

CASTOR PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2nd APRIL 2008
8.00 P.M. IN THE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: John Taylor
Tracey Blackmore
Jayne Mann
Martin Chillcott
William Baxter
John Howard

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Eleanor Hoggart, Brian Goode and Andy Smith.
Members of the public present: Councillor Diane Lamb, Councillor John Holdich, Mr & Mrs Davies, Mr Ian Sheldon, Kerry Manning and Anita Ribbons.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on Wednesday 5th March 2008 had been circulated prior to the meeting and a copy placed on the Notice Board. Proposed by Jayne Mann and seconded by Martin Chillcott that the minutes be approved.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared

AGENDA ORDER – The agenda order was revised for those present.

PLANNING

- a) 08/00007/OUT - Erection of 45 homes, access roads and landscaping at land at the end of Clay Lane and to the rear of Green Farm Close, Castor - Councillor John Holdich informed the meeting that English partnerships have withdrawn this application and will be submitting a new one in the next two weeks and the process will start all over again. A letter had been received from Shailesh Vara MP informing us that he had written to Mr Jez Tuttle drawing his attention to the Parish Council's independent report and asking him to ensure that the aspect of road safety is given proper prominence when assessing the plans.
- b) 08/00295/CTR – Reshape one false Acacia tree, remove branch over driveway of Lime tree, top tall branches of two Lime tree and remove lower branches of Sycamore tree at The Grove, 19 Church Hill, Castor – no objections
- c) 08/00279/FUL – Extension to garage at 7 Silvester Road, Castor – no objections

6. MATTERS ARISING

- a) Pharmacy Update - The planning inspectorate has approved the first application. The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in this matter: - Our City Councillors, John Holdich and Diane Lamb, our local MP, all those who attended the public meeting and Councillors Martin Chillcott and Tracey Blackmore. The Parish Council will now put pressure on the PCT regarding the future of the Doctor's Surgery. Shailesh Vara had also written to the Parish Council regarding this matter stating that the Inspector's decision is not the one that everyone had hoped for and that he was sorry that all the hard work put into the campaign, along with his own interventions did not pay off.
- b) Road Safety – Apparently the City Council are looking into the usefulness of the flashing signs at the moment, the Parish Council will monitor the situation.
- c) Glebe field –Nothing to report
- d) Farmers Cross – The plan will be forwarded onto the City Planners
- e) Recreation facilities for 10-16 year olds – Martin Chillcott will attend Ailsworth

Parish

Councils next meeting.

- f) Children's Play Area fence – Tracey Blackmore will have a quote for our next

meeting

- g) Cow Lane and Clay Lane replanting – The Wildlife Trust have offered to be involved with the replanting of this area later on in the year. The Clerk will contact Peterborough City Council.
- h) Village tree Planting – It was agreed that John Howard, Andy Smith and Brian Goode should be in charge of this project. The trees should be available from the City Council later on in the year. A walk of the village is needed by this group to ascertain the areas that need enhancing.
- i) Siting of Oak Posts – the plan is with Ian Sheldon at the moment and will be available at the next meeting.
- j) Village Handyman – The Clerk has received a quote from John Allsopp for general maintenance but still needs to obtain another quote.
- k) Woodlands – On going discussions
- l) Chairmans Bench - Martin Chillcott has now got all the past Chairmans details and will look into the cost.
- m) Village Green - Eleanor Hoggart has this in hand
- n) Footpaths and bridleways – It was noted at the last meeting that the footpaths are being used by the local horse riders, William Baxter has spoken with one of the local Livery yards and the Clerk enquired with City Council if it would be possible to put a barrier in the Jitty at Benams Close to stop horse riders using this footpath, unfortunately due to wheelchair and pushchair access this will not be possible. The Clerk will send a letter to the two local Livery stables outlining our concerns with regard to the use of the footpaths especially near to the Children's Play area.
- o) Signage – The Clerk enquired with the City Council if it would be possible to have the signage around the village cleaned up. Apparently it is normal for this time of the year for road signs to look dirty with the salt on the roads etc. If the parish council have any particular concerns they should address them to the Highways department. It was noted that the white lines need re-painting around the intrusions on Peterborough Road.
- p) Replacement gate for Landy Green Way - £235.95 and new gates for the Recreation ground, Port Lane £553.29 plus installation - £165.00 = £718.29 – proposed by Jayne Mann and seconded by John Howard that this work go ahead.
- q) Quiet Lanes – Martin Chillcott will look at the possibility of reducing the speed on Church Hill, The Green and Clay Lane.
- r) Telephone Box – The Clerk had contacted BT again regarding this matter, it does appear that they are not keen for us to adopt this box. Ian Sheldon asked if the glass in the top could be replaced.
- s) Allotment Lane and the Jitty – The Clerk had spoken to Highways at Peterborough City Council regarding the dip in the footpath just beyond the jitty from Benams Close, Highways have been out to inspect this and are hoping to do some patching in the new financial year. The pothole on the track was also discussed, our tenant only use his vehicle to go up there twice a month in the winter and once a month in the summer. It would appear that motorists are not always aware that they cannot gain access through Allotment Lane via the Allotments. Highways have suggested a locking bollard, the clerk will contact them to let them know that the parish council do not have a problem with this.
- t) Corner of Manor Farm Lane – The Clerk had a meeting with Highways at this corner and it was agreed that all the vegetation will be removed and the ground sprayed with root killer. The parish council will then look at this area to see how it can be improved and what planting is needed.
- u) Quality Status – The Clerk had emailed to all Councillors some points that need attention i.e. Contract of employment for Clerk, complaints procedure and changes to the standing orders. The Clerk will contact CPALC for further information.
- v) Review of Insurance Policy – William Baxter will look into this matter.

7. REQUEST FROM ST. JOHN AMBULANCE FOR A GRANT

It was proposed by William Baxter and seconded by Martin Chillcott that a grant of £100.00 is given to this new group in the village

8. FINANCE

The Clerk had circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting a copy of the Accounts for 31st March 2008. It was proposed by Martin Chillcott and seconded by Tracey Blackmore that they be approved.

Finance report for April 2008

Payments:

Peterborough City Council re Landscaping recharges	£315.11
Brian Gibson re Installation of Picnic bench	£198.23
St. Kyneburgha PCC re Cedar Center rent	£219.00
Anglian Water re Allotments	£ 21.83
H.M. Revenue & Customs – PAYE	£167.97
Mrs. S Henson Wages	£203.24

Received:

Peterborough City Council re Cedar Center Rent	£219.00
(This should have been made payable to St. Kyneburgha PCC)	
Interest	£ 0.24

Deposit Account	51,412.21
Current Account	1,340.21
	=====
	£52,752.42
	=====

It was proposed by Tracey Blackmore and seconded by Jayne Mann that the following be paid:

Affiliation fee for CPALC - £225.24

Peterborough City Council re fee for planning permission for Farmers Cross £135.00

9.VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT –Kerry Manning and Anita Ribbon attended the meeting on behalf of Preschool to give the Parish Council a list of their concerns regarding the Village Hall upkeep. The children are getting splinters from the wooden floor – Ian Sheldon has Andrew Jarvis looking into this – the radiators need covering – Ian Sheldon has had a quote of £3,000 to cover the radiators or £4,000 to renew the radiators. The Kitchen is unhygienic for preparing food, the toilets need a low level basin for the children to be able to wash their hands independently, the locks on the toilet doors are causing some problems i.e. children are locking themselves in. A nappy changing facility is needed – Sue Henson advised Ian that the school may have a solution to this problem. Mice are a problem – Ian Sheldon is dealing with this. Ian Sheldon informed the meeting that he is trying to set up a date for the AGM. The secretary, Sue Sansom wishes to stand down and if a committee cannot be put together then the parish councils will have to take it on.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Mr A. G. Wood re new gate assess – via Splash Lane to River Nene – Mr Wood commented on how great it was to have this new facility.
- b) Audit Commission re appointment of Moore Stephens for the financial years 2007/08 to 2011/12.
- c) Peterborough City Council re Neighbourhood Environment Officer/Street Leader Co-ordinator - Jamie Macfarlane can be contacted on 01733 – 220211 his role includes liaise with the Community, Police and other partners with regards to environmental issues such as fly tipping, abandoned vehicles, fly posting graffiti, street lighting and dog fouling
- d) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Community Life Awards 2008 – this will be given to Brian Goode

11. REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Reports:

- a) Andy Smith regarding land issues including update on the ditch in Tweentown and the fence: Andy Smith had sent a report via the Clerk. He had looked at the ditch in Tweentown and felt that it was still doing its job. The fence is not stock proof and does have gaps, but as there is no tenant in the field there is no need to bring it up to stock standard
- b) John Howard regarding CASPRA – John will have a report for our next meeting.
- c) Jayne Mann regarding the Parish Liaison Meeting on 19th March – Jayne circulated notes on this meeting.

Agenda items:

Road safety – **JT**
Glebefield – **TB/JT**
Clay Lane development – **TB/JT**
Children's Play Area fence - **TB**
Woodlands – **MC/JT**
Farmers Cross – **SH**
Village Handyman – **SH**
Corner of Manor Farm Lane - **JT**
Siting of Oak Posts - **WB**
Chairmans bench Plaques – **MC**
Recreation Project for 10 –16 years old – **MC**
CASPRA – **JH**
Village Hall Management – **TB**
Village Green – **EH**
Review of Insurance Policy - **WB**

12. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR - None

The meeting closed at 10.05 p.m.

OUR NEXT MEETINGS WILL ON WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY IN THE VILLAGE HALL. THE AGM WILL BE AT 8.00 PM. FOLLOWED BY THE MONTHLY MEETING AT 8.15 P.M.