



Minutes of Castor Parish Council Meeting

Held on Thursday 4th February, 2021 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

- 383 PRESENT:** Cllr Richard Anker, Cllr. William Baxter, Cllr. Neil Boyce (Chairman), Cllr. Steve Davies, Cllr. Jane Greene, Cllr. Fiona Rowlands, Cllr. David Shaw, Cllr. Becky Stewart & Cllr. Dennis Surgeon; Officers present: John Haste, clerk; three Members of the public were also in attendance.
- 384 CENSUS 2021 –** The chairman welcomed Nicola Warnock, Census Engagement Manager (Peterborough). Nicola gave a short presentation on the Census which will take place on Sunday March 21st. The essential elements of her Presentation were that this will be the first ever “Digital” Census which could be completed on line and that she is seeking the assistance of parish councils to publicise the event together with the message that help would be available to those residents who had difficulties in completing the census requirements. In due course a helpline facility will be publicised. There are also a limited supply of temporary job opportunities in connection with the Census and to provide the support facilities being made available.
- 385 APOLOGIES –** none, all councillors present
- 386 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –** None. Cllr. Shaw added that as a planning consultant he is often asked to help in planning applications in the village and refuses everyone to avoid conflicts of interest as he is a parish councillor.
- 387 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS –** We unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 14th January, 2021 -. It was agreed that they be duly signed by the chairman when next we physically meet together.
Proposed Cllr. Fiona Rowlands and seconded Cllr Steve Davies.
- 388 Matters arising from the previous minutes. -** None
- 389 PLANNING and associated matters**
- a) **Joint Community Action Plan (JCAP) –** John Hodder reported that the amendments had been agreed by both parish councils and that the latest version was now on the parish council website.
- b) **Neighbourhood Planning (NP) –** Cllr Shaw recommended that as a first step in the review of the NP, the parish council should contact the local planning authority requesting a “Housing Requirement” in order to provide an up to date basis for considering the existing NP. John Hodder also suggested that the two parishes consider which of their NP policies they might like to revisit, and that each parish be aware of the other parish thoughts and did not work in isolation. John also reminded the meeting that we need to inform the planning authority that the NP website is closed and the city council website point to the parish websites for the adopted plans.
- c) **Status report -** We noted the current status report, of Planning applications received in the current year, had only one change since that previously reported.
- d) **Planning applications -** There were no new planning applications to consider.
- e) **Woodlands update -** Cllr. Shaw reported that a newsletter had been received and circulated. The completion date had been set back from April to July largely arising from Covid-19 lockdown restrictions. The drainage had been cleared very effectively and the benefits had been seen immediately.

390 LAND & ALLOTMENTS:

- a) **Tweentowns** - The chairman reported that the site was basically flooded and that he and Cllr. Baxter had visited the site and that the city council had attended and cleared the drain but that this had not resulted in a change in the ground conditions. Creation of a pond may improve conditions and grants might be available for the purpose. There were some concerns over child safety given the remoteness of the site and proximity to the play area. We agreed to seek advice on the solutions available to address the issue, and given those possibilities we could seek costings of the options.
- b) **Thorolds Paddock** – Cllr Anker told us that he had given up the tenancy in 2019. We noted that Mrs E Hill had current use of the site. Cllr Baxter also reported that someone else had indicated a wish to lease the site and would pass the details to the clerk.

391 HIGHWAYS

- a) **Highways issues** We received an updated report from James Collingridge and noted that many of the matters had been dealt with. Some highways issues remained and would not progress until the next financial year through lack of available funds. There remained some issues being pursued with Lee Moore. Cllr. Shaw also provided an update on a drainage issue and undertook to send photographs to the clerk to be pursued.
- b) **Speed Indicator Device** – Cllr. Anker reported that he had a quote of between £200 and £300 to replace the post to support the new equipment. We unanimously agreed to approve the replacement.
- c) **Parking Issues** We received a report from Cllr. Baxter that he had spoken to the head of Primary school who would be supportive of a verge parking restriction. We agreed to ask the city Council to invoke a verge parking restriction order between Splash Lane and the village hall.
- d) **Observations from Councillors** – The Chairman reported that he had been approached by a resident concerned at the speeding at the top of Loves Hill and who was prepared to fund a further speed indicator at that location. The clerk advised that that would need to involve the highway authority and might not even be possible if no power is available on the highway itself. The chairman referred to the proposed Road Safety Working Group and would ask the resident if he was prepared to join that group.

392 COMMUNITY MATTERS

- a) **Langdyke Trust Nature Recovery Plan** - Cllr Rowlands had circulated an update report to all councillors prior to the meeting. The first suggested project was to purchase and erect bird/bat boxes at agreed locations. We resolved to fund these boxes up to £500 from within the budget set aside for the project.

Proposed Cllr. Richard Anker and Seconded By Cllr. Becky Stewart

Cllr Rowlands outlined other plans for hedge planting and heritage tree planting to take place later in the year when conditions allow. Costings to compile a report for surveying the fields leading to the river by Sarah Lambert will be considered at the next meeting.

- b) **Clay Lane & Cow Lane Ownership** – The chairman informed us that he is in possession of files recovered from the former clerk and was in discussion with Cllr. Baxter. Independently the clerk had trawled a large file in his possession and conducted online enquiries with the land registry. It was agreed that the Chairman, Cllr Baxter and the Clerk would meet up and go through those files together after Covid-19 restrictions were lifted.
- c) **Mobile Vendor** – The food vendor had responded to the request for further information and we had mixed opinions on this matter. We noted that the proposal was to visit Castor in alternative months, but had concerns about possible location and conflict with the Chubby Castor. We agreed to defer consideration to the joint meeting with Ailsworth and meanwhile seek to establish where the vendor currently sets up stall and when, in order that we might visit and see the operation first hand.

- d) **Assets of Community Value** – We agreed to form a small working group, led by Cllr Shaw, to take forward the application for registration of these assets. Cllrs William Baxter, Dennis Surgeon and Becky Stewart volunteered to join the group along with the Clerk.
- e) **Village Tribune** – Cllr. Fiona Rowlands reported that she had spoken to the editor and that the magazine is published every two months and circulated to villages to the North and West of Peterborough. Articles could be submitted at any time, without charge, and without a commitment to do so for every publication. We agreed to periodically submit articles when there is something of a wider interest to report.

393 GOVERNANCE MATTERS

- a) **Grant applications** – We noted that both CAMSAR and MAGPAS had acknowledged with thanks the grants agreed at our previous meeting.

394 OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE: The chairman reported that although Goldstar taxis had offered free transport to Covid-19 vaccination appointments, they were attempting to charge if the distance exceeded four miles and this matter was being followed up by trading standards.

Parish councillors have been invited to a consultation meeting on the proposed A47 Sutton to Wansford upgrade. We noted that we had not agreed a parish council view on the upgrade and that those parish councillors who chose to attend would do so to observe. If we as a parish council are required to comment on the upgrade we will consider the matter at our next meeting in the light of information gathered at the consultation meeting

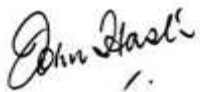
395 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS –

Agenda for the next joint meeting with Ailsworth parish council.

Other matters held in abeyance for the time being:

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

396 There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 9.32pm



Clerk & RFO 7th February, 2021

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 4TH MARCH 2021 at 7.30pm.		
APPROVED BY CASTOR PARISH COUNCIL		
Signature of Chairman of approving meeting:		4TH MARCH, 2021

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