

GREAT CASTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

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The Minutes of Parish Council meeting held at Casterton College at 7.30 pm on Thursday 19th. January 2017.

In Attendance:

Councillors Mark Bush (MB) in the Chair, Michael Markey (MM), Alasdair Ryder (AR) John Sylvester (JS) Clare Rowbotham (CR) and Derek Patience, Parish Clerk. There was 1 member of the public in attendance, Mr. Tom Lamb.

Good Neighbour Scheme: A presentation was given by Keira Gaynor on behalf of the Rural Community Council. The Scheme encourages the set-up of volunteers locally to attend to needs of elderly and vulnerable people within the village. It was felt that the scheme would appeal particularly to the PCC, and MB will bring it to their attention.

16.073 Apologies for Absence:

County Councillors Chris Parsons and David Wilby, PC Laurie Appleton

16.074. Declarations of Interest and Amendments:

None

16.075 Minutes of Previous Meetings held on 17th.July 2016

The minutes of the meeting were accepted as a true record, proposed MM, seconded AR, all in favour.

16.076 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Street Flooding: Mr. Lamb produced a number of photographs highlighting the problem, and Clerk will bring these to the attention of Highways Dept. again.

16.077 Police & Neighbourhood Watch

No report in the absence of a police representative. This meeting was re-scheduled in order to enable police to attend, but PC Appleton had again sent apologies for absence, as PCSO Houghton, who was going to attend, is now off sick.

MB noted that there had been no police representation since October 2015, and he had sent a complaint to this effect to the beat Inspector, without response.

There had been several recent incidents of hare-coursing in the vicinity, as well as a spate of 'bilking' incidents (filling up with fuel at petrol stations without paying).

Mr. Lamb reported that there had been a spate of graffiti around the village recently, of which the police were aware.

16.078 Financial Update

Current Position: The Clerk had circulated a financial update to councillors prior to the meeting. This showed expenditure so far this year of £4,734, and income of £6,763, leaving a current balance of £8,496. After taking into account projected expenditure for the remainder of the year, the end-of-year surplus was likely to be in the region of £7,500.

Budget 2017-18 and Precept: It was agreed that the precept should be maintained at last year's figure of £5,000, and the Clerk would submit the completed form this week.

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16.079 Planning

1. Home Farm Lime Trees: Mr. Lamb has commissioned another tree consultant and his survey and report should be received in the next week or so. He will use this as the basis for a further application to fell the remaining trees. The Chairman remarked that the Planning Dept. seem to regard the matter as now closed.

2. Walk Farm Barn: This application had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. It is a large development on agricultural land, but very difficult for the PC to comment on, as it is not visible from the road, only from one of the remaining footpaths across the land. Clerk to post no objection on the Planning website, with comment regarding the footpath views.

3. Rose of England site: Yet a further planning application on this site had been received, which is an amendment of that reported at the November meeting for further development of trade counters and parking spaces. In MB's view this represented 'creeping' development, and we had been allowed an extension of time for submitting comments to allow discussion of the application at this meeting. It was agreed that we should again respond highlighting the access problems in and out of this site.

4. Discussions with LRALC re. The Plough, Barkers and Home Farm: MB had spoken with Jake at LRALC, asking for advice on how the PC could proceed with these outstanding matters. He has referring them to their legal department and will report back.

16080. The Crown Inn

The Chairman reported that the pub has been sold, with the purchaser understood to be Brian Knight, owner of the adjacent farm. It is not clear whether the intention is to continue running it as a pub.

16081. Any Other Business

1. Water Street Bridge over A1. Tom Lamb reported that there are still a number of loose and broken paving slabs on this bridge, producing a photograph showing the problem. Clerk to again report to Highways.
2. The Plough. CR asked if there were any developments regarding the Plough. JS understood that the problem related to the discovery of asbestos within the fabric, and the cost of removal had deterred any further progress.

16.082. Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 22nd.March 2017 at 7.00pm..

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