

# **DRAFT**

## **GREAT CASTERTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**The Minutes of Parish Council meeting held at Casterton College at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>.December 2017.**

### **In Attendance:**

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

The Meeting was preceded by a presentation given by Mr. Adrian Gombault on behalf of the Rutland Neighbourhood Watch. He invited a representative of GCPC to join the local group, North East Rutland NHW which meets a couple of times a year, and gave details of the new RHNW app for smartphones, which enables people to share crime information rapidly with the police and other parishes within Rutland.

### **16.147 Apologies for Absence:**

County Councillor Chris Parsons and PC Laurie Appleton,

### **16.148. Declarations of Interest and Amendments:**

None

### **16.149 Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup>.November 2017**

The minutes were approved on the proposal of MM seconded AR

### **16.150 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Remembrance Day Poppies: Many favourable comments had been received from residents on the display. Tom Lamb agreed to take them down in the next day or two.

### **16.151 Police & Neighbourhood Watch**

No report in the absence of a Police representative. The recent monthly email report advised that there had been one instance of criminal damage (crop damage) in the last month.

### **16.152 Financial Update**

Current Position: The Clerk presented details of the current position. This showed expenditure so far of £4,410, from income totalling £6,598, leaving a current balance of £9,774. The RCC refund of £663 in respect of the SIDs upgrades has now been received.

Budget 2018-19: The Clerk presented draft budget figures for the next financial year, which proposed the Precept remaining at this year's level. He pointed out that the figure carried forward to reserves was increasing year on year, to the extent that by the end of next year reserves are likely to be almost £10,000, well in excess of recommended levels. He suggested that there were two remedies for this: 1. To reduce the annual precept requirement to compensate, which he considered inadvisable, or 2. To use the excess reserves to fund a project for the benefit of the community.

The Chairman proposed that the latter recommendation should be followed, which was unanimously agreed. He invited councillors to give thought to suggested projects for discussion at the next meeting. WA suggested that funds could be directed towards installation of a new street lamp along the alleyway between High Crescent and College Close which is currently very poorly illuminated.

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### **16.153 Planning**

1. The Rutland County Plan: DW reported on the current position on the plan, which is due to be considered by Cabinet in April/May, with the document then going out for consultation by interested parties before the summer holiday. He felt that at the moment it was really a question of waiting for further developments, particularly in relation to the proposed North Stamford Development Plan.

2. Crown Inn: No further developments. Tom Lamb commented that the landlord had said that he will not pursue the application and will instead trim the trees back.

3. Barkers: Demolition of the existing buildings, for which planning permission is not required, was to take place very soon, before the end of the year.

4. Road Closure: The Main Road will be closed on December 18<sup>th</sup>./19<sup>th</sup>. outside the Crown Inn to allow essential drainage work to be undertaken.

### **16.154 Streetlighting Charges**

Neil Tomlinson of RCC Highways had written to advise the proposed charge for 2017-18, £437.68, which is some £62 above the estimate given last year (£385) at the outset of the scheme. His letter blamed the increase on a 15% increase in energy prices in the year. He also gave the projected figure for 2018-19, which at £492.65 shows a further increase of almost 13%. It was felt that this was an excessive increase over a two year period, and the Clerk was asked to write to Highways to question this.

It was noted that no compensation payment had been made for the upgrades undertaken by the Parish Council prior to the RCC takeover, and the Clerk will also write to find out why.

### **16.155 Rutland Flood Plan**

The Chairman reported on the document recently received from RCC, which calls for any comments from Parish Councils. Great Casterton is not listed as at risk, although historically the Gwash has been known to flood at times. It highlights the fact that RCC is not responsible for maintenance if the river, this falls on the Environment Agency, and it was noted that the river had not been cleared for many years. The stretch between Water Lane and the Cemetery was particularly overgrown, and the Clerk was asked to write to the Environment Agency to request clearance.

### **16.156 Any Other Business**

Street lamps: Two lamps, no.781 and that on the wall of Gwash Cottage, were functioning only intermittently, and the Clerk will report these to Highways

Bank Mandate: Further difficulties had been encountered with Barclays Bank, which have now been resolved and the Clerk will finally submit the document to the Bank.

Graffiti: Tom Lamb reported the increase of graffiti, in particular on the brick building known as "Traveller's Rest", and it was felt that the perpetrators were college students. The Clerk will write to the College Principal drawing attention to this problem.

### **16.157 Date of Next Meeting:**

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>. January 2018 at CBEC room 6, 7.00pm.

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