

CASTOR PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of Castor Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 5th March 2020 in The Village Hall, Castor at 7.30pm

248. **PRESENT:** Cllr. Richard Anker, Cllr. William Baxter, Cllr. Neil Boyce (Chairman), Cllr. Steve Davies, Cllr. Jane Greene, Cllr. Fiona Rowlands, Cllr. David Shaw, Cllr. Becky Stewart, Cllr. Dennis Surgeon; Officers present: John Haste, clerk; also, in attendance Members of the public.
249. **APOLOGIES –** None - All Councillors present.
250. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None declared.
251. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING –** We unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 6th February, and they were duly signed by the chairman.
252. **OPEN FORUM –**
- a) A resident asked if there would be a clean up in the village before the street party to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. The chairman responded that it was the intention of the parish council to hold a litter pick in the week before the celebrations and Cllr. Greene added that the organising committee are planning to clean up afterwards.
 - b) Mike Horne from the Langdyke Trust spoke on the subject of wildflower seeds for the wildlife pond area of the community allotment. The time to seed is either now or in the autumn and sufficient seeds could be purchased for £25. The area would be low maintenance requiring a single cut in the autumn. Mike undertook to provide some simple labelling of the planted area. Mike had been informed that the media were interested in the wildlife area and the efforts of the parish council and requested our permission to encourage the media interest. Cllr. Baxter drew attention to the intention to plant wild life seeds in the area of the standing stones. We asked Mike to order sufficient seeds for both sites and to invoice the parish council.
253. **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. We were also advised by the clerk that since the agenda had been circulated the planning application to replace three first floor windows at 23 Peterborough Road had been permitted on 3rd March
 - b) There were no other planning applications to be considered by the parish council at this meeting.
 - c) **Woodlands update –**
 - i) Cllr. Shaw had been in touch with Linx construction to address the issue of site traffic adherence to undertakings on access routes and timings. He had received positive responses even to the point of cessation of use of a contractor that had ignored those instructions.
 - ii) He had also met with Scott Bryan, the new Woodlands Groundsman appointed by Nene Park Trust (NPT). He is keen to work with residents and the parish council. His greatest concern being keeping dog poo off the playing areas. We supported giving Scott some publicity on Facebook and the parish magazine

- iii) Cllr. Shaw also reported that NPT had submitted a robust comment in opposition to the planning application to build dwellings on an adjoining site.
 - d) Enhancement of Castor street scene – The chairman suggested that a task and finish working group be set up to address the concerns of residents about the current street scene. He circulated a draft outline terms of reference for the group to comprise both residents and parish councillors. The group would be tasked with reporting back in time for the proposals to be put before residents at the village fete, followed by costed proposals being considered at the September meeting of the parish council.
 - e) Joint Community Action Plan (JCAP) – The Chairman had provided John Hodder with an update on the good neighbour scheme. The City Council had guaranteed the funding of a coordinator post for the first year. The intention was to create their own website and appoint the coordinator in time for an official launch on 1st July.
 - f) Neighbourhood Planning (NP) –
 - i) John Hodder had provided notes of his exchange of emails with the clerk on the matter of the minutes and the actions agreed at the joint meeting with Ailsworth Parish council (APC). We discussed again the request by Athene to draft a statement to comply with the GDPR requirements. The chairman undertook to discuss this with Athene and report back.
 - ii) Cllr Shaw stated that in his opinion we no longer needed the joint website and that the parish council need to retain the information gathered and used in the preparation of the NP in readiness for when the NP need to be revisited and updated. This matter to be discussed again at the joint meeting with APC
 - iii) John Hodder also drew attention to the review our own website and remove outdated references to the NP

254. **LAND & ALLOTMENTS:**

- a) **Tree planting** on Parish council owned land – The clerk reported on the positive response from the city council, to supply plant and maintain the tree in order to avoid complications caused by land ownership. The resident who first offered to supply, plant and maintain the tree suggested responding to the city council in line with her original proposal regarding the location and type of tree to be planted.

255. **GOVERNANCE MATTERS**

- a) **Urgent Action Taken between meetings.** We unanimously approved the action taken by the chairman and the clerk in accepting a quote from A1 fencing, in the sum of £1037.50 plus VAT, to supply and fit fencing at site of the Standing Stones. The action was taken on grounds of safety to replace damaged fencing and to protect this significant heritage site from further damage

256. **HIGHWAYS** – The clerk reported that subsequent to the action agreed at the previous meeting he had learnt that the head of Highways had accepted early release from the city council and would be leaving at the end of June. The clerk would therefore seek to resolve some of the issues before that date and raise any outstanding and new issues when the future management structure of highways became clear.

257. **COMMUNITY MATTERS –**

- a) **Play equipment** – Cllr. Greene suggested the Saturday at the end of the half term (18th April) and had obtained a quote (24 for £10) for the supply of Ice Creams pots for the occasion. We approved a budget of £100 for the purpose. We also asked the clerk to invite the deputy Mayor and former ward councillor Mrs Diane Lamb to officially open the site. If she should be unavailable City Cllr. Mrs Irene Walsh should be invited as the city council grant aided the provision of the equipment and she had the appropriate cabinet responsibility

b) Community Allotment

- i) we noted that the raised beds still need topping up with topsoil and asked the clerk to chase Plough Environmental to carry out this work.
 - ii) We agreed to allocate raised beds as follows:-
 - Bed 1 Preschool
 - Bed 2 Junior school
 - Bed 5 W.I.Cllr. Greene agreed to approach the evergreens and offer one of the remaining raised beds
 - iii) The update on the Wild Flower section of the community allotment had been dealt with under item 252 (b) above to enable Mike Horne to leave the meeting
- c) VE Day celebrations – Cllr. Greene reported that the separate bank account had at long last been opened and the approved grants could now be made. Arrangements for the parade were coming on nicely and that further meetings were being advertised in the village.

258. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE:

- Cllr. Shaw had met with the pharmacist who had confirmed that he was looking for larger premises. He was also in talks with Milton estates. Cllr. Shaw had also spoken to ward councillor Peter Hiller who had referred him to Ward Councillor nominee Saqib Farooq, a Castor resident
- Cllr. Greene had received a message from a resident about the lack of contact information on the notice board or website. Cllr. Stewart undertook to obtain details of additional notice board for the village hall subject to the agreement of the VH management committee. All councillors agreed to the publication of their contact telephone numbers on the website.
- We agreed our website needed review and needed to cater for the publication of news items.
- Cllr. Baxter reported on the civic award presented to John Hodder. The parish council congratulated John on his award and thanked him for his work on our Neighbourhood plan. Cllr. Baxter also reported on the civic award to our Chairman Cllr. Neil Boyce and presented him with the formal award. We congratulated Neil on his well deserved award and acknowledged his contribution to the parish council and the wider community

259. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS –

- Report back on discussion with Athene reference the NP Website
- Website review

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.47 pm



Clerk & RFO 8th March 2020

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 2ND APRIL 2020 in The Village Hall at 7.30pm.		
APPROVED BY CASTOR PARISH COUNCIL		
Signature of Chairman of approving meeting:		2ND APRIL 2020

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