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GREAT CASTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of Parish Council meeting held at Casterton College at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 16th. October 2019

In Attendance:

Councillors Mark Bush (MB) in the Chair, John Sylvester (JS), Wanda Allen (WA), Alasdair Ryder (AR), and Derek Patience, Parish Clerk. Also present were County Councillor Richard Coleman (RC), and 3 members of the public, David Clarke, Tom Lamb and Mrs. Marion Pitt.

19.040 Apologies for Absence:

Councillor Steve Barker and County Councillor David Wilby

19.041 Declarations of Interest and Amendments:

None

19.042 Minutes of Meeting held on 11th. September 2019

The minutes were approved on the proposal of JS seconded AR all in favour

19.043 Matters Arising from the Minutes not on the agenda

3-8 Old Great North Road: The clerk will be writing to Strutt & Parker, copied to RCC Highways, urging the work on the proposed car park to be resumed urgently.

39 Pickworth Road: It was noted that an overgrowing tree on this property was impeding the footway. The clerk was asked to write to the owner.

19.044 Police & Neighbourhood Watch

No report in the absence of a police representative. A newsletter had been circulated recently, which had little of relevance to Great Casterton.

19.045 Financial Update

Current Position: The Clerk reported expenditure of £2,532, against income of £5,971, including RCC grass cutting payment of £619.85. Current balance is £10,424, and the clerk's estimate of end-of-year reserves is around £8,500, a little higher than last year's.

Grass Cutting Payments: The clerk reported that the contract with Plough Environmental had in fact expired in March, and needed renewing. He will speak to the contractor before the next meeting to ascertain whether he is happy to continue, and whether any increase in charges are likely.

19.046 Planning

Barkers: Work has resumed on the site this week. The Chairman will contact LRALC for advice on procedure for claiming Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) on this site

Stamford North: The Chairman reported that DW had given him an update on this project:
1. CIL – DW had stressed that we should be entitled to a share of the payout on the project, and we should pursue this. 2. There is no provision for a doctor's surgery within the development, but apparently Lakeside Surgery had indicated that it would be able to cope with the increased population. 3. RCC had submitted comments on the plan. They had commented that the link road appeared to go nowhere at either end, and queried whether it was a road or an urban street. They had proposed a joint committee to oversee the development, with representatives from RCC, SKDC and LCC, as well as the three parishes affected, Great Casterton, Little Casterton and Ryhall.

Linked to this project is the recently published Stamford Neighbourhood Plan, on which we had been invited to comment by 18th. October. The Chairman had drafted a letter which, with minor amendments, received the meeting's approval. AR asked whether any traffic figures had been commissioned by Stamford, and whether a formal time frame for completion of the project had been outlined. It was felt that the answer was 'no' in both cases.

19.047 Highways Matters

The Chairman reported that our letter commenting on the traffic survey had been submitted, along with a copy of the Primary School's response and a copy of our traffic comments to the planning department. He felt that we should keep pursuing the widening of Water Lane, and the RCC

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had missed an opportunity to get the developer to pay for it. RCC had reported that double yellow lines will be in place around the school. The Primary School had expressed doubts about the use of school land for a lay-by.

AR asked whether Casterton College had had sight of the traffic survey, and felt that we should let them have a copy of it. The Chairman said he would speak to Malcolm Goddard.

19.048 Bus Users Group

WA had attended the recent meeting of this group, from which 4 things had emerged:

1. Centrebus are making serious efforts to improve the bus user's experience.
2. Service no. 9 is no longer subsidised by RCC, hence the reduction in service.
3. There is a very low number of bus journeys per head of population. Deregulation had resulted in a reluctance by operators to cross county boundaries.
4. RCC's long-term planning for reducing carbon emissions is virtually non-existent. It only includes cycling and walking as sustainable travel, but does not include bus travel within this. It has little commitment to reducing reliance on cars for transport.
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19.049 Glebe Land. The PCC's application for a lease over the property had been successful, a lease of 50 years at £2k p.a. had been agreed. The legals are being drafted currently, but it is not clear what the PCC will use the land for. They are keen to create a church car park, but this could be expensive, and they could use the land for community use, e.g. summer fair, etc., and possibly some allotments. Planning permission will probably be required for the creation of a car park. AR expressed strong support for a car park, which will solve roadside parking problems outside the church. The grass and roadside verge is very overgrown and will need immediate attention once the land is legally theirs.

Graveyard Footpath: RCC had repaired the fences alongside the footpath, but no action yet from Strutt and Parker on the trees.

19.050 Snow Wardens

RCC had written recently about winter arrangements, and had suggested that parishes find volunteers as snow wardens. It included a comprehensive document on the duties of wardens, which included H&S regulations, etc., which is more likely to put people off volunteering. It also suggested that parishes review their salt bin needs. The Chairman felt there was a need for a bin in the vicinity of the Church and Church Hall, and suggested installing one at the top of the footpath to the hall. Both AR and JS questioned the need for one there, and whether it should be sited on church property. WA felt that the yellow bins were unsightly, and should not be sited alongside the church.

The clerk is investigating the cost of installation, and the subject will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

19.037 Any Other Business

County Councillor Richard Coleman raised two matters:

1. He is spearheading a Community Mobile Speedwatch group within the ward, and called for volunteers to participate.
2. A Parish Council Forum meeting is being held on 21st. October, and he felt that a parish representative should attend.

19.038 Date of Next Meetings:

Council Meeting – Wednesday 4th. December 2019, 7.00pm

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.20pm