

# GREAT CASTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

## DRAFT

**The Minutes of Parish Council meeting held at Casterton College at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>. September 2018.**

### **In Attendance:**

Councillors Mark Bush (MB) in the Chair, Michael Markey (MM), Alasdair Ryder (AR), John Sylvester (JS), Wanda Allen (WA) and Derek Patience, Parish Clerk. Also present were County Councillor David Wilby (DW) and 2 members of the public, Mr. David Clarke (DC) and Tom Lamb (TL)

### **18.012 Apologies for Absence:**

None

### **18.013 Declarations of Interest and Amendments:**

None

### **18.014 Minutes of Previous Meetings held on 24<sup>th</sup>. May 2018**

Annual Parish Meeting: The minutes were approved on the proposal of MM seconded JS all in favour

Parish Council Meeting: The minutes were approved on the proposal of MM seconded JS all in favour

### **18.015 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Academisation of Primary School: DW reported that this process was progressing well, and should be completed in the near future.

Streetlight on footpath: This has been completed and the light is connected. WA reported that the path was now well lit..

### **18.016 Police & Neighbourhood Watch**

No report in absence of a representative. The Chairman commented that the speed check van had not been seen in recent months – TL had seen it once some weeks back, but it didn't stay long, and it is never seen in busy periods.

### **18.017 Financial Update**

Current Position: The Clerk presented details of the current position. This showed expenditure so far of £1,638, from income totalling £5,688, leaving a current balance of £12,483, a healthy position. VAT refund, ca. £500, has not yet been received, nor has an invoice from RCC for the new streetlight, which will amount to some £2,500. These will bring the balance down to around £10k, and after further routine expenditure, the end-of-year balance is likely to be similar to that of last year

### **18.018 Home Farm Wall rebuild**

The Chairman commented on lack of progress with this. TL reported that the builders had not returned to fulfil the job, and another contractor was being sought. His father had been very busy with personal matters recently, and he will try to push it further.

### **18.019 Centrebus no.9 service**

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DW reported that this matter had been discussed recently at Cabinet level. The company seemed no longer to want to operate the service.

WA commented that there was a rumour that the company was trying to sell the route, and may discontinue the service from October. Their insistence that the service reduction was due to withdrawal of funding from RCC simply was not true. The Saturday 185 service being offered by Blands was totally inadequate. The Integrated Transport report had been misleading regarding this additional service being introduced to cover. She commented that RCC's commitment in the Local Plan to providing first-class transport services was 'pie in the sky' and does not provide answers to the current situation. DW suggested contacting Lucy Stevenson at RCC to pursue this. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to Transport at RCC.

### **18.020 Planning**

1. Barkers: A planning application for 5 dwellings had been submitted, and PC comments in favour included the request that a condition of any approval should require the developers to widen access in Water Lane. The Clerk had spoken to the Planning Officer to enquire whether the application would go to Planning Committee, and had been told that this would depend on the nature of the comments received. PC's comments had asked that it should do, to enable PC to attend and make representations. JS commented that the owner had had to deal with 3 separate Planning Officers since the application had been submitted.

2. Home Farm, Pickworth Road: This application had been delayed by nearly three months, and was now proceeding after an amendment had been made. TL commented that he had been told that it could be a further two months before the process was complete.

3. Rutland Local Plan: This does not directly affect Great Casterton, but the North Stamford Development will have great impact on roads and transport through the village. The cross roads was a particular problem, with much traffic using Water Lane, on which there is a 10ton limit. DW urged the PC to continue to press for widening of the Lane, and asked whether Council had considered requesting traffic lights at the junction. AR commented that this would affect the village context – he would like to see an assessment made by an independent traffic expert.

MM had attended a very well attended Parish Council Forum on the Local Plan, which had made it clear that it is not too late to submit changes. The first phase of the St.George's development is to produce 1200 houses, with 796 houses currently being built in Oakham and Uppingham and other sites in the county. These are being built in accordance with government requirements, and do not necessarily reflect local requirements. Other developments in the area are likely to greatly affect traffic and transport in Rutland.

DW commented on the need for all affected councils to communicate with each other. There is a bid in for ca. £30m infrastructure funding. He disagreed that the Local Plan did not really affect GC, it will produce further significant pressure on roads and traffic around the area equally as much as the North Stamford plans will. There was a need for an integrated approach by all parties to ensure that proper infrastructure improvements were introduced to cope with increase in population. It was agreed that a PC comment on the road and transport aspects of the plan would be submitted before the deadline of 24 September.

### **18.021 Elections May 2019**

The Clerk reported that RCC will be making a charge for unopposed Parish Council elections for the first time. The Council had always budgeted for such charges in the past,

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and will need to continue to do so. It may require an increase in precept funding to accommodate the charge.

The Chairman asked councillors to consider putting themselves forward for re-election, and to actively seek a suitable replacement for MM, who will no longer qualify on residential grounds. He suggested that we could write to Casterton College to see if they had a suitable representative available if that was allowed under the rules.

### **18.022 Pickworth Road Speed Limit**

A letter from a resident recently had drawn attention to excessive speeds seen from drivers using this road, and suggested that the current speed limit should be extended further out. JS suggested that we should look at the possibility of a reduced speed limit of 20mph, which is appropriate in view of the location of the Primary School. The Chairman suggested that the subject should be put on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

### **18.023 Any Other Business**

None.

### **18.011 Date of Next Meetings:**

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>. October 2018, Casterton College 7.00pm.

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.10 pm.