

GREAT CASTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of Parish Council meeting held at Casterton College at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 23rd.March 2016.

In Attendance:

Councillors Mark Bush (MB) in the Chair, Michael Markey (MM), John Sylvester (JS), Clare Rowbotham (CR) and Derek Patience, Parish Clerk. Also present was County Councillor David Wilby (DW). There were no members of the public in attendance

16.014 Apologies for Absence:

County Councillor Chris Parsons, Alasdair Ryder

16.015. Declarations of Interest and Amendments:

None

16.016 Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th.January 2016 were accepted as a true record, proposed MM, seconded JS, all in favour

16.017 Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

16.018 Stamford Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman took item 11 of the agenda first, to enable DW to leave for another meeting.

DW reported that Cllr.David Taylor, leader of Stamford Town Council, had attended Ryhall PC meeting to outline the details of their plan. DW's opinion was that Stamford had been a little forward in approaching surrounding villages in Rutland, before dialogue between RCC and SKDC was complete. His advice for the time being was to "watch and wait" – advice and information would be forthcoming from RCC in due course.

Other CC issues:

Woolfox – solar panel farm had been agreed by the planners.

College 30mph zone – Rcc had agreed to move the 30mph signs out by a further 709 yards along Ryhall Road.

16.019 Police Matters

No report in absence of a police representative.

16.020. Financial Update

1. Current Position: The Clerk reported expenditure so far this year of £7,102, and income of £7,279, leaving a current balance of £6,467. This represents the end-of-year account. Audit forms have been received from Grant Thornton.

Cheques issued since last meeting:

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23/01/2016	Eon	Streetlight Repair	100560	32	£	28.16
23/02/2016	Banks & Thompson	Defibrillator Installation	100561	33	£	751.82
03/03/2016	Eon	Streetlight Maint	100563	34	£	112.61
23/03/2016	D C Patience	Net salary	100564	35	£	451.88
23/03/2016	HMRC	PAYE	100565	36	£	113.00

2. Transparency Fund: The clerk has yet to purchase the computer for which this grant was received – he is endeavouring to find a laptop which still operates on Windows 7, as there are no updates available for the SIDs data download software.

16.021 Planning

1. Land off Pickworth Road:
2. Barkers: No further firm news.
3. Woolfox Windfarm: As noted above, solar panel farm had been approved.
4. Home Farm Trees: Permission had at long last been given for three trees to be removed.
5. Casterton College: MB commented on a recent report in local press on planning application submitted for new buildings for proposed sixth form. No application had been seen by PC yet.
6. Toll View, Ryhall Road: Councillors examined the plans for this new application for extensions. The Council felt that the development was overly large and would dominate neighbouring area and properties, and clerk was asked to submit these comments to the planning dept.

16.022. Defibrillator

This had now been installed and commissioned. EMAS held a training session in the Village Hall, which had been an excellent and informative session. The clerk had written expressing thanks.

16.023. Bowling Green and Bench

Clerk had written to Burghley Estates, who had responded with a holding reply.

16.024. Rutland Access Group

A meeting with this group had been arranged for mid-April, when a survey of local access issues would be undertaken.

16.025 Parish Website

Leics CC's server can no longer cope with LC websites, and management of these will pass to 2commune Ltd on 1st. Sept. This will involve a new set-up, for which a charge of £250 + vat would be payable. Annual maintenance fee will be £250 + vat. 50% of these fees will be passed on to the PCC. MB felt that we had little alternative but to go with the new set-up, and it was agreed to expend these amounts on the proposal of MM, seconded CR, all in favour.

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16.026 Pension Regulations

The Clerk had received correspondence from the Pensions Regulator which required the PC to register as an employer, under the terms of the Pensions Act 2008, by 1st.August 2016, which he had now done.

Under the terms of the Act, GCPC is required to offer all eligible employee(s) the opportunity of enrolling in a pension scheme which the PC would need to set up. The Chairman had written to the Clerk (the PC's only employee) making such offer on March 7th. The Clerk had replied on March 9th. declining the offer.

The Council will need to be aware of the same responsibility on change of Clerk, or in the event of an additional employee being taken on. If the offer of pension is then accepted, it will need to set up a Pension scheme (through, for example, NEST – the Government sponsored scheme) and determine percentages to be contributed by both PC and employees.

16.027. Any Other Business

Clean for the Queen: Martin Wray had organised a local litter-pick as part of this initiative, and 12 sacks of rubbish had been collected. The Council expressed its thanks to Martin for his group's efforts, and these thanks had already been sent to Mr. Wray.

16.028. Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 11th.May 2016 – Annual Parish Meeting, followed by a short Parish Council meeting

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