**The Minutes of Parish Council meeting held in Casterton Church Hall at 7.00pm on Wednesday 3rd.January 2024**

 **In Attendance:**

Councillors Alasdair Ryder (AR) in the Chair, Steve Barker (SB), Jo Milnes(JM), Ben Shelbourn (BS) and Derek Patience, Parish Clerk. Also present were County Councilors David Wilbv and Kevin Corby, together with 8 members of the public.

**23.071 Apologies for Absence:**

 Councillor Paul Fouglass

**23.072 Declarations of Interest:**

 **None**

**23.073 Minutes of Meeting held on 15th. November 2023**

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

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

 None

**23.075** **Police Matters**

 No report in absence of police representative. The monthly Crime report had been received , which the Clerk had circulated and posted to the website. There were no issues relating to Great Casterton.

**23.076 Financial Update**

 1. Current Position: The Clerk had circulated an up-to-date account showing the current position. Current Balance £19,462.45 comprising CIL Reserve £7,094.86, Election Reserve £562.31, Play Area Reserve £2,500.00 and General Reserve £6,805.28. The street lighting charge for the current year had been submitted, which, at. £1,568.66 was higher than the £1,200 budgeted this time last year.

 2. CIL Account: The Clerk confirmed that 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. Budget 2024/25 and Precept Request 2024/25: The Clerk had revised the budget figures in the light of the street lighting charge just received, but the precept request has not been changed, remaining £6,540, an increase of 5% on last year.

 4. Cheque authorisations

(1) £1,568.66 – RCC - Streetlighting

(2) £548.14 – D.C.Patience met salary

(3) £137.20 – HMRC - PAYE

 Approval proposed AR, seconded JM, all in favour.

**23.077 Planning**

 a. Rutland Local Plan – Regulation 18 Review. The Chairman reported that the Consultation period for this part of the Plan closes on January 15th. and we have to submit the PC's comments by that date. The Regulation 18 covers the Planned Limits of Development (PLD), which in Great Casterton there are six new areas suggested: (1) GtC1 - Rear (western) boundaries of The Haven and 8 Pickworth Road (2) GtC2 – Rear (eastern) boundaries of properties on High Crescent and Pickworth Road (3) – GtC3 - Casterton College (4) GtC4 – Casterton College cartilage alongside Ryhall Road (5) GtC5 – Rear (eastern boundary of the Crown Inn. GtC6 – Rear (eastern) boundary of property to the south of the Crown Inn. The RCC website detailing the proposals is complex, and difficult for the layman to navigate in order to make comments, which is not very helpful.

It is important to remember that these areas in the PLD are the result of submissions by landowners responding to the call for sites, and do not represent planned developments, but their inclusion in the OLD enables any planning application on them to be considered by the Planning Committee – any application covering areas outside the PLD will be rejected by the Committee.

The Chairman had asked all councillors to consider the proposals carefully, and their responses to each individual site were discussed at length. He would collate all their responses and circulate the proposed PC comments to all before submission to RCC. KC suggested that there was a case for a pause in the process, which RCC had rejected. DW emphasised that we should make comments clearly and include all aspects, e.g. traffic concerns, infrastructure and services.

From the floor Wendy Shelbourn noted that the plan showed her garden at 44 Pickworth Road, yet she definitely had not responded to the call for sites in 2022. AR agreed to look into this point.

b. Quarry Farm/North Stamford/ A1 link: There had been little further progress. KC reported that the Statement of Common Ground between RCC and SKDC has yet to materialize, and, indeed, it appears that each authority is making its own way rather than adopting a coordinated approach . There is still concern regarding infrastructure improvement requirements, roads, medical, etc. - the provision of doctors,etc.

 c. Mallard Pass Solar Farm: The consultation period had now ended, and the matter is now with the Inspectorate for the final decision, expected in February.

**21.078 Neighbourhood Plan**

 In the absence of PD, it was freed to postpone this discussion to the next meeting.

**23.079 Highways**

 a. SIDs. The Clerk reported that the RCC response to his email requesting them to arrange repair and enquiring about the current position as far as the replacement programme was concerned was to say that it was a parish-owned sign and therefore down to us to arrange it. In response he had provided the evidence that RCC had taken possession of the signs in 2016 at the same time that the took ownership of all the PC's street lights. KC and DW felt sure they had seen a further email apologising for the misunderstanding, but the clerk had not received this. They promised to look into this. The Clerk is still not sure what the position is regarding the replacement programme.

 b. River Guash Footpath. AR reported that Tinwell Parish Council had no objections to our proposals, and he would pursue matters with Strutt and Parker regarding the Burghley Estates input.

**23.080 Replacement Noticeboards**

 SB treported that Colin Bowler has nearly completed the new noticeboard, and he will arrange an appropriate plaque highlighting the contributions from the proceeds of collections at John Sylvester’s funeral..

**23.081 Maintenance Work on Village Green**

 AR suggested that this work should be deferred to the Spring.

**23.069 Any Other Business**

 D-Day 80th Anniversary celebrations. BS asked whether the village planned to mark this anniversary with an event. DW felt that the anniversary was more a remembrance for all the lives lost than a celebration, and felt that the VE day anniversary later in the year was a more appropriate occasion for such a celebration

**23.070 Date of Next Meetings:**

 Wednesday 28th.February 2024 at the Church Hall 7.00pm

 There being no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.35 pm