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GREAT CASTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting

23rd. May 2018

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Wednesday, 23rd. May 2018 at Casterton College at 7.00pm

Councillors Mark Bush (MB) in the Chair, Michael Markey (MM), Alasdair Ryder (AR), John Sylvester (JS) Wanda Allen (WA) and Derek Patience, Parish Clerk, were present. In addition County Councillor David Wilby and PC Laurie Appleton attended, together with 1 members of the public: David Clarke.

A18.001 Election of Chairman

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

A18.002 Police Report

LA reported that there had been a total of 11 crimes reported in the parish during the last twelve months. These break down as follows: 4 Bilking (fuel from filling station without paying), 3 criminal damage, 1 theft, 1 theft from a motor vehicle, 1 assault. Most of these related to filling stations and had minimal impact on the community.

The beat continues to work against hare-coursing, which for some reason seems to happen in the parish in January each year and a current priority relates to illegal motor-cycling in Casterton quarry, which Stamford residents keep reporting, but enquiries within the parish do not find evidence to back up their complaints.

He is looking for an opportunity to hold a beat surgery in Nov/Dec, and, although he cannot himself attend the June fete, he hopes his new PCSO may be able to.

MB asked about the speed van, which has not been seen in the village for some time. LA promised to pursue this.

The request from a Pickworth Road resident for double yellow lines opposite the Primary School was discussed. LA thought it unlikely that Highways would agree to it, but even if they were introduced, they would really only act as a deterrent, as RCC was unlikely to enforce them.

MB asked if there was any evidence for drugs in GC. LA was not aware of any.

A18.003 Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report is appended to these minutes.

A18.004 Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 24th. May 2017

These had been approved at the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th. September 2017. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

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A18.005 Review and Adoption of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

Standing Orders and Code of Conduct: A revised set of have been produced this year to reflect recent changes in law, including the Data Protection regulations which come into force on 25th. May. These were adopted on the proposal of AR, 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 AR seconded MM and carried unanimously

A18.006. Review of Inventory of Assets

The Inventory of Assets has changed since last year, with street lights taken into RCC ownership on 1st. April 2017. Total Assets now £13,592.

A18.007. Review and confirmation of Insurance Cover for all insured risks

The Clerk reported that the renewal premium due on 1st. June showed a significant increase on last year, with Came & Co. opting for a new Insurer, Axa Inspire. For the first time the premium includes an administration fee of £50, with the total premium now requested £395.45.

An alternative quote had been sought from Zurich Insurance, whose quote amounted to ££352.43 (£340.98 on 3 year LTA) and showed significant increases in cover (£12m Public Liability, Officials Indemnity £12m, £50k personal Accident). After discussion it was agreed to take up the Zurich quote on the 3 year LTA, on the proposal of JS, seconded MM

A18.008. Review of the Council's memberships of other bodies

1. Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils (Annual Sub £181.41)
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.

A18.009. Finance – Approval of Certificate of exemption, 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. Changes in the regulations this year allow parishes with expenditure of £25,000 or less to sign a Certificate of Exemption from a Limited Assurance Review, which means that, although that the Annual Return document is sent to the national auditors as before, no call for back up documents are required, and no audit fee is payable.

(a). Certificate of Exemption: The Council agreed to adopt this Certificate, on proposal of MM, seconded AR, all agreed

(b) 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 AR, all in favour.

The Chairman & Clerk signed all three documents.

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A18.010. 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.

A18.011. 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. Changes to the document will be required for the coming year to reflect the risk of data breaches.

A18.012 County Councillors' Reports

DW commented on the proposals for St. George's barracks at North Luffenham, which propose the development of 3,000 new homes, together with a primary school and other infrastructure. It is a windfall project and long-term plan, which if carried through will bring significant increases to RCC funding. He will be watching the developments closely, making sure that the proper infrastructure is put in place.

Current reserves held by are roughly £1m, which allowing for further cutbacks, are unlikely to last more than 5 years unless significant increases in income are found.

DW continues to keep a close eye on the North Stamford Development Plan, which have gone quiet for a while, but will have an effect on both Castertons and Ryhall. There is close co-operation between the planning departments of SKDC and RCC on this project.

Proposals for a central hub for police, fire and ambulance stations in Oakham have been put forward, but are in a very early stage.

A18.013 Public Questions

There were no questions from members of the public.

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.50pm

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2018 – CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

As Chairman I have to make an annual report to the Parish Council.

As always there are a few ongoing concerns. One of them left over from last year is the ongoing development proposals for Stamford.

These are mainly to the north of the town and stretch into Little Casterton and Ryhall. A large number of houses – about 1500 are planned over the next fifteen years or so. This will include a new road through the site onto the B1081, which goes through Great Casterton; there will also be shops, a school and presumably healthcare.

We have two particular concerns. The first is traffic through the village, a worry for both residents and our two schools.

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The Parish Council has recently been addressed by one concerned resident from Rutland heights who highlighted the need for new roads to efficiently connect to the A1 as well as avoiding the village. People have to get to work and a lot of families now have two cars.

This is an area that is often ignored by developers and by some local authorities, but not Rutland.

The Parish Council has been advised to keep shouting on this issue, but when it comes to the crunch we will need the assistance of the County Council, both Councillors and Officers.

The other housing issue was the proposed five development sites within the village. The County Council in a report last year has rejected these proposals. But we must continue to be vigilant, as developers tend to come back.

Whilst I am on the subject of the County Council may I congratulate them on their snow clearance operation in February. They were much better than their neighbours in Stamford and South Kesteven.

But I should say that we remain concerned about street cleaning. I know we are some way from Oakham, but we as a village are not as clean as we should be. Its leaves in the Autumn, and weeds in the Summer – let alone rubbish. Our volunteer litter pickers do a great job, but they do not sweep the area through the centre of the village. In short we need more visits from Cleansing.

The last point I would like to mention is Data Protection, in particular the GDPR. I have been a Parish Councillor for some years now as well as working for local government previously. I can say that This has been the most bureaucratic and ponderous exercise I have ever been through.

We are a small council with limited resources and it has taken the Clerk, and myself a considerable amount of time and effort to get it right. But I am confident that after the two meetings this evening we will be compliant.

But I should also say that the LRALC has given superb assistance and without them we would not be where we are now. I have thanked them for their work and they have come back and thanked me for thanking them.

Lastly I would like to warmly thank the Parish Councillors for all their work and support.

Derek you do most of the work, thank you too from all of us.

Many thanks also go to our two County Councilors, Chris Parsons and David Wilby. We appreciate their support.