

CASTLE EATON PARISH COUNCIL

**EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL
on TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2015, at 7.30pm in the Village
Hall.**

MINUTES

PRESENT

Cllr W Hughes (chairman)
Cllr D Price (vice-chairman)
Cllr L Saunders
Cllr B James
Cllr D Sainsbury
Borough Cllr Mrs M Penny
20 residents and 2 children
A Gorton (clerk)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mrs Jan Hughes, Mrs Helen Clift, Mr and Mrs Nick Kennington, and Mr Gary Smith.

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The Chairman explained the situation regarding declaration of disclosable pecuniary interests and that none would be necessary on this occasion.

3 COMMUNITY BENEFIT DONATION

The Chairman thanked every-one for attending and established the parameters of the meeting. He introduced Cllr Penny and thanked her for her work on behalf of the Parish Council in this and other matters.

The Chairman emphasised that the date for receiving suggestions had not closed and that the Parish Council would welcome others at any time.

He then gave details of the Deed of Covenant with ORTA.

A question from a resident concerned how this Covenant arose initially, if this Covenant had been agreed by the Parish Council prior to the Chairman signing it, and if the sum of money was accurate. This was confirmed. The Chairman also confirmed that the Covenant was non-negotiable and a standard one for ORTA, who had used it on several previous occasions.

Further questions and statements were then invited from the floor related to the monies being spent

i making the village more attractive and a pleasant place in which to live

(and move to) and sustainable,

- ii keeping the Village Hall up-to-date
- iii spending money on the Village Hall which may release funds for other things, such as village signage

Cllr Sainsbury emphasised that though funds were now available, one should not lose sight of the self-help approach, which is an essential ingredient of community growth spirit and growth.

- iv before any proposal can be fully evaluated, it must be accompanied by full costings and justification, including time-scales through to completion. When money is allocated it must be fully accounted for with receipts for expenditure
- v there was a suggestion that no money should be spent until after the next elections to the Parish Council, when Councillors would be elected on the specific mandate to husband this donation. This was felt to be impracticable.

Cllr Sainsbury spoke of the Parish Councillors being on a 'learning curve' and of his concern that parishioners must discuss proposals to try to come to a consensus. Though it carried with it major responsibility, we should be celebrating the fact that we have this money available.

- vi the process of arriving at decisions about support for any particular project must be un-ambiguous, in researching the current list, choosing those which may be viable and deciding which to discount.

The Chairman thanked every-one for their contributions to the discussion, hoping that residents would discuss this further. However, a deadline was necessary for which residents could be given formal opportunity to take any particular project forward.

- vii it may be helpful to divide projects into 3 categories, eg those de minimis or costing small amounts such as painting the goal-posts, a middle tier at say the £10,000 level, and 'big ticket items'; the next meeting could discuss these and decide which to take forward to another stage and which should drop out.

The Chairman was anxious that swift progress should be made and noted that the next Parish Council meeting is to be held on December 10. It was therefore necessary to set a deadline for the end of November by which to receive further information on a particular project or set of projects. This could be given to any Councillor or to the clerk. One of the Councillors will write to all those who have submitted suggestions asking for more information by the end of November.

Signed (chairman)

..... (clerk)

..... (date)