



Minutes of Castor Parish Council Meeting

Held on Thursday 3rd December 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

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The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

- 353 PRESENT:** Cllr Richard Anker, Cllr. William Baxter, Cllr. Neil Boyce (Chairman), Cllr. Jane Greene, Cllr. Fiona Rowlands, Cllr. David Shaw, Cllr. Becky Stewart, & Cllr. Dennis Surgeon; Officers present: John Haste, clerk; five Members of the public also in attendance.
- 354 APOLOGIES –** Cllr Steve Davies prior commitment
- 355 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –** The Chairman and Councillor Baxter declared an interest in the matter on the agenda related to the Good Neighbour scheme.
- 356 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS –** We unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 8th October, 2020 -. It was agreed that they be duly signed by the chairman when next we physically meet together. Proposed Cllr. David Shaw and seconded Cllr Fiona Rowlands
- 357 Matters arising from the previous minutes. -** None
- 358 OPEN FORUM –**
- i Helen Daly reported on the progress on the Wildlife Recovery project within Castor as part of the wider John Clare Rural Vision co-ordinated by the Langdyke Trust. Five sites had been identified as having potential to contribute to the project. These would need further consideration by the parish council and would be considered alongside more projects put forward by other parishes.
 - ii A resident raised the ongoing issues related to parking and speeding within the village. These observations were echoed by another member of the public present
 - iii That resident also referred to the radical changes to building targets proposed in the white paper on planning reforms, and the considerable mounting opposition. He referred to a meeting with the local MP Shailesh Vara and a newspaper article by Simon Jenkins outlining just how disastrous the white paper reforms would be to the rural countryside particularly in such places as Castor & Ailsworth
- 359 PLANNING and associated matters**
- a) **Joint Community Action Plan (JCAP) –** There was no further update on this topic which will feature again at the joint meeting with Ailsworth Parish Council in December along with the Wildlife Recovery project progress reported above by Helen Daly
 - b) **Neighbourhood Planning (NP) –** Cllr Shaw advised the meeting that the parish council needed to soon embark on the review of our Neighbourhood plan as it only carried weight if it were current and arrangements were in place to ensure that it reflected any changes within the parish or planning policy. We agreed that this should be discussed at the joint meeting with Ailsworth PC. Furthermore, that we consider a funding requirement within the Budget review and the precept decisions with a view to starting the NP Review in the early spring of 2021

- c) **Status report** - We noted the current status of Planning applications received in the current year. The clerk reported that five applications had been permitted since the previous meeting; no new planning applications submitted for consideration by the parish council but revised plans had been submitted for Cobnut cottage and the application is on our agenda for further consideration
- d) 20/00775/FUL – Cobnut Cottage, 45 Peterborough Road. We noted that the applicant had revised the orientation of the proposed dwelling to minimise root damage as trees are protected by Tree Preservation Orders. We concluded that the scheme is now reasonable for one dwelling on the site provided the finished materials are chosen carefully
- e) **Woodlands update** - Cllr. Shaw reported that he had met with officers from the city council who had confirmed that County Court Care (CcC) is responsible for keeping the drains clear; CcC should be bringing forward a scheme for lighting Splash lane; Cllr Shaw considered that CcC may come forward with plans to demolish the existing building as conversion costs were proving to be too expensive; and the promised tree planting may need a written prompt from the clerk (to be kept under review). Cllr. Rowlands asked if a gate could be installed and closed in the evening/ overnight and Cllr. Shaw agreed to raise this at a meeting with Andrew McDermott & include Helen Daly in the meeting.
- f) **Land Use Strategy** - Cllr. Shaw referred to his paper circulated to members. The local plan did not have any development in Castor but our Neighbourhood Plan envisaged 30 new dwellings. However much depends on the city council meeting targets, failing which, developers could attempt to build within the parish confines. In such circumstances the final line of defence would be the Neighbourhood Plan BUT, only if it were to be considered to be current, Hence the need to commence a review of the existing plan.

360 LAND & ALLOTMENTS:

Allotment picnic bench – We agreed that this should be reinstated outside the community allotment.

361 GOVERNANCE MATTERS

- a. **SLCC affiliation fee** – We noted that the fee is based on the combined salary of all the parishes served by the clerk and that Glinton PC had agreed to pay the share “pro rata” to the share of that total paid by them. We RESOLVED to do likewise and agreed to pay £92.17 of the total fee (£210), based on the Castor Salary.

Proposed Cllr. Mrs Greene and Seconded Cllr. Mrs Stewart

- b. **Budget Strategy** - We asked the clerk to include funding for i) a lockable shed for the allotments and, ii) funding for the Parish share of the second year salary of the Good Neighbour scheme administrator estimated to be £2 per household in each of the member parishes plus, iii) provision for the review of the Neighbourhood Plan.

362 HIGHWAYS –

- a. **Issues raised at the meeting with James Collingridge representing City Council Officers** – The majority of the remaining issues were highways matters and James is chasing Highways for some action on these issues.
- b. **20 MPH Limit** – We agreed to make a formal request to the highway authority for the limit to be extended to the top of Loves Hill thus removing all the speed limit signs at the junction with Mill Lane. We make the request on the grounds of Safety as we consider the present arrangement to be highly dangerous for horse riders and cyclists descending that hill
- c. **Speed Indication Device** – Cllr. Anker had obtained two quotes and was following these up for more information. In addition, he reported that Mike Brooks would be happy to provide Speedwatch training if required.

- d. **Inappropriate Parking** - We are aware of the many concerns raised on Facebook. Cllr. Shaw suggested requesting the school heads to urge parents to be more considerate and suggested a meeting on site with the head and two councillors to address the issue. Cllr Baxter undertook to speak to the head on the matter before requesting a meeting on site
- e. **Cllrs. Observations** – there were none reported.

363 COMMUNITY MATTERS –

- a) **Book Exchange** – Cllr. Baxter reported that this appears to have grown and now included a CD exchange Website. We therefore thought it would be appropriate to provide some hand sanitiser.
- b) **Village notice boards** – The chairman reported that these had arrived and that he planned to have them installed in this coming weekend
- c) **Allotment Lane Water Supply** – The outstanding issue is on the agenda for the joint meeting with Ailsworth PC.
- d) **Langdyke Trust Rural Vision** – This matter had been fully discussed in the public forum. The updated document setting out the possible sites would be submitted to Richard Astle.

364 OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE:

- i. Cricket club requested permission for a new clubhouse – need more information to discuss at a future meeting
- ii. The chairman had discussed with Peter Hiller the possibility of the city council employing a lengthsman for the part time use by the parish council and had been told this would cost £30k - £40k for two weeks per month. We will seek further advice from other parishes via Capalc

365 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS –

Playground & Community Allotment - Official opening of the play area and community allotment to be considered after Covid-19 restrictions ceased to be in place. Former VE day celebrations on hold possibly to be replaced by celebrations in 2021 or even 2022 for the Queens anniversary

366 There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 9.52pm



Clerk & RFO 6th November, 2020

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 14TH JANUARY 2021 at 7.30pm. SUBJECT TO BEING CONFIRMED		
APPROVED BY CASTOR PARISH COUNCIL		
Signature of Chairman of approving meeting:		14TH JANUARY, 2021

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