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GREAT CASTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of Parish Council meeting held at Casterton College at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 21st. March 2018.

In Attendance:

Councillors Mark Bush (MB) in the Chair, Michael Markey (MM), John Sylvester (JS), Wanda Allen (WA) and Derek Patience, Parish Clerk. Also present 1 member of the public, Mr. David Clarke (DC)

16.169 Apologies for Absence:

Councillor Alasdair Ryder, County Councillor David Wilby

16.170. Declarations of Interest and Amendments:

None

16.171 Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 10th.January 2018

The minutes were approved on the proposal of MM seconded JS

16.172 Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

16.173 Police & Neighbourhood Watch

No report in the absence of a Police representative. The recent monthly crime report email indicated there had been one instance of bilking (filling up with petrol without paying) in the village last month. It also apparent that hare coursing continues to take place in the vicinity.

16.174 Financial Update

Current Position: The Clerk presented details of the current position. This showed expenditure so far of £6,570, from income totalling £6,723, leaving a current balance of £7,739. This represents the end-of-year balance, a healthy position.

MM asked whether salt bins had been kept full in the recent cold spell, which was confirmed. MB reported that the local farmers had done sterling work keeping the roads clear, and the Clerk was asked to write to them expressing thanks. DC commented that grit lorries had even visited College Close for the first time that he could remember.

16.175 Planning

1. Home Farm, Pickworth Road: The appeal hearing was held last month, and the ruling made in favour of the applicant. Richard Lamb has recently lost his father and pre-occupation with this will delay his commencement on the work. MB will encourage the rebuilding of the wall in the village as soon as possible.

2. Crown Inn: At long last, the planners have agreed to the trees around the car park being cut back, and the walnut tree to be removed. This work will commence shortly.

3. Barkers: No further developments. MB reported that he understood from Steve Barker that planning consent is now not far away.

16.176 New Streetlight

RCC Highways have quoted £2,766 to install a new unit along the footpath, a cost higher than normal, due to the fact that it will involve extensive trenching to bring the

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electricity supply to its proposed location. The Clerk confirmed his opinion that current finances were sufficiently healthy to meet the cost, and it was agreed to proceed, on the proposal of MM, seconded JS, all agreed.

16.177 School Academisation Report

WA had attended the recent meeting of the various primary schools involved in this project. It was decided to form a Rural Academy comprising a number of smaller village schools in Rutland. A total of 2,000 pupils is need to make the project viable, and with the current total at 1,500, further schools will need to commit. A website had already been formed (www.rutlandlearningtrust.com) from which Councillors can learn more. She felt that the meeting had been a very positive experience and the Headteacher was pleased that the Parish Council had shown interest and support. Clerk was asked to write to him expressing full support in the project.

16.178 Good Neighbour Scheme

WA had attended the recent meeting, run by the Rural Community Council, which had again been a positive experience. Financial assistance was available in setting up a local group, which would perform useful tasks in support of vulnerable people, including transport and companionship. A further meeting had been arranged for this evening, which obviously clashed with the PC meeting, and she will endeavour to obtain a summary the meeting's outcome.

16.179 Data Protection Act

MB outlined the details of this Act, which comes in to force on 18th. May, insofar as it affects the Parish Council. He had undertaken most of the preparatory work, and the PC will not be greatly affected. A notice of compliance with the Act, and other related documents were now posted on the website. The guidance given by LRALC on this had been excellent, and they had today sent a sample Data Protection Audit form, which the Clerk will complete in due course. The Council has to appoint a Data Protection Officer, who cannot be the Clerk, and MB asked Councillors to consider taking on this role, the duties of which would be negligible.

16.180 Any Other Business

Potholes. JS reported that there were several nasty potholes along Pickworth Road near the end of the village. Clerk to report to Highways.

Litter Picking. Martyn Wray and his team of volunteers had recently completed a pick of the village, filling 10 sacks with litter. Clerk to write expressing thanks. WA asked how far towards Stamford they went, as there is still a lot of litter up the hill. The Clerk thought that their limit was as far as Toll Bar.

Larkfield Homes. Had been in correspondence with DW regarding the Stamford Development Plan. He had emphasised our concerns over traffic problems, which does not seem to concern them or the planners.

New Vicar. A new Priest in Charge has been appointed on a three year term from May. He is currently Curate at Ketton.

Bus Users' Group. WA had attended a recent meeting, at which bus drivers had expressed difficulties in seeing waiting passengers in the bus shelter opposite the former Plough because of overgrowth of ivy, etc on telegraph pole. There were similar complaints at other bus stops. Clerk to raise with RCC.

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16.181 Date of Next Meetings:

Wednesday 23rd. May 2018, at Casterton College – Annual Parish Meeting followed by a Council Meeting.

Wednesday 11th. July 2018, venue to be confirmed – Council Meeting

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.45 pm.