

CASTOR PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of Castor Parish Council Meeting Thursday 4th April 2019 in Castor village hall at 7.30pm

124. **PRESENT:** Cllr. Richard Anker, Cllr. William Baxter, 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 work commitments.
125. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** in items on the agenda – Cllr. Greene declared an interest in the item dealing with Allotments
126. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – We unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes as drafted and they were duly signed by the chairman.
127. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
- A resident drew our attention (again) to the loose cobble kerbstones adjacent to the Village Green up to 2 Church street. These are being piled up and require attention from the highway authority
 - Members of the public spoke in opposition to the planning application for a proposed Olympic / National competition Wall in Ferry Meadows. There were multiple reasons given for their opposition including size, location, effect on leisure and existing sporting pursuits within Ferry meadows
128. **PLANNING**
- a) We received and noted the content of a status report on planning applications considered at previous meetings this year. Cllr. Shaw drew our attention to 35a Peterborough Road and the observations of the conservation officer in opposition to the plans. Cllr. Shaw reminded us that we had withdrawn our opposition after the submission of revised plans. We agreed to instruct the clerk to write to the planning authority asking for the matter to be referred to the Planning & Environmental Protection committee **IF** officers were minded to refuse the application
 - b) 19/00452/DISCHG Discharge condition C3 (materials) & C4 (front door) of planning permission 18/01268/HHFUL – 3 Polls Yard – We support the discharge of conditions on this application as the proposed materials are in keeping with our neighbourhood planning requirements
 - c) 19/00341/CTR – Willow – Fell, 1 Church Hill. Parish council consider that the loss of this tree would adversely affect the street scene and are disappointed that the proposal is to fell the tree rather than alternative treatment. We **RESOLVED** to oppose the application and ask the tree officer to consider the alternative of applying a tree preservation order
 - d) 19/00347/FUL Proposed Olympic / National Competition Wall in Ferry Meadows Although not in our parish we had been officially consulted by the planning authority. We noted the proximity to our parish and the size and scale of the proposal. We also observed that the planning portal had 7 pages of observations mostly from individuals. We also took on board the views of members of the public present at our meeting and received by

email to the clerk. Given the diversity of opinion and the scale of response generated by the application we **RESOLVED** to ask that the application be referred to the Planning & Environmental Protection Committee

- e) Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Minerals & Waste Local Plan – Whilst having been consulted on the further draft of the joint policy we observed that there were no proposals which directly involved land in our parish and concluded that we have no observations to make on the proposals.
- f) **Local Plan** – There are no recent development to report and we await the conclusion of deliberations by the planning inspector.
- g) **Joint Community Action Plan (JCAP)** – We noted the suggestion of the working group for a joint informal meeting with APC to make further progress on the action plan
- h) **Neighbourhood planning** – We noted that the C & A neighbourhood planning working group awaited feedback in due course on actions in respect of development sites referred to in the neighbourhood plan. The working group had not scheduled a further meeting pending feedback from PC's on their intended actions. Our priority at this time is the Woodlands development, on which we noted that the working group requested to be kept informed.

129. **LAND AND ALLOTMENTS:**

- a) **Water meter reading** – The clerk reported receiving a large water bill (£269.06). When queried, Anglian Water had told the clerk that meter reading occurred only once per year and that a high reading had been taken earlier in the year possibly impacted by the leak repaired during 2018. Anglian Water would charge £26 for each additional meter reading and also advised installation of troughs at the location of each tap to minimise wastage. Cllr. Greene also requested water butts at each tap as being advantageous to allotment holders. We **RESOLVED** to take additional meter readings every three or four months and asked the clerk to prompt us to do so. We also agreed to the provision of suitable containers at the site of each of the two taps and **RESOLVED** to delegate action to the clerk and Cllr. Greene up to a maximum cost of £100.

130. **GOVERNANCE MATTERS:**

- a) **Draft community engagement plan.** Noting the discussion on the JCAP above we agreed for our part to seek an informal joint meeting with Ailsworth parish council to take forward the community engagement plan and ensure that it meets the principle of “one community two parish councils” and is compatible with the aspirations of the joint community action plan
- b) **Annual Governance statement** – The clerk explained the requirements of the “Accounts and Audit regulations 2015” and the requirement to consider and sign the annual governance statement in advance of approving the accounting statements. We considered each point of the Annual Governance statement individually and in turn. We observe that we do not operate any petty cash and neither do we certify ourselves as exempt from limited assurance review. In all other respects we **RESOLVED** to assert “YES” to each of the statements in the Annual Governance statement.

131. **COMMUNITY MATTERS:**

- a) Village Sign – We were advised that two quotes had been received £1500 and £775 and were assured that they were now confirmed as on a like for like basis. We **RESOLVED** to accept our share of the lower quote and noted that there was an expectation that the work would be carried out in the next month. We were also made aware of the intention to retain, protect and store the old village sign in the village hall.
- b) Trim Trail – Cllr Howard had written to the clerk informing us, in his absence, that he was awaiting further quotes and intending to meet with the cricket club to understand and address any concerns they may have on

the proposal. We were made aware that the city council funding may not be available in the short term given the high number of bids already submitted for projects elsewhere. Ailsworth already have some outdoor equipment and a joint bid with APC, to enhance their facilities may be more appropriate. We therefore agreed to put on hold exploring a trim trail pending discussion with Ailsworth pc on a possible joint bid for grant funding

- c) Play equipment – we agreed to defer consideration of the city council report to the next meeting and to seek external advice on options to replace old equipment and enhance the play area.
- d) Community Allotment – The chairman reported that he had the coping timber for the raised beds and was hoping to fit these over the coming weekend. 7 tons of topsoil would be required to fill the beds and level pathways between them. We agreed to obtain quotes from contractors to supply and fill the raised beds. At the same time a further 3 tons (in Bags) would be required for the area around Robin Hood & Little John at Ferryfields and this could be included in the quotes to be obtained. Once completed a 6 cubic yard skip would be required to enable the allotment site to be tidied up. Target date for the skip to be bank holiday at the end of May (27th May 2019)

132. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Cllr. Shaw reported that there were problems with siting of the dog poo bin in Port lane to enable collection by the city council.
- The chairman reported that speed restrictions would come in to force on 15th April according to a Facebook report. The clerk has not received an official notification and will take this up with city council officials.
- A litter pick, jointly organised with Ailsworth PC, is planned for Saturday 13th April, we agreed to our share of the cost of refreshments up to a maximum of £150.
- The clerk reported that the Evergreens had requested a grant from the parish council and he had requested further details of the estimated cost of specific events for consideration at a future meeting of the parish council.
- The chairman reported that our land agents, Berry's had notified him that the former tenant of Ferryfields did not want to renew the lease, the chairman had been approached by a potential tenant and would now meet with them on site to discuss their requirements and agree responsibilities.
- The chairman reported that the Way wardens good neighbour scheme is of interest to other parishes and that the city council were prepared to fund an administrator for the scheme if other parish councils signed up to develop the scheme in their parish.
- Cllr Shaw reported that proposals for a "Nature Recovery Area" in an area north of the A47 bypass were in embryonic form; and that subject to further progress Ward councillors and parish council may be consulted on their views at a later date,
- Cricket club lease had been amended, in line with the minutes of the December 2018 meeting, and was available for signing at the end of this meeting. The chairman had been asked if the parish council would allow a new cabin for scorekeepers in place of the old caravan. We had no objections to this subject to the club removing the old caravan from the site and also agree the positioning of new cabin with the parish council.
- The chairman reported that discussion on the withdrawn bus service were ongoing. A meeting is arranged for 23rd April and a report would be given to the next meeting, Ward councillors had been asked if the city council would contribute a share, along with parish councils, to enable a 6-month trial of a subsidised service to be evaluated.
- Cllr Baxter reported on conservation officer-imposed restrictions to be applied to the erection of marquees on the fete site. We viewed the restrictions as unnecessary and economically damaging to

the village, Cllr. Baxter, with the full support of this parish council, will seek the support of Professor Upex in removing these restrictions.

133. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a) Land Management agreements
- b) Grant to Evergreens

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.20pm



Clerk & RFO 5th April, 2019

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 2nd May 2019 in The Cedars at 7.30pm.		
APPROVED BY CASTOR PARISH COUNCIL		
Signature of Chairman of approving meeting:		2nd May, 2019