

CASTOR PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of Castor Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 4th July 2019 in The Village Hall, Castor at 7.30pm

160. **PRESENT:** Cllr. 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.
161. **PARISH COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION** The Chairman reported on a very satisfactory meeting he and the clerk had attended with Mr Dennis Surgeon and commended him as a candidate for co-option to the parish council. Mr Surgeon was present and was invited to address the meeting and answer councillors' questions. Cllr. Baxter seconded the chairman's proposal. We unanimously **RESOLVED** to co-opt Mr Dennis Surgeon as a Parish Councillor with immediate effect
162. **NOTE ATTENDANCE** - absent Cllr. Richards Anker.
163. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Cllr. Baxter declared a non-pecuniary interest in the planning application of a neighbour
164. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – We unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6th June. The chairman duly signed the minutes.
165. **OPEN FORUM** – A resident raised the subject of the future of the old village sign as it had been suggested it being auctioned by silent auction at the fete in two days' time. At present it was in the garden of a resident. Parish council were informed that it was not possible to locate this in the village hall or the school. We did not agree to auction at the fete and are of the opinion that the future of the old sign should be given more consideration and agreed by the parish councils of Ailsworth & Castor. We agreed to invite suggestions from residents at the fete.
166. **PLANNING and associated matters**
 - a) Status report We noted the current status of Planning applications received in the current year
 - b) 19/00885/TRE - The Grove 19 Church Hill – Fell Elder and Cut Back Sycamore. We have no objections to the proposed tree work
 - c) 19/00866/HHFUL – Ambleside, Peterborough Road – We viewed the documents, plans and elevations for this planning application available on the city council planning portal. We have no objections to make to the planning authority

- d) PCC Local plan – Cllr. Shaw reported that this had been approved by PCC Cabinet and would be considered for adoption by full council on 24th July.
- e) Joint Community Action Plan (JCAP) – Thanks were given to those councillors that had attended the joint meeting at which a few amendments were proposed. The amended action plan was put before us and we unanimously **RESOLVED** to adopt the latest version.
- f) Neighbourhood Planning (NP) – We were reminded that within the NP were proposals for some limited developments and that we are to consider writing to landowners of the approved sites. Our priority is to see appropriate development of the woodlands site. We will review the position at our September meeting.

167. **LAND & ALLOTMENTS:**

- a) Preschool Play Garden and Hut - The preschool organiser had submitted the group's intention for the future use of the site dependent on the parish council agreement to allow continued use. We were conscious of the dilapidated state of the site and the frequent acts of vandalism. We were minded to grant the preschool continued use subject to steps being taken to clean up the site, repair or replace fences and gates and, importantly, a plan to be -in place for continued maintenance. We agreed to review the position at our September meeting and make a final decision dependent on developments at the site in the intervening weeks.
- b) Fallen Tree at Ferryfields – We recorded our grateful Thanks to Cllr. Baxter for the actions taken by him to address the issue of the tree which has caused the parish council to temporarily close public access to the site. The tree was on former highways land as part of the old A47. The land had not been transferred to either the city council or Nene Park Trust on construction of the bypass. Highways England (H.E.), responsible for trunk roads, had agreed to undertake work to clear the fallen tree and repair the parish council fence. H.E, have suggested that they may cut up the tree and stack to produce a wildlife feature. We have no objections to this subject to location being satisfactory and sympathetic to the use of the land and public access. We **RESOLVED** to delegate to Cllr. Baxter the detailed arrangements with H.E.
- c) Tree Safety Report - We agreed that a full survey should be undertaken of all parish council owned trees and asked the clerk to obtain quotations for our consideration.
- d) Land Management Contract – Cllr Davies had circulated the tender document to four potential contractors and invited sealed tenders to be submitted to the clerk. Only one tender had been submitted by the deadline. We **RESOLVED** to accept the tender of N J Pacey and asked the clerk to write to the other contractors and ask if they were prepared to tell us why they declined to tender

168. **GOVERNANCE MATTERS**

- a) **Co-option of Mr Dennis Surgeon** - This item had been taken at the start of the meeting and we asked the clerk to notify the city council monitoring officer.
- b) **Further parish council vacancy** - We agreed to advertise this at the village fete and see if that brought forward any further candidates

169. **COMMUNITY MATTERS**

- a) Play Equipment report – Cllr. Greene had taken the plans to the school and consulted with children on their preferences from the three schemes provided. We agreed to take the proposals to the village fete for wider views from the community. The chairman reported that Holbeach Parish Council had expressed an interest in acquiring the existing equipment and would either pay the costs of removal or remove at their own expense. This would reduce the costs of the proposals submitted to us as all had included a figure for removal. We **RESOLVED** to agree the disposal of play equipment to Holbeach Parish Council on the basis of their offer.

- b) Community Allotment –
 - i) We noted the progress on site and the topsoil delivery for the raised beds.
 - ii) A resident had suggested a small wildlife pond be added to the site and Cllr. Greene had made the same suggestion. We **RESOLVED** to delegate the matter to Cllr. Mrs Greene to progress.
 - iii) We were also asked to consider a secondary access gate to the rear of the plot and asked the clerk to obtain a price from the company that installed the fence.
 - iv) We considered the allocation of the 5 raised beds and anticipated interest from the primary school, preschool and Evergreens. In the event that not all beds were allocated we agreed to let one to a lady who had expressed an interest

- c) Parking restrictions – we considered the consultation letter from the city council which detailed the proposed restrictions at the junction of High Street, Stocks Hill and Church Hill. We are adamant that we wish to maintain the rural nature of the village, limit the quantity of street furniture and yellow lines. We do not consider there to be an issue in need of attention at this junction. Accordingly, we **RESOLVE** to vehemently oppose the proposed parking restrictions

- d) John Clare countryside vision - We considered this vision document by the Langdyke Trust and Cllr Shaw reported on a meeting with CPRE, PRP and other parties looking to preserve and improve hedgerows and the countryside in general. We noted that the aims were in accordance with the spirit and content of our neighbourhood plan and therefore were supportive in principle with the stated aims of the vision document

- e) Port Lane, Dog Waste Bin – The chairman, Cllr Shaw and the clerk had met on site with City council officers and agreement reached on siting of a new bin at the entrance to the cricket ground with emptying carried out by PCC with PCC vehicle turning at the gated access point.

- f) Operation London Bridge – The clerk reported on a presentation at the CAPALC one day conference and Cllr. Baxter informed the parish council of church plans. We agreed to work with the church on the subject and **RESOLVED** to fund the acquisition of two union Flags to be held specifically for the purpose and to fund a book of condolence at the appropriate time. We furthermore **RESOLVED** to delegate these acquisitions to Cllr Baxter.

g) Tennis club initial assessment of move from Holme Close to Woodlands site - we noted the content of the club's initial assessment and are supportive in principle in that the move would facilitate wider use of the facilities by Castor & Ailsworth residents. We are therefore minded, subject to the agreement of Ailsworth PC, to indicate a willingness to share the estimated cost (c £6000) of seeking planning permission.

170. **TO RECEIVE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS** – there were no official announcements not already considered during the meeting. and the website.

171. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** - Wall bounding village Green and surrounding properties.

172. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 5TH September starting at 7.30pm**

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.42pm



Clerk & RFO 3rd May, 2019

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 5th September 2019 in The Village Hall at 7.30pm.		
APPROVED BY CASTOR PARISH COUNCIL		
Signature of Chairman of approving meeting:		5th September, 2019