

GREAT CASTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of Parish Council meeting held at the Church Hall at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 13th.January 2016.

In Attendance:

Councillors Mark Bush (MB) in the Chair, Michael Markey (MM), John Sylvester (JS), Alasdair Ryder (AR), Clare Rowbotham (CR) and Derek Patience, Parish Clerk. Also present were County Councillor David Wilby (DW), and one member of the public, David Clarke.

16.001 Apologies for Absence:

County Councillor Chris Parsons

16.002. Declarations of Interest and Amendments:

None

16.003 Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st. October 2015 were accepted as a true record, proposed MB, seconded MM all in favour

16.004 Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

16.005 Police Matters

No report in absence of a police representative.

MB reported that he had heard a rumour that drugs were being sold outside CBEC. DW asked whether he had any substantive evidence on this, as he would like to take the issue up with the principal. MB confirmed that it was only hearsay.

16.006. Financial Update

1. Current Position: The Clerk reported expenditure so far this year of £4,729, and income of £5,978, leaving a current balance of £7,539. Payment had now been received from RCC for grass cutting (£494), and lighting grant (£599)

Cheques issued since last meeting:

21/10/2015	Physio-Control	Defibrillator	100552	£ 1,416.00
21/10/2015	CPRE	Donation	100553	£ 20.00
24/11/2015	Plough Env.	Grass cutting Oct	100554	£ 70.00
05/12/2015	Eon	Streetlight Maint	100555	£ 112.61
05/12/2015	Plough Env	Grass cutting Nov	100556	£ 70.00
12/12/2015	Eon	Electricity	100557	£ 168.22
31/12/2015	D.C.Patience	Net Salary	100558	£ 451.88
31/12/2015	HMRC	PAYE	100559	£ 113.00

2. Budget 2016-17: The Clerk outlined his budget proposals for the next financial year, which after allowing for normal expenditure and income shows a projected end of year reserve of £7,228, an increase of approx.£1k on this year's figure. This assumed that the precept requirement remained at £5,000. It was agreed that the precept be set at £5,000, proposed AR, seconded JS, all in favour.

3. Transparency Fund: LRALC had advised that the government had set up a fund to enable smaller parishes (turnover up to £25k p.a.) to set up their own websites in order to comply with recent transparency legislation, and to own their own computers and printers for Clerk's use. The clerk had submitted an application, and a grant of £502 had been received.

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4. Speed sign data collection: The clerk reported that the HP iPaq hand held computer used to download data from the speed signs has expired. He had contacted Unipart Dorman, who had confirmed that software is no longer available to enable data from our signs to a laptop, but they can supply a replacement iPaq for £522 + vat., which seems somewhat expensive. After some discussion on the validity of continuing to download this data, it was agreed to defer purchasing a replacement for the time being.

16.007. Planning:

1. Land off Pickworth Road: an application for a new bungalow on agricultural land on right-hand side just beyond village boundary. As not all councillors had seen the application it could not be fully discussed, but MB expressed reservations:

a. This is a smart bungalow on a plot of land which is deemed to be agricultural. Not sure whether this is allowed or not, but it does look like an attempt to by-pass the rules.

b. Whether it is approved or not will not make much difference to the village, except that it is probably outside the permitted development area and in time we would not want a group of houses built on the spare land there.

c. We do not need to say this at this stage, but the comparison with Richard Lamb's application for an agricultural dwelling further up the Pickworth road is interesting. That one has been refused on a number of grounds on several occasions. If they allow this one, Richard Lamb may have grounds for complaint.

Comments (a) and (b) have been passed on to the planning dept.

2. Barkers: No further firm news.

3. Woolfox Windfarm: RCC Planning had refused the latest application in December. DW was not aware yet whether an appeal would be lodged. The solar panel farm is still on the books, but he is not sure where this will go.

16.008. Defibrillator

Not yet installed, as there had been some concerns expressed by some of the PCC over cost of electricity of lighting the path from dusk until dawn, and the possibility of vandalism as a result of all-night lighting. MB had arranged for costings of the lighting (around £20 pa if LED bulbs installed), and the police had confirmed that vandalism has not been an issue in Great Casterton. MB's judicious correspondence with the vicar had resolved matters, and PCC now supports the project. Steve Rudkin had not responded to several emails re installing the unit, so that the clerk obtained an alternative quote of £560 + vat from Banks & Thompson Ltd., which has been accepted, and the unit should be installed shortly.

16.009. Bowling Green and Bench

David Pennell has yet to respond as promised, and the Clerk has been asked to follow up with a further email.

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16.010. Streetlights

a. Home Farm Close: the broken column has finally been replaced, after a period of some six weeks.

b. Streetlighting Stock: RCC had written to advise of pending decision for the County to take over control and upgrading of all streetlights. Parishes will receive a charge for all lights not on A or B roads. MB said that the PC will need to monitor this very closely as, having upgraded all our lights in recent years at a cost of some £2,500, we could well lose out in this. A presentation on the subject will be put to the next Parish Council Forum on 28th. January, and MM agreed to attend on PC's behalf.

16.011. Rutland Access Group

This voluntary group monitors disabled access throughout Rutland, and wishes to carry out an audit of disabled access in Great Casterton towards the end of March. They would appreciate a PC presence while they carry this out. It is not clear at this stage what implications their subsequent report will have.

16.012. Any Other Business

None

15.050. Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 23rd. March at CBEC. This is a couple of days before the Easter weekend, and councillors were asked to check their diaries and confirm availability to the Clerk

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.00 pm.