



Minutes of Castor Parish Council Meeting

Held on Thursday 6th May, 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

- 426 PRESENT:** Cllr Richard Anker, Cllr. Neil Boyce (Chairman), Cllr. Steve Davies, Cllr. Jane Greene, Cllr. Fiona Rowlands, Cllr. David Shaw & Cllr. Dennis Surgeon; Officers present: John Haste, clerk; two Members of the public were also in attendance.
- 427 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL.** Cllr. Neil Boyce, as the sole nomination, was duly elected unopposed.
- 428 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE** The declaration of acceptance was duly signed by Cllr. Neil Boyce in the meeting and countersigned by the clerk as witness.
- 429 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN** Cllr. Fiona Rowlands, as the sole nomination, was duly elected unopposed.
- 430 Acknowledge the resignation of Becky Stewart as a Castor parish councillor-** Becky had resigned from the parish councillor citing the pressure of work from her change of Job. The chairman reported that he had written to Becky thanking her for her contribution to the work of the parish council.
- 431 APOLOGIES** – none.
- 432 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Cllr. Neil Boyce declared a Non-pecuniary in the matter on the agenda related to the good Neighbour scheme, of which, he is chairman of the board of Trustees. Cllr. Anker declared an interest on the matter related to the Langdyke Trust and the Coppice.
- 433 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS** – We unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 8th April, 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. Dennis Surgeon
- 434 Matters arising from the previous minutes.** – Allotment Lane Bollard. The bollard is still stuck down and in need of repair or replacement. This appeared to be a matter being dealt with by the city council highways department but awaited their budget being finalised. We agreed to take this up with highways, failing which, the matter should be dealt with as a matter of urgency under standing order procedures and reported to the next meeting.
- 435 Public Forum** – none.

436 PLANNING AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS

- a) **Joint Community Action Plan (JCAP)** – John Hodder reported that the latest update had also been agreed by Ailsworth Parish Council and he noted that it is already published on our website.
- b) **Neighbourhood Planning (NP)** – Cllr. Shaw reported that there was nothing to report at this meeting. John Hodder suggested it would expedite the review, if each councillor, considered each of the policies in the NP and noted which could remain in their present form, and those which may require amendment.
- c) **Status report** – The Clerk reported on changes, since the last meeting, to the status report of Planning applications received in the current year. The report circulated with the agenda highlighted that a further three matters were on our agenda for this meeting.
- d) **Planning applications** –
 - i) **21/00497/FUL 59A Peterborough Road** – We have no objections to this application for a front porch extension, garage conversion, single storey rear extension, and new garage with garage loft.
 - ii) **21/00639/CTR - The Fitzwilliam Arms, Peterborough Road** - We have no objections to this application to “Trim canopy of all trees”.
 - iii) **21/00539/HHFUL 65 Peterborough Road** - Extension to rear, rear orangery and new front porch. We considered this application in which, there were many proposals to which we would have no objection. Our one concern is in respect of the front porch, which we consider not to be in keeping with the main building. As all the proposals are included in the one planning application, we feel compelled to object to the application and we asked Cllr. Shaw to work with the clerk on the wording of our letter to the planning authority.
 - i) **LINX construction signs** – We considered the suggested signs and concluded that we would prefer a single sign for the Care home combined with the Woodlands sports facility in the format of the brown signs used for visitor attractions. We asked Cllr Shaw to negotiate on our behalf in this matter.
- e) **Woodlands update** - Cllr. Shaw reported that there was nothing further to report since our last meeting and that we still awaited the coordinated plans of Country Court Care and Nene Park Trust.

437 LAND & ALLOTMENTS:

- a) We noted that a new resident has enquired about an allotment and that an allotment was now available and agreed that the allotment in question should be offered to the new resident.

438 HIGHWAYS

- a) **Speed Indicator Device** – Cllr. Anker reported that as approved at the previous meeting an order had been placed for the equipment.
- b) **Parking Issues** Cllr Anker reported that, contrary to the earlier advice received, an application for a verge parking order had to come from residents. We agreed to canvass support for the order and urge residents to request an order be made.
- c) **Highways England A47 Longthorpe Footbridge Replacement** – we agreed that the footbridge in question is in need of repair or replacement, but also noted that it is not in our parish, we therefore agreed to make no observations on the matter but to monitor it to see if there is any impact on the movement of Castor residents.
- d) **Observations from Councillors** – None.

439 COMMUNITY MATTERS

- a) **JOINT PARISH LIAISON GROUP (JPLG)** – We agreed that the next meeting with Ailsworth Parish council should be held on Zoom as the ending of the 2020 regulations governing remote meetings only apply to Formal parish council meetings and not to informal meetings such as JPLG.
- b) **Langdyke Trust Wildlife recovery project** – Cllr. Rowlands reported on the hard work of Richard Anker and Mike Horne at the coppice adjacent to the allotments. Whilst there is still a lot to do, a group of volunteers intended to visit the site on 18th May to make further progress. It would then be our intention to publicise the project with photographs on the website and possibly Facebook. We asked the clerk to see if a skip could be made available for the 17th May for collection on 19th May if possible. Cllr Rowlands also reported on discussions with PECT and Aveland Trees and within the recovery project to purchase a range of indigenous trees for planting in the Autumn.
- c) **Village Tribune** – Councillor Rowlands reported that the Tribune had been distributed in the village. We thanked Cllr Rowlands for the content submitted to the editor and asked that she consider submitting another report for the next edition, possibly regarding the pond project in the Coppice.

440 GOVERNANCE MATTERS

- a) **Internal Audit** – The clerk informed us that, contrary to the report in the previous minutes, Mrs Jones was prevented from carrying out the internal audit function for the parish council. Mr David Lane MCICM, had agreed to undertake the task at a suggested fee of £175 – David is also a parish councillor. We unanimously approved the appointment of Mr Lane as the internal auditor to the parish council.

Proposed Cllr David Shaw Seconded Cllr Richard Anker

b) **Good Neighbours scheme (GNS) -**

- i) **Castor Parish Council Memorandum of Understanding** – We approved for signature the memorandum of understanding agreement with the Good Neighbours Scheme.
- ii) **Membership Fee £800** - We approved the payment of the membership fee as invoiced.

Proposed Cllr. David Shaw Seconded Cllr. Richard Anker

Cllr Boyce, who had declared an interest and taken no part in the discussion or voting, then informed us the AGM for the GNS will take place on 2nd June with a guest speaker Adrian Chapman and of £30k funding for coming out of Covid-19 restrictions.

- c) **Section 106 projects for 2020/21** – We were made aware of unspent S106 monies which would have to be committed before 31st March 2022 or lost to the parish council. We agreed that in the first instance we would liaise with the cricket club to put the money towards a pavilion on our land which is leased to the club. Failing agreement with the club we would consider alternative use of the funds at a future meeting of the parish council.
- d) **Virtual / Remote Meetings** – We noted that the government had instigated a “call for evidence” on the use of virtual meetings. We asked the clerk to respond on our behalf that, whilst our preference is for face-to-face meetings, we consider that parish councils should have the option to use virtual meetings if either necessary or considered appropriate.

441 OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE – None.

442 FUTURE MEETINGS – We agreed to change the date of the next meeting to Wednesday 2nd June due to a clash with the clerk’s family commitments.

443 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Given the continued covid -19 restrictions the following matter held in abeyance for future consideration remain unchanged:

- Former VE day celebrations on hold, possibly to be replaced by celebrations in 2021, or even 2022 for the Queens anniversary.

We considered that the time had passed for an official opening of both the Playpark and the Community Allotment and would arrange for an event to celebrate these along with the work being carried out at the coppice as all three were co-located at the Allotment Lane site

444 There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm.



Clerk & RFO 15th May, 2021

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 2ND JUNE 2021 at 7.30pm.		
APPROVED BY CASTOR PARISH COUNCIL		
Signature of Chairman of approving meeting:		2ND JUNE, 2021

