

CASTOR PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of Castor Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 6th February 2020 in The Village Hall, Castor at 7.30pm

235. **PRESENT:** Cllr. Richard Anker, Cllr. William Baxter, Cllr. Neil Boyce (Chairman), Cllr. Steve Davies, Cllr, Jane Greene, Cllr. Fiona Rowlands, Cllr. David Shaw, Cllr. Dennis Surgeon; Officers present: John Haste, clerk; also, in attendance Members of the public. The chairman welcomed Rebecca Stewart, possible co-option to the parish council, to our meeting.
236. **APOLOGIES –** None - All Councillors present.
237. **CO-OPTION TO VACANCY –** Cllr. Mrs Rowlands reported on the informal interview meeting with Rebecca Stewart, a candidate for co-option to the parish council. Also present at that time were Cllrs Baxter and Davies. All Cllrs. were in possession of a Curriculum Vitae and a statement from the applicant. We unanimously **RESOLVED** to co-opt Mrs Rebecca (Becky) Stewart to the parish council with immediate effect.
Proposed Cllr. William Baxter Seconded Cllr. Mrs Fiona Rowlands
238. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None declared.
239. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING –** We unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 9th January, and they were duly signed by the chairman.
240. **OPEN FORUM –**
- a) A resident asked if approval had been given to the planting of a tree on that portion of the village green owned by the city council. The clerk undertook to follow this up with Peterborough City Council.
 - b) The issue of verge parking was raised in particular in the vicinity of Stocks Hill and the danger that was caused by such behaviour. We noted that this had caused a complaint and we agreed with the complainant. We discussed the possibility of expressing concern through social media in an attempt to dissuade motorists from inconsiderate parking causing obstruction to pedestrians and safety risks.
 - c) The clerk was asked to raise, with Peterborough City council, the recurring issue of blocked drains in the high street.
 - d) Andrew Nash addressed the meeting on concerns over climate change and whilst it needs to be addressed at a national and international level, we all need to play our part and take responsibility for our own actions. Andrew is keen to create a small group to plan and initiate a larger event to share information and research practical ways of reducing our carbon footprint. Andrew invited parish council comments and expressed the wish to come to the next Joint meeting with Ailsworth pc.
241. **PLANNING and associated matters**
- a) **Status report** - We noted the current status of Planning applications received in the current year as circulated with the agenda papers.
 - b) **19/01657/LBC** - 23 Peterborough Road - Replacement of three first floor front elevation windows. – We have no objections to make on this planning application.
 - c) **20/00078/HHFUL** - 2 Farm View - Single storey rear extension and alterations. – We have no objections to make on this planning application.

- d) **20/00107/CTR** - 12 Old Pond Lane - T1- Pine Tree- Fell Removal of small line of Conifer by drive to improve access. G1 Removal of all Coniferous species from front and rear garden as they have become too large for the space and the area is being re-landscaped to incorporate Prunus Lusitanica (or similar) hedging and small broadleaved trees to maintain privacy but increase light to garden. – We have no objections to these tree works
- e) **20/00151/FUL** - Land to The Rear Of 45 Peterborough Road - Erection of 2 x 4-bedroom detached dwellings - We noted that a previous application had been refused and that as yet Highways had not confirmed that there were no safety concerns over the access to and from the site in respect of this application. In addition, we noted that there was no schedule of tree works which will undoubtedly be required and may affect the visual scene of this site and neighbouring properties. The location of a proposed dwelling on the site is close to the boundary and to a football pitch on the neighbouring site. Given these factors we are of a mind to request further information on these matters and to request the opportunity to comment further when that information is available. Failing that; on the information currently available, we are opposed to this planning application.
- f) Joint Community Action Plan (JCAP) – We noted that this had been updated to reflect progress on the good neighbour scheme
- g) Neighbourhood Planning (NP) – We noted the observations of John Hodder on aspects of the parish council website.

242. **LAND & ALLOTMENTS:**

- a) **Tree planting** on Parish council owned land – item withdrawn. To be the subject of a further discussion at the next joint meeting with Ailsworth parish council.
- b) **Agricultural tenancies** – Role of Berry’s as managing agents. The clerk drew our attention to the absence of any receipts for agricultural tenancies. Berries were appointed to conclude tenancy agreements only. The clerk and chairman will review the information provided by Berries and report back to a future meeting.
- c) **Allotments** –The clerk reported that only three allotment rents remained outstanding and a further tenancy had been terminated and offered to a person on the waiting list.

243. **GOVERNANCE MATTERS**

- a) **Policies**
 - i) **Planning Process / policy** - Cllr Shaw confirmed that this document set out how the parish council would consider planning applications as statutory consultees and that there is no conflict with the neighbourhood plan.
 - ii) **Privacy statement request from Athene** – item deferred to the next meeting to allow further consideration by Cllr. Shaw and the Clerk.
- b) **Wayleaves** - The clerk drew our attention to the lack of receipts for this and the previous year. He reported that this had been taken up with UK power networks, which had requested title deed information from the parish council. We instructed the clerk to write back in strong terms that we have the agreement numbers and if they wish to do land registry searches to update their records that is a matter for them.

- 244. **HIGHWAYS** – We noted the response from Highways and expressed our disappointment that the departmental head had declined to attend a parish council meeting. We are concerned that there are a number of highways issues which need to be, and in some cases are being, addressed:

- 20 MPH restriction, Timing of introduction
- Placement and style of signage
- Verge parking
- VE Day Celebrations – use of bus shelters and road closures

In the absence of the head of highways attending a parish council meeting parish councillors agreed to meet appropriate officers at the city council offices and instructed the clerk to approach our ward councillor and leader of the council to see if such a meeting could be arranged by him.

245. COMMUNITY MATTERS –

- a) **Play equipment** –official opening of the play area and community allotment. Cllr. Mrs Greene reported that progress was being made and that she expected some further progress in the immediate future. We agreed to defer further consideration on this matter to our next meeting.
- b) **Community Allotment** – Raised bed numbers had been acquired and Cllr. Boyce will place these on the beds in the near future. The clerk was asked to supply abridged version of the allotment agreements to be signed by the groups taking up each raised bed in the community allotment.
- c) **VE Day celebrations** – Cllr. Greene reported on some progress and that city council permission was required to decorate the bus shelter to suitably represent the occasion. Cllr. Boyce agreed to loan 40 barriers for the event. The working group were still awaiting approval of a bank account and when this was in place they would be requesting payment of the approved parish council grant.
- d) **Summer sports Holiday Club** – We noted the information supplied by Mr Jack Hubbard and are supportive of the event, however we noted the requirement for an indoor venue and the need for grant applications. We do not have an indoor venue, and are not resourced to complete the latter. We wished the club every success and hoped that it would be established.

246. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE:

- We noted efforts made to address the issue of heavy vehicles for Woodlands not complying with agreed access routes and agreed to continue to monitor the situation.
- Cllr Shaw outlined embryonic ideas for a community chemist and the changing means of delivery of NHS services. He was hopeful that Milton estates might be encouraged to participate in future discussions.
- We noted that given the positive support from parish councillors the chairman had given approval to a swim run event on 7th June, with the caveat that the organisers have to produce public liability insurance, risk assessments, publicity for participants and to clear up after the event

247. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS –

- Report back on discussion with Athene reference the NP Website

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.17pm



Clerk & RFO 12th February 2020

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 5TH MARCH 2020 in The Village Hall at 7.30pm.		
APPROVED BY CASTOR PARISH COUNCIL		
Signature of Chairman of approving meeting:		5TH MARCH 2020

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