

## DRAFT

### GREAT CASTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of Parish Council meeting via “Zoom” video-link at 7.20 pm on Wednesday 21 October 2020

#### **In Attendance:**

Councillors Mark Bush (MB) in the Chair, John Sylvester (JS), Alasdair Ryder (AR), Wanda Allen (WA) and Derek Patience, Parish Clerk. Also present were County Councillors David Wilby (DW) and Richard Coleman (RC). Also in attendance was Jennifer Lee.

Prior to the meeting, Jennifer Lee, a former presenter on Rutland Radio, made a presentation on the future of local radio in the Rutland and Stamford area following the demise of Rutland Radio in August, which is now renamed “Greatest Hits” and is run from Manchester as a national station. It no longer caters for the local community. She is looking into forming a new professional station catering for the local area, which would be formed as a C.I.C. (Community Interests Company), which would ensure that it would not be vulnerable to sale or takeover. She is looking for sponsors and donors to support the project.

DW drew the meeting’s attention to the ‘rival’ feasibility study currently being carried out looking at alternative ways forward for local radio, and questioned the apparent lack of co-operation of the two parties. Ms Lee responded that it was not for want of trying, but felt that the work she had done thus far showed that the project was feasible, and she is trying to progress as quickly as she can, albeit independently, to take advantage of the goodwill she has engendered up to now.

The Chairman thanked her for her presentation, and promised that the Council would discuss the matter fully.

#### **20.061 Apologies for Absence:**

None

#### **20.062 Declarations of Interest**

None

#### **20.063 Minutes of Meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup>. October 2020**

Accepted as a true record, proposed JS, seconded WA

#### **20.064 Matters Arising from the Minutes not on the agenda**

None.

#### **20.065 Police Matters**

No report received in the absence of a police representative. Laurie Appleton has indicated that he now has the ability to participate in “Zoom” meetings, and hoped to be able to join in our next meeting.

#### **20.066 Financial Update**

Current Position: The Clerk had circulated an up-to-date account showing the current position, with expenditure at £2,843.12 from income totalling £11,881.10, balance £17,761.39. A further tranche of CIL money amounting to £5,322.68 had been received, so

## DRAFT

### GREAT CASTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

that the ring-fenced CIL money reserve is now £6,005.50, leaving a working balance of £11,204.89.

He advised the meeting that he had recently upgraded the Clerk's computer to Windows 10 from Windows 7, which is no longer supported by Microsoft. This had created problems, with some data files 'lost', and he had taken it to ACR Computers to resolve these issues, at a cost of £35.00.

He asked for approval of cheques for (1) £70 Plough Environmental Ltd.; (2) £35.00 to DCP, who had already made payment to ACR Computers. AR proposed, seconded JS, that the cheques be approved, all in favour.

The Clerk also advised the meeting that a further issue following the upgrade was that the software supplied by Dorman Varitext for downloading the datalogs from the SIDs does not operate on Windows. He had taken the matter up with Dormans, who are currently working on updated software, which would not be available until well into the New Year. It may be that, when this is installed, there could be some data lost.

Donation to PCC. The PCC's request for a contribution of £500 towards tree-felling work to be undertaken in the graveyard at a total cost of £2,700 was discussed again. AR was not comfortable with the donation being for a purpose which did not benefit the whole community, a view supported by JS, who pointed out that the trees that had been felled were those within the graveyard itself. The trees which have been at issue recently were along the footpath to the graveyard, one of which is on Glebe land and remains the responsibility of the Diocese until the legal process leasing it to the PCC is completed – both JS & AR felt that the PCC should badger the Diocese to get this tree seen to before they sign up to the lease. The other dangerous tree lies to the left of the footpath and is on Burghley land.

There followed much discussion on alternatives, and the Chairman highlighted the work that the PCC had done (and continues to do) during the Pandemic which had definitely been of benefit to the whole community, irrespective of denomination, and suggested that the PC could apportion the donation to this cause. This met with full approval and it was agreed that a donation of £500 for this purpose should be made, proposed MB, seconded AR, all in favour. MB asserted that no further donation should be made to the PCC this year in respect of graveyard maintenance.

Precept: The Clerk had adjusted his 21/22 Budget figures to include the second CIL payment recently received, and had ascertained that a third and final payment will be made in April 2021, although RCC were non-committal on how much this would be. He had provisionally included a projected £2,500 in his calculations in respect of this. Total projected income now totalled £8,670 and expenditure of £5057, leaving a total reserves figure of £19,015, of which £9,005 relates to the CIL reserve, and an Election Costs Reserve of £500. This would mean that the General Reserve carried forward would now amount to £9,510, which, at almost double normal annual expenditure, is higher than the officially recommended maximum of 18 months' annual expenditure (c.£7500). The Clerk suggested that the best way to overcome this would be to create a specific "Play Area Project" reserve and felt that a starting figure of £2,000 would be appropriate. On the proposal of AR, seconded JS, all in favour, this proposal was adopted.

#### **20.067 Planning**

## DRAFT

### GREAT CASTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Barkers: Development continues, albeit slowly, with two houses in progress at present. As noted above, a further CIL payment of £5322 had been received.

Bowls Green Proposals: No further developments here. The Planning Dept. has asked for a re-designed layout for the site, awaits revised layout plans.

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

Rutland Local Plan: Nothing further to report.

#### **20.068 Highways**

Water Lane Widening: No further developments. DW suggested that we need to keep prodding the Highways Dept. on this issue.

Footpath to Graveyard: Discussed at length earlier in the meeting under Finance

#### **20.069 Website Accessibility regulations.**

The Chairman reported that 2commune had carried out all the necessary adjustments to our website, with charge, and it now complies fully with Government regulations.

#### **20.070 Community Update re Covid-19**

DW reported a rise in the number of cases in Rutland to 100 per 100k population – it had been at around 50 not long ago. The situation is unlikely to improve in the immediate future with Christmas coming up. Longer term prospects look better, with the vaccine programme about to come on stream.

The Chairman regretted the end of the fortnightly Zoom Community updates. DW reported that the weekly updates from RCC would continue – these were good, clear and precise.

#### **20.071 Any Other Business**

Resignation: WA announced her intention to resign as a Parish Councillor at the end of the year. She felt it inappropriate to continue, as she no longer resides in the village, and cannot even visit GC, as Stamford is in Tier 3 and GC in Tier 2. The Chairman accepted her resignation, with reluctance, and thanked her for her services, in particular during this year in respect of the community services and weekly/fortnightly attendances at RCC Zoom update meetings on our behalf.

#### **20.060 Date of Next Meeting:**

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 7.00pm

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