

# CASTOR PARISH COUNCIL



## Minutes of Castor Parish Council Meeting

Held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 7.30pm utilising the ZOOM application software to hold a virtual meeting as permitted by regulations made under s78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020  
namely

The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

- 301. 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; There were no Members of the public in attendance. The meeting was joined by Adam Allcock & Steve Grady, Directors and Co-Owners of Netwise Training Ltd, trading as Netwise UK
- 302. APOLOGIES –** None, all present
- 303. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None declared.
- 304. OPEN FORUM –** There were no members of the public present despite the meeting being properly advertised and the zoom link to the meeting being publicly available on the parish council website.
- 305. FUTURE WEBSITE –** The clerk had circulated reports to all councillors in advance of the meeting. Nine potential companies had been identified as potentially capable of developing and hosting a new website for the parish council. In searching for a new website, the opportunity could be taken (subject to cost) to upgrade to include Gov.UK email addresses for all councillors and the parish clerk.

The clerk had obtained details (From the company websites) of the various development and hosting packages of all 9 potential suppliers and all those companies had been sent an email asking them to respond to the parish council with further details and costings against a standard form of parish council requirements.

Prior to the meeting the clerk had circulated the outcome of that request for information. Only four of the companies responded. One declined to assist in the timescale required by the parish council. Of the remaining three, one did not include Gov.uk email addresses but this was not reflected in their pricing. The remaining two companies both had excellent products on offer but there was a very marked difference in pricing. Both had a significant market share of parish council websites and specialised in the sector.

Netwise development and hosting packages were available for all to see on a website - [www.pariishcouncilwebsites.org.uk](http://www.pariishcouncilwebsites.org.uk). Four levels are available, of which the “premium” and “premium plus” packages included Gov.uk domains and email addresses. The directors of Netwise UK had been invited to demonstrate the content and functionality of their premium package.

The directors gave an extensive demonstration of aspects of a premium website and answered questions from councillors and the clerk. At the end of the demonstration the directors left the meeting

**306. CONCLUSIONS** - Parish councillors considered that the demonstration had gone well and that the premium package website represented excellent value for money, and a considerable improvement on the present website package. It was agreed that, as the costs included both Gov.uk email addresses and a GOV.uk Domain we should take advantage of those enhancements to our current ways of working. We also considered the time is right to renew our Logo image and agreed to change to an image of the new village sign, In addition we discussed using the interface between the new website and our Facebook page, noting that to do so we would have to agree a revised process to enable that functionality to be utilised.

We unanimously **RESOLVED** to commit to contracting with Netwise UK to deliver a new website based on the premium package, to include a GOV.uk domain and Email addresses at an initial cost of £599 plus first year annual hosting and support £360 plus an additional set up fee for Gov.uk email addresses £50. Total up front charge of £1009 and an annual recurring charge, currently £360.

Proposed Cllr. William Baxter Seconded Councillor Richard Anker

**307. The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.58 pm**



Clerk & RFO 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020

<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 3<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER at 7.30pm. SUBJECT TO BEING CONFIRMED</b>		
<b>APPROVED BY CASTOR PARISH COUNCIL</b>		
<b>Signature of Chairman of approving meeting:</b>		<b>3<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER</b>