

GREAT CASTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of Parish Council meeting held in Casterton Church Hall at 7.45pm on Wednesday 15th. May 2024

In Attendance:

Councillors Alasdair Ryder (AR) in the Chair, Jo Milnes (JM), Ben Shelbourn (BS), Paul Douglass (PD) and Derek Patience, Parish Clerk. Also present were County Councillors David Wilby and Kevin Corby (KC), together with 7 members of the public.

24.018 Apologies for Absence:

Councillors Steve Barker

24.019 Declarations of Interest:

None

24.020 Minutes of Meeting held on 10th. April 2024

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

24.021 Matters Arising from the Minutes not on the agenda

None

24.022 Police Matters

No report in absence of police representative. The Clerk reported that no monthly reports had been received for the past two months. The Beat Officer has changed, and AR will endeavour to contact him via social media to invite him along to our next meeting.

24.023 Financial Update

1. Current Position: The Clerk presented the first account for the 2024/25 financial year, with total expenditure of £821.39 from income of £9,863.49, leaving a current balance of £25,371.87, represented by CIL Reserve of £10,418.35, Election Costs Reserves of £562.31, Play Area Reserve of £2,500, leaving a General Reserve of £12,891.21.

2. Cheque authorisations

- (1) £80.00 – Plough Env. Services – Grass cutting April
- (2) £40.00 – Information Commissioner – Annual renewal
- (3) £390.91 – Zurich Insce renewal premium
- (4) £50.00 – LRALC – Course fee
- (5) £2,484.00 – Colin Bowler – new noticeboard

Approval proposed AR, seconded JM, all in favour.

24.024 Planning

a. Community Play Area: The Chairman reported that, following our position statement copied to the developers, a revised application had been submitted by Oakwood Homes, and awaits a decision in early June. Our position statement has been uplifted to the Planning portal as our comments. DW enquired whether the proposed area was to be fully fenced, which AR confirmed – there is a clear boundary all around.

b. Mallard Pass Solar Farm: Alicia Kearns has reported that the criteria for the use of agricultural land was to be changed by Parliament. Whether this would be in time to affect the Mallard Pass project was currently unclear, but would become clearer in the next few days. She had reported that the developers had included a number of “untruths” in their presentation, including statements regarding reports from Highways and Network Rail. There

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are certain to be developments over the next few days which may affect the outcome of this project.

c. Quarry Farm/North Stamford/ A1 link: There had been little further progress. KC reported that statement of common ground between SKDC and RCC has yet to be fully resolved. are at capacity. Biodiversity is also a concern, as well as the various infrastructure issues – schools, medical centre, etc, It is clear that the developers are not listening to these issues. Clearly, there is a still long way to go before any agreement can be reached.

24.025 Highways

a. Auto Speed Watch. BS has done some research into this topic, which represents an alternative to the established community speedwatch scheme, which requires a team of trained volunteers using speed guns, in co-operation with the police. The technology for the Auto Speedwatch system is considered robust, and uses cameras which record speeds and number-plates of offending vehicles, but at present carries no legal basis for the police to work with. BS attended a meeting of various local PCs in Ketton attended by 7 local PCs, who will draw up a collective letter addressed to RCC and Leics. Police, both of whom are somewhat sceptical of the process, in particular the latter, whose workload could well be excessive as a result.

b. Crossroads. KC reported that Cllr Wise had declined to join in an on-site meeting with the Highways Dept, and he could understand the PC's disappointment over this. A meeting is to be arranged, but no date has been fixed for it.

JM suggested that a Freedom of Information request should be made for the police to report on the number of accidents at this site over the past year.

c. River Gwash Footpath. No further developments to report at this stage.

d. Fencing at the bridge over the River Gwash. We have been informed that this piece of land is no longer Diocesan property, it having been sold to Scott Nicholas of the Old Rectory. The Chairman will endeavour to speak to him personally on this matter

24.026 Neighbourhood Plan

PD and the Chairman are currently working on a circular letter to residents requesting views of this subject, and calling for volunteers to help with organization. KC suggested that it may prove beneficial to consult with other local PCs, e.g. Ketton PC, to tap into their expertise on completing a plan. He also stated that we should keep it as simple as possible, and to only include what the Parish really wants.

24.027 Maintenance work village green

No progress to report

24.112 Any Other Business

1. PCC Summer Fete August 2024: The Chairman has received a request from the PCC for financial assistance with the music for their fete in August. After some discussion, it was agreed to support to the extent of £250, on the proposal of AR, seconded PD, three in favour with one abstention.

11324. Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 17th. July 2024 at the Church Hall 7.00pm

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8 40 pm

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