

CASTLE EATON PARISH COUNCIL

**MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held on THURSDAY,
MARCH 2, 2017, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

MINUTES

PRESENT Cllr W Hughes (chairman)
Cllr D Sainsbury (vice-chairman)
Cllr S Gruszka
Cllr L Saunders
Cllr D Naidu
Borough Cllr Mrs M Penny
Mrs K Phimister (SBC)
3 residents
A Gorton (clerk)

1 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLOR

The chairman welcomed Cllr Naidu, who took his chair and signed the appropriate forms of office.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No specific apologies were given but the standard declaration was accepted.

4 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 2, 2016

The minutes had been circulated previously. They were AGREED as a fair and accurate record, and were signed by the chairman and clerk

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The clerk reported that all matters arising were incorporated in the Agenda. No further matters were raised by Councillors.

6 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The chairman introduced Mrs Phimister, and described briefly earlier discussions the Parish Council had held on the possibility of creating a Neighbourhood Plan.

Mrs Phimister explained her role within SBC Planning Dept, considering Castle Eaton as 'not a major planning area', and asked if there were any problems with

planning issues. The chairman described the three planning applications currently being considered, and the long-standing issues with the conditions of the solar farm planning approval. He also noted that the majority of applications which came before the Parish Council relate to small extensions, often within the Conservation Area, rather than new build, that receiving applications from SBC electronically was acceptable, and that planning training is not regarded as a priority within the Parish Council.

The chairman spoke of the discussions about a Neighbourhood Plan, the time, effort and expertise it necessitated, and wondered about the value to Castle Eaton.

He thanked Mrs Phimister for her attendance.

6 TRANSFER OF SERVICES FROM SBC

The chairman referred to discussions in the last three meetings of the Parish Council, to the presentations by SBC StreetSmart team and to the letter and draft Deed which had been received from SBC proposing the Parish Council take over responsibility for certain services which SBC have undertaken until now.

The chairman noted that SBC are offering the Parish Council :

- i the sum of £835 for undertaking responsibility for footpaths, and
- ii to collect major fly-tipping for payment to SBC of £400 in 2017-2018

It was AGREED that the Parish Council would continue to take responsibility for cutting grass on certain areas of the parish; money for this was included in the budget and a contractor had been appointed for 2017-2018.

The chairman referred to the letter from SBC StreetSmart and the draft Deed, considering them misleading, raising questions about them, and declared that he was not prepared to sign the Deed because:

- the Parish Council did not have the resources necessary to undertake the proposed responsibilities,
- he was not willing to sign a 20-year commitment,
- the letter and Deed were badly explained and incomplete and the costings outlined were based on unknown calculations,
- some of the functions suggested the Parish Council undertake had not been carried out by SBC in recent years,
- the standard of provision the Parish Council was expected to meet was unknown and not clarified.

It was AGREED that the Parish Council would await the outcome of a meeting scheduled for rural parishes to discuss with SBC these and other matters.

RECESS

- 1 Mrs Annette James asked two questions: as ORTA has now been dissolved who holds and enforces the agreement with the Parish Council, and how does the Parish Council define 'religious services'? She asked if the Parish Council could now help with repair of the public footpath running through the churchyard as it was now in a dangerous condition and trees needed pollarding.

The chairman stated that the Parish Council was not able to help. Cllr Penny offered to put Mrs James in contact with appropriate SBC staff.

- 2 Mr Andrew Bottomley spoke of his interest in the concept of ‘people power’ and asked if the Community Benefit Fund could be used to help bring optic fibre cable into the village.

The chairman stated the advice given to the effect that the Parish Council was not able to invest in telecommunications systems.

7 PLANNING MATTERS

The clerk reported the following

S/HOU/16/2136 – Herongate, School Lane – approved 16.1.2017

S/HOU/17/0031 – Appletrees, The Street; revision received 10.2.2017, comments submitted 20.2.2017

S/HOU/17/0076 – Orchard End, The Street – approved 2.3.2017

8 BROADBAND

The chairman made clear that the reason this was on the agenda was because the Parish Council had volunteered to monitor Gigaclear’s intentions, though it was still not clear what those were or are.

Cllr Gruszka reported that he had invited Gigaclear to attend the meeting but had not received any reply. As far as he could discern, the company was still on schedule but he had no firm information from them. He had had correspondence from Superfast Swindon, who in the near future will be making a planning application for erection of a mast. Cllr Gruszka will continue to ask for information from both providers and will try to obtain firm proposals.

9 SOLAR PARK – CORRESPONDENCE

The chairman referred to email correspondence from Foresight, which had taken over management of the solar park along Droveway. The company wished to extend the lifetime of the agreement and approval from the current 25 years to 50 years.

The chairman stated that before there is any discussion on this Foresight must comply with obligations contained in the planning approval notice.

The clerk was instructed to write to Foresight, accordingly.

10 COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

The chairman mentioned that following a previous meeting residents had been asked for further suggestions but none had been received. He referred to proposals he had circulated, viz

- 1 proposal for dishwasher from Village Hall Cttee: £3,241.72 (inc £540.29 VAT)

- 2 proposal from VCC for lights, bunting, etc: £1,011.83 (inc VAT)

As this was tentatively costed the chairman proposed a total sum of £1,100 be made available.

Taking each in turn, it was AGREED that the funds be made available.

11 FINANCE

Bank account 01529286 balance as at 1.3.2017 stands at		£53,376.79
Cheques for signature		
Cllr S Gruszka (website)	9.58	
Village Internet (office supplies)	24.90	
Village Community Cttee (PA equipment)	239.00	
A Gorton (clerk's salary)	342.05	
(expenses)	<u>27.24</u>	369.29
Post Office Ltd (PAYE to HMRC)		70.45
Total cheques	712.22	

Bank account balance after cheques **£52,664.57**

(Deposit account =£500

Defibrillator 'account' = £615

Community Benefit Fund 'account' = 52,239.21)

11.1 The accounts and payments were **AGREED** unanimously

11.2 The chairman reported that the defibrillator pads must be replaced. He has not yet been able to obtain a cost but it will be necessary to take money from the defib account: he will pay for the pads and claim it from the account.
This was **AGREED**

12 CORRESPONDENCE

WALC Newsletter – December, 2016

Local Government Executive – weekly

SBC Libraries – Community Involvement

SBC Members Bulletin – weekly

What's On In Cricklade – January, 2017

Cotswold District Council – supplement to Local Plan 2011-2031 proposals

Local Government News – weekly

Wiltshire Constabulary drop-in sessions

Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group – monthly Newsletter

What's On In Cricklade – February, 2017

Healthwatch Swindon

Public Sector Network - weekly

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This will be the Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council AGM and will be held on May 18, 2017, at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Signed (chairman)

..... (clerk)

..... (date)

