



## Minutes of Castor Parish Council Meeting

Held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2021 at 7.30pm in the Cedar Centre

- 445 PRESENT:** Cllr Richard Anker, 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; two Members of the public were also in attendance. On this occasion at the request of the chairman, Cllr Fiona Rowlands, vice chairman, took the chair for the meeting.
- 446 APOLOGIES** – none, all councillors present.
- 447 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Cllr. Richard Anker declared a non-pecuniary interest in the planning application on the agenda and the item related to work at the Coppice. There were no other interests declared.
- 448 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS** – We unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 -. It was agreed that they be duly signed by the chairman.  
**Proposed Cllr. David Shaw and seconded Cllr. Dennis Surgeon**
- 449 Matters arising from the previous minutes.** – None
- 450 Public Forum** – A resident voiced the concerns of neighbours at the noise arising from Aircraft flying from the parachute centre on many occasions over the bank holiday on a flight path over the village of Castor. There had been exchanges of emails with Grant Richards from the centre on a number of occasions and he had undertaken to investigate how to avoid further problems. We noted that flights were not permitted over Elton and Stibbington due to a noise abatement order in place.
- 451 PLANNING AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS**
- a) **Joint Community Action Plan (JCAP)** – This is to be discussed with Ailsworth Parish Council at the Joint Parish Liaison Group (JPLG) meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> June.
- b) **Neighbourhood Planning (NP)** – Cllr. Shaw referred to the government intention to bring forward a further planning act which could have implications for neighbourhood plans and suggested deferring review of our NP until the details of the proposed legislation were known.
- c) **Status report** - We noted the current status report of Planning applications received in the current year. The report circulated with the agenda highlighted the changes since the previous meeting. We were also aware of the planning Appeal in respect of 45 Peterborough Road and noted the actions of the clerk to seek to ensure that the planning inspector was made aware of the thoughts of the parish council. The clerk undertook to write to the inspector immediately following the conclusion of this meeting, setting out our current observations.
- d) **Planning applications** –
- i) [21/00596/HHFUL & 21/00597/LBC](#) – Village Manor, 48 Peterborough Road – Single storey rear extension; minor alterations to non-original extensions and minor landscaping level changes. We considered the detail of this planning application and agreed we had no objections provided the proposed landscaping is implemented in full.
- e) **Woodlands update** - Cllr. Shaw considered that there was nothing to report on this development as we were still awaiting the coordinated plans of the care home and Nene Park Trust proposals for the pavilion and remaining sports element of the total site.

#### 452 LAND & ALLOTMENTS:

- a) **Tweentowns Drainage** – There was nothing to consider at this time.
- b) **Water supply and Meter chambers**– The chairman reported that he had carried out all the work required related to the Castor element of the supply and had relocated the water trough. Ailsworth PC had apparently approved the work required to reinstate their supply but the work had yet to be carried out.
- c) **Allotment Lane Bollard**. The bollard has still to be replaced and we asked the clerk to write to the city council, copied to the ward councillor, requesting that the work be carried out with some degree of urgency on the grounds of safety as vehicles were accessing the site and passing the children's play area.
- d) Land rear of 15 Berrystead – We considered the request of Mr & Mrs Saunders to purchase a part of the land to the rear of their property to extend their garden and relocate a shed. Apart from the legal restrictions which apply to the disposal of land we are in the process of expanding the nature recovery work in the parish and consider that the land in question may have a part to play in our future plans.

#### 453 HIGHWAYS

- a) **Highways issues** the clerk informed us that there had been no further update from the city council on the matters raised with James Collingridge on the site visit some months ago. The unresolved issues were all highways related and had been impacted by the lack of budget resources to deal with the issues. We agreed that if the matters remained unresolved, we would seek the support of ward councillors to expedite some resolution to the issues.
- b) **Speed Indicator Device** – Cllr. Anker reported that the post provided for the equipment was too thin and not sufficient to take the weight and that he would be pursuing that with the city Council Officer.
- c) **Parking Issues** Cllr Anker reported that since the last meeting with the city council officer responsible progress is expected in the next week.
- d) **Observations from Councillors** –
  - i. Faded 20 mph roundels needed reinstatement
  - ii. Peterborough Road marking also required attention
  - iii. Adjustment for the extended 20mph
  - iv. The chairman reported on the proposed works on 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> June which appeared to be in relation to Iron Works (drains?) on the Peterborough Road.

#### 454 COMMUNITY MATTERS

- a) **JOINT PARISH LIAISON GROUP (JPLG)** – John Hodder had circulated a draft agenda for the next meeting and we agreed the content without amendment.
- b) **Future Burial provision in Castor & Ailsworth** – there was no progress to report
- c) **Langdyke Trust Wildlife recovery project** – Cllrs. Rowlands and Anker reported on the progress to date in particular at the Coppice and the site of the new pond and the welcome input of Mike Horne. We noted the advice of Mike Horne and his suggestion for an open day on 7<sup>th</sup> July. We also noted that cost of a selection of wild flowers would be in the order of £160.

The clerk indicated that the parish council website could also be amended to accommodate a separate page for the parish councils work on the Nature recover plan and for that he would need to be provided with content in the form of a commentary and photographs.

We also expressed our gratitude and thanks to the Fire Service for filling the pond for us. We agreed keep the item on the agenda for the next meeting and at that time to consider a request by Councillor Anker for a five-year lease of the coppice area.

- d) **Village Tribune** – Councillor Rowlands reported that this had been distributed in the village and included the article she had submitted. We thanked Cllr. Rowlands for her input on our behalf. We noted that other parishes either had no content at all or a variety of different levels of content, in some

cases councillor contact details. Parish council should decide what level of content it would like and we agreed to consider that at the next meeting, for which purpose Cllr Shaw undertook to bring a copy to the next meeting.

- e) **Cricket Club Pavilion** – Cllr Davies reported that he had asked the club for an update and had been told that the club is seeking to determine the costs of different types of construction. Whilst grateful to Cllr. Davies for undertaking to liaise with the cricket club we are of the opinion that the club should appoint their own advisers and ensure that the parish council remains at arms-length from any actual or advisory involvement in the project.
- f) **Assets of Community Value** - Cllr. Surgeon reported that the working group had met once and that the clerk had proved partially completed forms for each of the properties identified. What is now required is local knowledge to complete the remainder of each form. The forms had been shared out amongst the councillors on the working group for completion. The group would next meet to consider the content of each form when they had all been completed.

#### 455 GOVERNANCE MATTERS

- a) **CAPALC** – we noted and **RESOLVED** to approve the renewal affiliation fee of £357.22 for the current financial year.

**Proposed Cllr. Neil Boyce Seconded Cllr. William Baxter**

- b) **Grant Application by 63<sup>rd</sup> Peterborough Scout Group** – We noted, and applauded the efforts of the scout leaders to get back to some form of normality in the group's activities and the detailed costings of a camping event. We were informed of their progress in raising funds for the event and **RESOLVED** to offer an initial grant of £500 and would hope that our neighbouring parish council would see fit to also support the local scout group for their activities. We also stand ready to support the group further if there is a shortfall in their fund-raising efforts.

**Proposed Cllr. Neil Boyce Seconded Cllr. Dennis Surgeon**

- c) **Financial Accounts for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.** - The clerk had circulated with the agenda the accounts for the previous financial year and we noted that these were already on the parish council website. We noted the addition of £8184.87 to our general reserve and the revised level of balances at the year end of £104,992.92. We **RESOLVED** to accept the financial accounts and submit them for audit.

**Proposed Cllr. David Shaw Seconded Cllr. Steve Davies**

- d) **Annual Governance and Accountability Return – Accounting Statement.** The clerk took us through the Accounting Statement based on the financial accounts received in the previous item. We **RESOLVED** to approve the content of this page in the annual return.

**Proposed Cllr Neil Boyce Seconded Cllr Richard Anker**

#### 456 OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE –

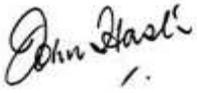
- a) The chairman reported on a request to support the development of a children's Activity Centre. We noted the proximity of the centre to that at Sacrewell Farm and that these sites are not within the Castor Parish Council boundary. We concluded that it would be for each councillor to comment as a private individual if they wished to do so but as a parish council, we would adhere to our policy of not commenting on matters in other parishes unless there were a direct impact on the parish of Castor.
- b) Cllr. Shaw reported on complaints of the recurrence of ball games on the village green and that he was still in possession of the signs urging no ball games. We agreed to ask the city council not to cut the grass near the wall and also agreed that the signs should be erected in the area.

#### 457 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Given the continued covid -19 restrictions the matters held in abeyance for future consideration remain unchanged:

- Speedwatch – we noted the present publicity seeking volunteers for the group and hope to hear of some progress when covid restrictions are lifted

- Playground & Community Allotment – We considered too much time has elapsed for a sensible official opening but hoped to combine some acknowledgement of the updated facilities along with a Coppice open day
- QE11 2022 celebrations and the progress of the village celebration committee

458 There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 9.39pm.



Clerk & RFO 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2021

<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2021 at 7.30pm.</b>		
<b>APPROVED BY CASTOR PARISH COUNCIL</b>		
<b>Signature of Chairman of approving meeting:</b>		<b>1<sup>ST</sup> JULY, 2021</b>