioning. He had asked Steve Rudkin to check the fuse, which was found to be OK. He had reported the problem on FixMyStreet, requesting them to get an engineer to it. He had sent a separate email enquiring about the current position as far as the replacement programme was concerned.

**23.066 Replacement Noticeboards**

SR has now obtained quotes for replacement of the church noticeboards:

1. Colin Bowler (who made the original noticeboard) £2,070 + VAT
2. Stamford Bespoke Joinery Ltd of Essendine £1,560 + VAT

SR has stated that he is prepared to oversee the works, even though he is no longer on the Council. The proposed that Colin Bowler’s quote should be accepted, given tghat he was local to the village, and had made and installed the original board. PD seconded, all in favour. The Clerk will get the ball rolling.

**23.067 Maintenance Work on Village Green**

The Chairman has obtained original artwork for the information board on the village green, and SB would arrange for his carpenter to freshen up the frame and copy the artwork. AR suggested that this work should be deferred to the Spring.

**23.068 Lamppost Poppies**

The Chairman reported that the poppies had gone missing since they were taken down last year. It was agreed that replacements should be purchased from RBL next year.

**23.069 Any Other Business**

Highways Concern: In response to a question from the floor, the Chairman confirmed that our concern regarding pedestrian safety in the village had been submitted, and we are awaiting a response from Highways dept.

**23.070 Date of Next Meetings:**

Wednesday 3rd. January 2024 at the Church Hall 7.00pm

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