

GREAT CASTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting

24th. May 2017

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Tuesday, 24th. May 2017 at Casterton Business & Enterprise College at 7.00pm

Councillors Mark Bush (MB) in the Chair, Michael Markey (MM), Alasdair Ryder (AR), Clare Rowbotham (CR) John Sylvester (JS) and Derek Patience, Parish Clerk, were present. In addition County Councillor Chris Parsons (CP) attended, together with 2 members of the public: Tom Lamb and Margaret Markey

A17.001 Election of Chairman

Mark Bush indicated his willingness to continue as Chairman, and was duly elected on the proposal of AR, seconded MM, all in favour.

A17.002 Police Report

LA reported that there had been a total of 17 crimes reported in the parish during the last twelve months. These break down as follows: 1 burglary, 6 criminal damage (3 farming, 2 graffiti, 1 car mirror), 1 theft, 1 theft from a motor vehicle (number plate), 1 theft of a motor vehicle, 3 assaults (all at CBEC).

The beat continues to work against hare-coursing, and a current priority relates to illegal motor-cycling in Casterton quarry.

MB asked about progress with a 7.5t hgv ban through the village. LA was surprised that there had been a perception that he had agreed to pursue this, as it is highly unlikely that one could ever be obtained. He suggested approaching RCC Highways, but

A17.003 Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report is appended to these minutes.

A17.004 Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 13th. May 2015

These had been approved at the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th. July 2016. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

A17.005 Review and Adoption of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

Standing Orders and Code of Conduct: A revised set of these had been approved at the Parish Council held on 21st. July 2012. No amendments were required since, and they were adopted on the proposal of MB, seconded MM, 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 MM, seconded MB and carried unanimously

A17.006. Review of Inventory of Assets

The Inventory of Assets has changed since last year, with the laptop computer added at £496. Total Assets £33,313. The street lights were taken into RCC ownership on 1st. April 2017 and will not appear in the assets register from that date.

A17.007. Review and confirmation of Insurance Cover for all insured risks

The Clerk outlined the insurance cover as detailed in the renewal schedule due on 1st. June 2017. The lower renewal premium of £330.28 reflected the removal of the street lights from the insured items. The overall cover was considered satisfactory, and it was agreed to continue with the policy for another year.

A17.008. Review of the Council's memberships of other bodies

1. Leicestershire and Rutland Parish Councils (Annual Sub £175.41)
2. Rural Community Council – Annual donation £20
3. Council for Preservation of Rural England – Annual donation £20

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

A17.009. Finance – Approval of 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. The Clerk outlined the key figures to those present.

(a). Annual Governance Statement: approved on the proposal of MM, seconded AR, all in favour.

(b). Annual Statement of Accounts: approved on proposal of MM, seconded CR, all in favour.

The Chairman & Clerk signed both documents.

A17.010. 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 MM, all in favour.

A17.011. 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.

A17.012 County Councillors' Reports

CP commented on the Rutland Housing Development Plan, which focussed housebuilding on the two towns, Oakham and Uppingham, with no large developments planned for the villages. The County Council was well over its target number of new homes.

A17.013 Public Questions

There were no questions from members of the public.

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.45pm

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2017 – CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS

Last year I remarked that this small village in rural England had a few concerns, but with so much in government things take a long time to get done, particularly as all departments are short of money.

Some of these concerns have gone away, only to be replaced by others.

The first of them was that of traffic through the village, which continues to increase. This has not been helped by the approval of the planning application for industrial units at the BP Garage. Work is now underway and the first units are almost completed.

In parallel with this is the Stamford Town Plan, which envisages several hundred new houses, along with industrial development. Stamford wishes that most of this will take place over the border in Rutland: some of it towards Great Casterton, and particularly along the B1081 – Old Great North Road which of course goes right through the village.

Add to this Rutland’s own plan for additional housing. And in that plan there are five sites in Great Casterton and one in Little Casterton, which would affect us and if approved would create even more traffic through our conservation area.

Finally there is the proposal by Casterton College to develop their sports field to generate income for the college.

My own view is that this potential traffic problem, which will be brought about by development will be one of the Parish Council’s primary concerns over the next year. The County Councillors tell me that we should keep our foot hard on the pedal over this.

Now onto some good news.

Firstly the Woolfox wind farm project was refused, but the application for a reflective panel farm has been approved. We will need to keep an eye out as to how they are going to get the electricity away. Western Power Distribution is the lead for this and they do not need planning permission.

Secondly, the Crown Inn is now being refurbished under new ownership and I am sure everyone will be looking forward to its opening next month. It is certainly going to look a lot better than it did.

Thirdly, those trees. We have won at last. It has taken four years of arguing and procrastination. But they are coming down and two new ones will be planted to replace them, along with a new stone wall and the whole area cleared up. This along with a refurbished pub will certainly enhance the conservation area in that end of the village.

Fourthly, the lighting in the village has now been taken over by RCC. We were one of the few villages in which the Parish Council owned lights have been updated and we have been promised a rebate to cover that. They have also taken over the electronic speed signs that will save us further money.

Let me just mention the Bowling Club. Its now been two years since we visited the Burghley Preservation Trust and despite a number of reminders they have not reached a decision on a way ahead. In the meantime the green is a wasteland. We will continue to chase Burghley.

Lastly lets us hope that some improvement can be made to the two remaining black spots in the village – Barkers and the Plough. All are in a state of disrepair.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parish Council for all their work on behalf of the village.

Many thanks also go to our two County Councillors, Chris Parsons and David Wilby for their support.

Let me also thank Derek Patience, our Clerk for his work. He does most things for us – very efficiently.

Thank you.