

CASTOR PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of Castor Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 7th February 2019 in Castor village hall at 7.30pm

103. **PRESENT:** Cllr. Richard Anker, Cllr. Neil Boyce (Chairman), Cllr. Steve Davies, Cllr. Jane Greene, Cllr. Fiona Rowlands and Cllr David Shaw. Officers present: John Haste, clerk; also, in attendance Members of the public. Cllr John Howard sent apologies because of prior commitments.

104. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** in items on the agenda – Cllr. Anker declared an interest in the item dealing with the leases of council owned land.

105. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – We unanimously RESOLVED to accept the minutes as drafted and they were duly signed by the chairman.

106. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- A resident referred to emails sent in the past and asked if there were any progress in recovering the old telephone box wrongly removed from the village. The chairman recalled that the box had been held by Peterborough City Council and he undertook to speak to PCC about reinstatement.
- Drainage was again raised as an issue as the gulleys are blocked, causing flooding during rainfall. The clerk was asked to write to PCC requesting a remedial visit.
- A resident requested the opportunity to speak when the community engagement strategy was discussed, this was agreed by the chairman.

107. PLANNING

- a) We received and noted the content of a status report on planning applications considered at previous meetings this year. The clerk drew particular attention to the approval of the planning application 18/01946/HHFUL since the previous meeting. We noted the contents of the report.
- b) 19/00012/HHFUL – proposed single storey rear extension and first floor attic room over the existing garage at 4 The Limes. We were of the opinion that the proposal was well designed and had no objections to the application.
- c) 19/00027/HHFUL – First floor extension over attached garage at 10 St Kyneburgha Close - We had no objection in principle to the proposed extension but were concerned at the proposed green finish to the timber cladding and would prefer a natural timber finish. We therefore ask that the planning authority, if minded to approve the application, impose a condition that materials and finish be approved prior to work commencing.
- d) 19/00114/WCPP – variation of condition C3 (to enable annex to be let for short term stays) of planning permission 15/01627/HHFUL, 2 Stocks Hill - We are of the opinion that there is inadequate parking on site for additional vehicles occasioned by a short term let. The site is directly opposite the school where there is a substantial parking issue. We therefore recommend REFUSAL of the application and in doing so noted that, had the application been for new dwelling, the absence of adequate parking would be contrary to planning policy CH1(h) in the adopted neighbourhood plan.

- e) **Local Plan** – Whilst generally supporting the current version of the local plan we noted the amendments being proposed and that consultation on these amendments would conclude on 18th February. We have some reservation about the blanket refusal of residential applications for sites outside of village envelopes as this would be restrictive to the planned growth in our neighbourhood plan which includes a site abutting the village envelope. We agreed to suggest the addition of a few words to allow an exception to the restriction in cases where sites are approved in an adopted neighbourhood plan
- f) **Joint Community Action Plan (JCAP)** – John Hodder advised that the link on agenda papers was to an outdated version of the plan and should be to the current version. Likewise, the JCAP version on the joint C&A neighbourhood plan website needs updating. Dom Goy had obtained a quote of £18 from Athene Communications to do the updating and for our part we agreed to contribute our 58% share (£10.44) of the cost
- g) **Neighbourhood planning** – John Hodder notified council that updated draft assessment sheets were available for use when assessing planning applications and suggested that Cllrs may also benefit from printing A5 copies of the Neighbourhood plan.

108. **LAND AND ALLOTMENTS:**

- a) **Land Leases** - The clerk advised us he had received four copies of the lease of land to Mr Wood together with a cheque for £1200 which had been banked. We agreed this should be signed by the chairman in due course.
- b) **Thorolds Paddock** - We were advised that the proposed lease appeared to be a generic form of words which were unacceptable to the tenant and we agreed to seek further advice from Berry's

109. **GOVERNANCE MATTERS:**

- a) **Draft community engagement plan** – As agreed in the public forum, a resident made a number of observations including reference to another document which included references to how the plan was to be achieved and included success measure. The chairman thanked him for his contribution and explained that this was drafted in conjunction with the city council as part of their desire to encourage wider public engagement. In due course all parish councils would be encouraged to adopt a similar plan. Some councillors and the clerk had observations to make and the chairman undertook to coordinate the observations with a view to bringing a revised document, tailored to our circumstances, to a future meeting for adoption by the parish council.

110. **COMMUNITY MATTERS:**

- a) **Village Sign** – We were advised that only one quote had been received so far for the work required on the base. We were also informed that it would be prudent to wait for the weather to improve. We were of the opinion that there should be more quotes, preferably three and that the work needs to be done to a high standard. It was suggested that the city council should be asked who did the work on the Allotment Lane wall, as that was considered to be of high quality.
- b) **Trim Trail** – Cllr Howard had informed the chairman that he had sought three quotes for a suitable trim trail and that he will chase these as a matter of urgency. The chairman referred to the possibility that funding may not be available indefinitely and that we should aim to have a project approved at the next meeting.
- c) **Cycle West Grant application** – The clerk had circulated the response from David Noble to the questions raised at an earlier meeting. We felt that we would benefit from more information and the chance for a dialogue with the applicant. We therefore asked the clerk to invite David Noble to our next meeting.
- d) **Castor & Ailsworth Football Club** – The clerk advised us that he had not received any formal request from the club. If and when he received such an application it would be placed on the agenda, given sufficient notice.

- e) Swimrun request – We agreed to the request to allow the event to take place on parish council owned land SUBJECT to the organisers conducting a full risk assessment, organising comprehensive marshalling of the event and having public liability insurance in place. It was also suggested that the event publicity material might acknowledge the permission granted by the parish council.
- f) Play equipment report – The chairman referred to Section 106 money available to Castor Parish Council and that £113,806 was available for open space and recreational facilities. A report on the children’s play equipment showed that the equipment on our play area was dated and of poor quality and recommended a scheme costing nearly £71k. We are minded to upgrade the play area and replace the old equipment. We are however, of the opinion that a superior quality play area could be installed at a lower cost and agreed to seek quotations for the design and installation of play equipment. We are also minded to consult school children on the types of equipment that they would prefer and use.

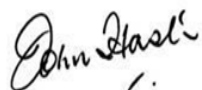
111. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS –

- a) Elissa Hill, tenant of the Ailsworth field at Tween Towns had obtained quotes for the renewal of fencing and asked if we would consider similar work to our land and willingness to discuss a market rent for use of the land. We undertook to see for ourselves the state of the fencing on our land before coming to any conclusion
- b) Delaine Saturday Bus service – Planned to be withdrawn. The chairman reported that the operator was willing to consider continued operation of a limited service for a trial period of 6 months in return for a financial contribution. We were informed that there may be support from other parish councils who may support the financial contribution subject 50% coming from the city council

112. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM

- a) Cycle West project grant application.
- b) Trim Trail, Cllr. Howard anticipated having a scheme put together for consideration at our next meeting
- c) Amended Draft Community Engagement Plan, previously circulated by Cllr. Boyce

113. The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.15pm



Clerk & RFO 8th February 2019

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 7th March 2019 in Castor Village Hall at 7.30pm.		
APPROVED BY CASTOR PARISH COUNCIL		
Signature of Chairman of approving meeting:		7th March, 2019

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