

DRAFT

GREAT CASTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of Parish Council meeting via “Zoom” video-link at 7.35 pm on Wednesday 9th September 2020

In Attendance:

Councillors Mark Bush (MB) in the Chair, John Sylvester (JS), Wanda Allen (WA), Alasdair Ryder (AR), Steve Barker (SB) and Derek Patience, Parish Clerk. Also present were County Councillor David Wilby (DW) and one member of the public, David Clarke (DC)

20.037 Apologies for Absence:

County Councillor Richard Coleman

20.038 Declarations of Interest

None

20.039 Minutes of Meetings held on 8th July 2020

Accepted as a true record, proposed WA, seconded AR

20.040 Matters Arising from the Minutes not on the agenda

None

20.041 Police Matters

No report in the absence of a police representative.

20.042 Financial Update

Current Position: The Clerk had circulated an up-to-date account showing the current position, with expenditure at £1,686.31 from income totalling £6,558.42, balance £13,595.52, of which the ring-fenced CIL money reserve is £1,182.82, leaving a working balance of £12,412.70.

He asked for approval of cheques for (1) £70 Plough Environmental Ltd.; (2) £40.00 LRALC for Website Accessibility course. £14.39 Zoom. AR proposed, seconded WA, that the cheques be approved, all in favour.

The PCC has asked for a contribution of £500 towards tree-felling work to be undertaken in the graveyard at a total cost of £2,700. JS enquired as to which trees were being felled – there are a number of dangerous trees alongside the footpath leading to the graveyard which need attention. He felt that we should withhold making a contribution until we were satisfied that these would be made safe. It was agreed to defer a decision until after a site meeting between MB, AR and JS on Saturday morning, to establish which trees needed attention, and on whose land they were.

20.043 Planning

Barkers: Development continues, with two houses in progress at present. DW asked how many there were in total – there will be 5. He could not see where they would fit in.

Bowls Green Proposals: The planning application has now been submitted, and we have submitted our comments. There are objections from neighbouring property owners. There is also an indication that an archaeological assessment will need to be carried out in what is a relatively sensitive area. AR agreed to try to establish from Ross Thain what sort of play area equipment is likely to be provided on what is a relatively small site, and to estimate annual maintenance and running costs.

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North Stamford: No further news on these proposals had been received

Rutland Local Plan: The Chairman has a hard copy of the full proposals which runs to many pages, which he is currently going through. He will produce a summary of the main points for councillors. DW commented that the RCC overall intention is to keep the integrity of the county intact, by building sensibly, using the environment, and that current objections do not look at the overall picture.

20.044 Highways

Water Lane Widening: This matter is still on RCC Highways agenda, and will be discussed at the next Highways & Transport Working Group meeting later this month. DW suggested that now would be a good time to try to get a RCC representative to visit to see the problems at this junction, now that schools are back in – he will try to arrange. AR felt that, although we had had verbal confirmation that the landowner would accept the widening on his property, we need to make sure that RCC are fully aware of this and that they will be pushing for it.

Schools and Traffic: The Chairman had observed traffic conditions at schooltime, which are chaotic. There are ever more children attending the College, and parents more and more are driving their children to school. AR observed that parents should be encouraged just to drop their children off without stopping to get out themselves. He felt that a more proactive approach to the drop-off problem by the College would be helpful. JD said that the problem was that teachers were parking in the front car park, which prevents a through-flow when parents are dropping off. Teachers should be encouraged to park at the back of the school. JS remarked that the problem was even worse in the afternoons, with parents parking anywhere they can while they wait for their child. MB will observe an afternoon session; he has an appointment at the College to discuss the problems and will report back.

20.045 Website Accessibility regulations.

The Government have brought in new regulations regarding public accessibility to Council websites, and some are quite complicated. They come into force later this month. MB is trying to establish whether ours complies fully, and to this end has enrolled on a LRALC course via Zoom on the subject, which hopefully will help. He will report back to the next meeting.

20.046 Community Update re Covid-19

WA reported that the fortnightly Zoom meetings have recently tended to veer away from Covid-19 matters, but the meetings will be reverting back to weekly from next week, following the Government's latest missive.

20.047 Any Other Business

None

20.048 Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 14th October at 7.00pm

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.05 pm