

CASTOR PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - Wednesday 3rd February 2010 in Castor village hall, 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Tracey Blackmore (Chair), Richard Anker, William Baxter, Brain Goode, John Howard, Jayne Mann, Andy Martin, plus the clerk and 4 members of the public and Rebecca Covington, Chairman of Castor & Ailsworth PreSchool.

**ACTION /
NOTES**

The members of the public were in attendance specifically for item 6(e) (minute 162) and it was agreed that the meeting would be closed at the start of that item in order that a general exchange of views could take place.

09/157. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllr John Taylor was on holiday and Cllr Andy Smith was recovering from a knee operation. Both apologies accepted.

09/158. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 6TH JANUARY 2010 AS PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED.

RESOLVED to adopt the minutes and the chairman initialled and signed the minutes with the alteration of the word 'merger' to 'joining' under item 09/154

09/159. RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Cllr Jayne Mann - Item 6(a) Planning 09/01436 as she is a neighbour (personal & prejudicial)

Cllr Andy Martin - Item 5, preschool, as his wife works for preschool
Item 6(e) planning, Clay Lane, as a neighbour
Item 12, CASPRA, as Chairman of CASPRA

*Declarations
of interest*

(all personal, not prejudicial)

09/160. REQUESTS FOR REARRANGEMENT OF AGENDA ORDER

It was agreed that item e of agenda item 6 be brought forward for the convenience of the public present – these minutes reflect the reordering

09/161. PRESCHOOL – SHORT PRESENTATION

Rebecca Covington introduced herself as the chairman of the PreSchool committee and proceeded to explain the preschool's current state and plans for the future and some matters of concern to the preschool. The Parish Council was unable to offer any solution to the points raised, which were primarily village hall matters, but undertook to monitor the situation with parking at the village hall

09/162. PLANNING:

a) **Update on Clay Lane development** – The meeting was closed in order that the members of the public in attendance could put their points. There had been a public exhibition in the village the week before which had been well attended so the members of the public were familiar with the proposals for the site. Points raised included the archaeology of the area, foundations to the road and houses in Clay Lane and The Green, deliveries to the pub, traffic management at the junction with Peterborough Road, drainage and sewers, site security and restriction of working times.

The meeting was reopened. The council agreed to submit a letter to the planning department at PCC¹ summarising a number of concerns that had become apparent during the consultation process. A draft of the letter had been circulated to councillors for consideration and covered

Chairman's Initials

the points that need to be made, with one of two minor changes.

The members of the public left the meeting at this point

b) Planning application: 09/01476/FUL- Single storey front extension and construction of stone boundary wall, 1 Manor Farm Lane, Castor. The meeting was closed in order that members of the public could make representation. *Cllr Jayne Mann made representation and then left the meeting room due to a personal and prejudicial interest.* The meeting was reopened. There was no objection in principle to the proposed porch, provided that building materials are in keeping with the area and building, There were strong reservations about the proposal to enclose any part of the curtilage of the 'plot' with a low wall. The Council considers that this would detract from the open plan street scene in this part of the village, which it feels is an attractive feature of that area. There is also a concern regarding precedent leading to many houses taking this lead and the 'open-ness' being completely lost. *Cllr Jayne Mann rejoined the meeting*

c) Planning application: 09/01512/FUL- 6 Silvester Road Castor Construction of single storey rear extension. No comments and no objection

d) Planning application: 10/00013/FUL- 26 Peterborough Road Castor Construction of two storey rear extension. No comments and no objection

e) Planning application: 10/00040/CTR- 2 Allotment Lane Castor Fell one tree to side of property. The Council felt unable to comment as there was no sketch accompanying the planning application

09/163.FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments

| Date | Cheque | Description | Payee | Nett | VAT | Gross £ |
|-----------|--------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------|-----|-----------|
| 01 Feb 10 | S/O | Salary | S Rodger | 398.83 | 0 | 398.83 |
| 3 Feb 10 | 000743 | Office / clerks expenses | S Rodger | 17.70 | 0 | 17.70 |
| 3 Feb 10 | 000744 | Graveyard expenditure | Castor & Ailsworth PCC | 1471.02 | 0 | 1471.02 |
| | | | TOTAL | 1887.55 | | £1,887.55 |

b) **Accounts to date** - were circulated in advance of the meeting

c) **Arrangements for audit of accounts 2009/10** – This was the first stage in the consideration of the council's obligations for auditing, risk assessment, assets and insurance, as well as appointment of an internal auditor. Papers had been circulated in advance of the meeting and a brief discussion took place. Held over to following meeting

09/164.MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING ON 5TH JANUARY 2010 NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA:

a) **Cross Keys** – Still no progress – the area manager had been on sick leave. To continue chasing

b) **Bench at Play area** – Awaiting information regarding necessary repairs to the bench at the play area.

c) **Archivist** – No update

09/165.OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS, NOTICES OR REPORTS:

1) **Chairman** – None

Clerk

Chairman's Initials

2) **Clerk** – New model standing orders had been received from central NALC the day before. The Clerk would circulate these before the next meeting, with a view to them being adopted at the first meeting of the Parish Council following the election.

3) **Councillor representatives**

a) **Neighbourhood Councils (NC)** – Cllr Andy Martin explained that he would not be able to attend the meeting on 4th March due to family commitments. There had not been a NC meeting since the last Parish Council meeting

b) **Rural Working Group** – The meeting was that evening so nobody from CPC could go

c) **Village Hall** – Meetings were scheduled for the next few weeks. The Viking re-enactment group had been forced to relocate

d) **Allotments** – The leaking water had been fixed

e) **Speeding & Speedwatch** – There was no feedback from the police but it was noted that a 20mph limit was to be implemented in the area around the school in March, although the Parish Council had not been consulted on this matter. Investigations would be made to establish the facts.

f) **HCA Signs** – The planning enforcement team had met with HCA² and Steve Horner (PCC¹ footpaths officer) and Simon Machin (head of planning at PCC¹). The technical issues surrounding the signs surrounding HCA land had been discussed and it was made clear that the expectation is that the number of signs would be halved. An HCA representative was going to walk the HCA land again, with Mr Horner, and come back with a proposal. If the request to reduce the number of signs is not complied with, a judicial review may be pushed for.

Clerk

09/166.PARISH LIAISON (PL) PRIOR to the PL meeting, there had been a meeting about the recent snowy and icy weather (for much of the previous 6 weeks). Part of the issue with the absence of gritting of the roads is due to the fact that the temperature is monitored from Stanground and temperature variations are not factored in. At the time of the PL meeting which had been in January, there was only enough salt for the main gritting routes and just 10 days worth of stock. There was going to be a 'debriefing' about the adverse weather precautions in the summer. The PL meeting addressed the fact that there would be limited funding available for grants as PCC¹ expects to be facing a deficit of £11m by 2014. Council tax is expected to rise 2.5% for the coming financial year, but will remain the lowest in the country. The fact that the status of VDS³ had been nullified by the new planning laws was reiterated. Neighbourhood Councils were discussed.

09/167.E-PLANNING. The Council felt that receiving the plans electronically was proving to be useful and the facility to view plans projected onto a large area was seen to be a positive step forward. The Council **RESOLVED** to take up PCC¹'s invitation to request funding to facilitate this development

09/168.CASPRA: A project to investigate the procurement of a defibrillator for the community was presented and discussed. The Council is fully supportive

09/169.PARISH GROUPING: The clerk had misunderstood what had happened in the past, which was not investigating a merger or joining of parish councils, but a stronger way of working together to attain economies of scales in administration expenses and to represent the community as one voice, in an organised and efficient way. The clerk would look up old papers on the matter to clarify the situation and write to Ailsworth council clarifying the situation

09/170.ARRANGEMENTS FOR MAINTENANCE WORK AND 'ODD-JOBS' A situation had arisen since the previous PC meeting which implied a misunderstanding regarding the way a Council is

empowered to make decisions regarding procurement of goods and services, in accordance with statute and the Council's adopted Financial Regulations. The clerk had circulated papers in the interim, issued by NALC which explain that Councillors are not able to issue instructions on behalf of the council without the matter having been passed in a council or committee meeting. To do so represents an ultra-vires act and is without legal substance, therefore and arrangement entered into is not a contract and costs incurred possibly not payable. In accordance with the Council's financial regulations, (3.4) *'The Clerk may incur expenditure on behalf of the Council which is necessary to carry out any repair, replacement or other work which is of such extreme urgency that it must be done at once, whether or not there is any budgetary provision for the expenditure,..'* It was agreed that the practical way to work any recurrence of a similar situation would be by email correspondence with the instruction coming from the clerk.

09/171.REQUEST FOR GRAZING LAND An emailed requested had been received to rent grazing land. Although the Council considered that the more formal channels of tendering for land in the normal way in the autumn would be preferable, it was prepared to work on a pro-rata basis provided the land could be made available. Clerk to pursue the options

Clerk

09/172.SILVESTER ROAD VERGES A request had been received that the council look at ways of trying to prevent the bus reversing on to the grass in Silvester Road. After some discussion, it was agreed to investigate the possibility of deterrent measures, whilst taking into account the possible changes to the bus services

09/173.A47 SLIP VERGES: There had been evidence of a 4x4 vehicle driving diagonally over the wide grass verge at the top of the A47 exit slip road to the east of Castor. The grass is rutted to a substantial depth and there is a great deal of mud on the road, causing yet another hazard in the current adverse weather, especially for motorcycles. A *possible* culprit had been approached indirectly and the matter of repair was in the hands of highways.

09/174.CORRESPONDENCE: Planning permission advice re 10 Manor Farm Lane and an invitation to nominate an attendee to the Queen's Garden Party (there was no nomination)

09/175.FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS / AOB:

- Caspra is planning another 1940s evening and would like a marquee
- The water trough in Tweentown had been overflowing and the water was to be closed off at the stopcock by
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Cllr Richard Anker

The chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.43pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 3RD MARCH 2010

| APPROVED BY CASTOR PARISH COUNCIL | | |
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| Signature of Chairman of approving meeting: | | Date: 3rd March 2010 |

¹ PCC – Peterborough City Council

² HCA – Homes and Communities Agency

³ VDS – Village Design Statement