

# CASTOR PARISH COUNCIL



## Minutes of Castor Parish Council Meeting

Held on Thursday 3rd September 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

**308. PRESENT:** Cllr William Baxter, Cllr. Neil Boyce (Chairman), Cllr. Steve Davies, Cllr, Jane Greene, Cllr. Fiona Rowlands, Cllr. David Shaw, & Cllr. Dennis Surgeon; Officers present: John Haste, clerk; four Members of the public also in attendance.

**309. APOLOGIES –** None, Cllrs Richard Anker and Becky Stewart absent

**310. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST -** None declared.

**311. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS –** A resident questioned the absence of an attachment to the minutes on the website. The minutes include reference to the assurance of the planning office that on the closure of the joint NP website there will not be a requirement for any minor amendment under the NP regulations. The clerk agreed to correct this omission. We unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2020 - Proposed Cllr. David Shaw and seconded Cllr Dennis Surgeon. It was agreed that they be duly signed by the chairman when next we physically meet together.

We unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 8th July, 2020 - Proposed Cllr Fiona Rowlands and seconded Cllr David Shaw Surgeon. It was agreed that they be duly signed by the chairman when next we physically meet together.

**312. Matters arising from the previous minutes. -** None

**313. OPEN FORUM –** Richard Ingham gave an update to the parish council of the aims and ambitions of the tennis club. The club has experienced a great deal of interest and has 160 members. A long term ambition for 6 courts but an interim target of 4 all weather, floodlit courts. The club are making a similar appeal to Ailsworth parish council and will be grateful for any financial support particularly towards the legal and planning costs

### **314. 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. Cllr Shaw provided an update on the application in respect of Cobnut Cottage, 45 Peterborough Road which awaits a decision and objection by highways
- b) **20/00749/FUL –** Old Mill, Mill Lane – The application plans are very complex and we support the return to a single dwelling. The plans attached to this application deal with many conservation matters and we concluded that we support the application subject to the observations of the conservation officer on matters of detail

- c) **20/00787/HHFUL** – 2 The Limes – We noted that this application had been permitted but nonetheless we had no objection.
  - d) **20/00871/CTR** – 2 Stocks Hill – T1 Silver Birch – Fell already permitted but no objections
  - e) 20/00882/TRE – The old Rectory, 10 Stocks Hill – Copper Beech (83/00003/TPO) – Fell, although recorded on the planning portal as awaiting decision, we were informed that the tree had been felled a week ago.
  - f) We were advised that the parish council had received a request for council support for a new play area project in Ferry Meadows. We noted that we had not been officially consulted by the planning authority, unlike the consultation on the proposed climbing wall. We concluded that, in general, we would support the provision of appropriate play equipment city wide
  - g) On planning matters, we asked the clerk to clarify, with planning authority, whether we should have been consulted on the extension of the temporary planning consent for the mobile classroom at the school. We noted that permission had been granted for a further three years. We asked the clerk to request a meeting with the rector and the headmaster to understand future accommodation intentions
  - h) **Woodlands update** - Cllr. Shaw provided a further update and we noted that there was a search for a name for the care facility on the Woodlands site. Access signs had been changed and there appeared to be some slow progress on the sporting facilities
  - i) **Joint Community Action Plan (JCAP)** – John Hodder - to be considered at the joint meeting with Ailsworth and a future amendment to take account of the Langdyke Trust initiative
  - j) **Neighbourhood Planning (NP)** – Our main discussion on this item was about the proposed radical changes to the planning system and the governments ambitious plans for housebuilding and the top down approach by the government telling Peterborough and all authorities how many houses they must incorporate in an area in a given time frame. This gives us great concern as it appears that Peterborough figures increase by 5000 and places where such numbers can be accommodated are extremely limited. We noted that the consultation period extends beyond the date of our next meeting and we agreed to explore the detail behind the white paper and consider our response at the next meeting.
- 315. LAND & ALLOTMENTS:** We noted that our contractor was undertaking the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the two-year land management contract and intended to complete all the work by 21<sup>st</sup> September. The contractor asked if we wished to have any trees inspected as the contract included a provision of £450 for tree inspection. The cricket ground was suggested and we will consider the possibility of a fuller survey at our next meeting.
- 316. GOVERNANCE MATTERS**
- a) **Insurance** – The clerk informed us that our insurance is due for renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> October and that the premium is £428.14, £10 more than the previous year. We were reminded that we had a Long-term Agreement which expires in 2021 and were therefore committed to accepting the premium. We therefore RESOLVED to authorise the clerk to accept the renewal premium proposed Cllr. Neil Boyce seconded Cllr. Dennis Surgeon. The clerk has also informed the insurance brokers of the increased value of our play equipment and has questioned the limit on Key Man cover within the policy.
  - b) **Future Parish Council Meetings** – Given that the village hall AGM decided to defer opening up the village hall, we agreed to continue to meet on ZOOM and to keep that position under review month by month
- 317. HIGHWAYS –**

- a) Residents had raised the issue of trees overhanging Peterborough Road. Whilst these trees are on private land they clearly need to be pruned in the interests of road safety. We asked the clerk to refer these to the highway authority
- b) Cllr Shaw raised the issue of blocked Gulleys causing local flooding in heavy rain. Several instances were commented on by Cllrs and a local resident and we agreed to raise this as an urgent matter with the city council.
- c) We were reminded that highways had undertaken to remove unwanted Yellow lines; Paint 20mph roundels on the road; Move the flashing speed sign; and also, that highways were trying to source replacement heritage kerbs for the area around the Green.

Because of the variety of issues raised we considered that a meeting with the highways officer to visit these sites may be beneficial. We asked the clerk to write accordingly, to request a meeting in the village to visit the locations and discuss the issues with a view to early resolution.

- d) Cllr. Rowlands favoured speed indicator signs that showed the actual speed and considered them to be more effective than our sign which flashed when overspeed was detected. The chairman agreed to discuss this with Cllr. Anker

### 318. COMMUNITY MATTERS –

- a) **Village notice boards** – In The absence of Cllr. Stewart we were unaware of progress made and the potential costs. We asked that Cllr Stewart email all councillors so that we can finalise this matter at the next meeting. We agreed that the preferred solution was to replace the board on the village hall AND have a second larger board in the bus shelter. We asked that sizes and prices be available at our next meeting.
- b) **Community Allotment**  
Cllr. Mrs Greene informed us the pipework had been completed and that it was now much easier to water than carry the water cans for a long distance
- c) **Joint meeting with Ailsworth parish council** – We agreed that the agenda for the meeting next week should include recovery of water charges, possible financial support to the Village Hall and Cedar centre, and importantly the future of the Joint Neighbourhood plan website and consequences of its closure.
- d) **Langdyke Trust rural vision & Wildlife recovery project** – Cllr Fiona Rowlands reported on some progress in documenting some parts of the village and needed more input from Ailsworth together with some guidance on how to take the project forward. The project is gaining momentum and is also seen as important given the pressures for housebuilding outlined earlier on our agenda
- e) Playpark opening – We were concerned that a swing and some equipment had been removed and presumed that this was necessitated by Covid-19 precautions, but had not been informed of this. We asked the clerk to follow this up with the city council officers for confirmation that these items were being stored safely for return to the play area at an appropriate time.

### 319. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE:

- a) **Doctors Surgery access** - The chairman reported that a resident had raised with him, issues about the doctor's surgery and access to health services. The matter had been raised at a parish Liaison forum with Peterborough City council as a wider concern. It appears that doctors are transforming into larger, less local schemes. We will monitor this and hope that the Woodlands development may provide an opportunity for some alternative service provision

- b) **Swim run event** – The chairman reported an approach for permission to repeat the event this year. We agreed to consult with councillors and take action between meetings in accordance with standing orders as our next meeting is too late for the organisers

**320. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** – We agreed to remove street scene enhancement from the list of future agenda items as this was being subsumed within the rural vision project

- Deferred arrangement for commemorating 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day as it was hoped to run some sort of event in 2021
- Playground & Community Allotment - Official opening

**321. The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.40pm**



Clerk & RFO 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER at 7.30pm. SUBJECT TO BEING CONFIRMED</b>		
<b>APPROVED BY CASTOR PARISH COUNCIL</b>		
<b>Signature of Chairman of approving meeting:</b>		<b>8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER</b>