

CASTOR PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of Castor Parish Council Meeting

Held on Thursday 2nd 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

- 287. 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; One Members of the public also in attendance.
- 288. APOLOGIES –** None, all present
- 289. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None declared.
- 290. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING –** We unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 4th June, and they were agreed to be duly signed by the chairman when next we physically meet together.
- 291. Matters arising from the previous minutes.** - The clerk advised us that the full documentation for the annual return had now gone off to the external auditors
- 292. OPEN FORUM –** There was no input from the public at this stage
- 293. 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 noted that since our last meeting two planning applications had been permitted and a further two submitted both of which were on our agenda
- b) **20/00765/CTR –** The Limes 6 Peterborough Road– T.1 Judas Tree - Crown reduce by approximately 20%. T.2 Silver Birch - Remove. T.3 Cedar - Remove. We recognised the importance of the Judas Tree to the street scene and had no objections to the crown reduction as part of good tree management. We also noted the applicant wished to remove two trees. We had no objection to the removal because of the damage being caused to the wall. We would however ask the tree officer to urge that these were replaced by shrubs in order to preserve the street scene.
- c) **20/00775/FUL –** Cobnut Cottage 45 Peterborough Road – Construction of four-bed detached dwelling with integral garage. We have considerable concerns about this application for development and ask that it be refused for the following reasons
- Access to the site is severely restricted, it is still a blind access and previous applications for this site have been refused. We note that although this application is

for only one dwelling the application includes additional parking for the existing B&B on site. This will increase the vehicular usage of the blind access to the site.

- The proposed layout is, we consider, inappropriate for this particular site and is not in keeping with the surrounding properties which are parallel to the Peterborough Road. The site is in a conservation area and we do not have the benefit of any observations from the conservation officer on this aspect of the planning application
 - Furthermore, if despite these objections, officers are minded to approve the application we note that there are a number of trees on the site and there is no reference to removal of any of these within the submitted documents. We are of the opinion that the applicant should be required to produce a tree management plan and that the tree officer should be invited to comment on the plan when produced and if appropriate consider a preservation order in some cases.
- d) **Woodlands update** - Cllr. Shaw provided a further update and we noted that there was little change on the woodlands site regarding the siting of sporting activities
- e) **Joint Community Action Plan (JCAP)** – John Hodder had previously circulated some draft updates to the JCAP, these were unanimously accepted and would be publicised. In addition, the chairman updated the meeting on the appointment of the coordinator of the good neighbour scheme and Mr Hodder agreed to draft a further amendment to reflect this information
- f) **Neighbourhood Planning (NP)** – Further to the resolution made at the previous meeting the clerk had sought advice from the planning authority on the matters of concern if the links to supporting evidence in the neighbourhood plan were no longer available as a consequence of removing the dedicated NP website hosted by Athene. The emailed advice from planning is attached to these minutes and gives some assurance that the proposed course of action will be acceptable to the planning authority.

294. LAND & ALLOTMENTS:

- a) **Cricket Ground** – Cllr. Davies gave an update on the subject of the possible All-Weather pitch and we were informed that City Cricket club had concerns about not being included in the current lease and that further discussion between the clubs will be required if the proposal is to proceed.
- b) **Drive in Movie proposal** – Cllr. Shaw had canvassed the views of residents of Port Lane some of whom raised concerns especially if the event were to be other than a one off. Parish councillors expressed concerns over the volume of traffic and the use of a long single lane track if vehicles were travelling in opposite directions. Another concern was for the potential damage caused by up to two hundred cars on a good quality cricket ground. We concluded that irrespective of the merits or otherwise of a “Drive in Movie” event, the proposal to use the cricket ground is unsuitable. We therefore unanimously REFUSED to grant our permission for the event.

295. GOVERNANCE MATTERS

- a) Community allotment Water supply - we considered the only two quotations received and unanimously agreed to accept the lower quote of £504.27 from James Pickett and a colleague.

296. HIGHWAYS –

- a) We noted that the antique cobbles in the area of the village green had still not been replaced, possibly as a result of COVID -19 restrictions and we asked the clerk to enquire of the current position.

- b) Cllr. Baxter pointed out that the highways verge on the east side of Mill lane was highway verge and had not been cut this year. The clerk was asked to take this up with Highways to ensure that this is picked up and cut within the verge cutting contract.
- c) No other Highways matters were raised by councillors.

297. COMMUNITY MATTERS –

- a) **Langdyke Trust** – Cllr. Neil Boyce gave an update on the virtual meeting with some councillors from Ailsworth and some residents to take forward the Castor input to the project. A further meeting has been arranged with those interested persons on 13th July, 2020.
- b) **Covid-19 support group** – Cllr Mrs Greene gave an update of progress by the group. Some support is continuing for those wary of easing their lockdown position. It was also noted that there had been praise and nice feedback on facebook for the work of the group.
- c) **Village notice boards** – since the last meeting further discussions had taken place and further thought given to a suitable location for a new board. A new board on the village hall would be restricted in size to that of the existing board. An alternative of the bus shelter was suggested by John Hodder. Councillors agreed to give this further consideration and to seek additional prices and specifications for consideration at our September meeting.
- d) **Community Allotment**
Cllr. Mrs Greene informed us that Plough Environmental were cutting around the allotments but not including the community allotment. The clerk undertook to address this with Plough environmental.
- e) **Cadmans Barn Footpath** – We noted that our chairman had located the previous documents and affidavits supporting the existence of this footpath. We noted that these bore a date stamp from the city council as evidence that the city council had previously seen these documents. The clerk was asked to seek a meeting on site with the appropriate city council officer to take the matter forward.

Arising from the chairman locating these documents and other parish council records also recovered from the former clerk; we agreed that a subgroup should meet, along with the current clerk to organise and archive parish records at a suitable date in the future when access to the village hall is again possible.

- f) Feedback from Joint meeting with Ailsworth parish council – The main topic of discussion had been the new speeding restrictions and the possibility of introducing SPEEDWATCH. The joint meeting had been informed that the restrictions had to be in place for 12 months before that could be considered.

298. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE:

- We were aware that Ailsworth Parish Council intended to reopen their play area on this coming Saturday 4th July. We had previously been provided with updates on the easing of Covid-19 restrictions and government guidelines that play areas could be reopened providing Risk assessments were carried out and stringent conditions could be met and publicised. We also noted that our equipment was part of an inspection regime carried out on our behalf by Peterborough City Council. The clerk had circulated an exchange of emails with the city council on the matter.
We were minded, in the short term, to be part of the city council planned phased reopening of 160 sites (including Castor) along with public health input to the programme. We also asked the clerk to seek inclusion in the early part of that programme and to review the position if that meant protracted delay.

299. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS –

- Deferred arrangement for commemorating 75th anniversary of VE Day
- Play ground & Community Allotment - Official opening

300. The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.29pm



Clerk & RFO 3rd July, 2020

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