

# CASTLE EATON PARISH COUNCIL

**MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held on THURSDAY,  
OCTOBER 20, 2016, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

## MINUTES

### PRESENT

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

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received

### 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman explained the types of 'interest' which had to be declared by Councillors and referred to the standard wording adopted previously.

No declarations were made at this point in the proceedings.

### 3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 25, 2016

The Minutes, which had been circulated previously, were AGREED as a fair and accurate account of proceedings and were signed by the Chairman and clerk

### 4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

**4.1 Broadband.** Cllr Saunders reported that no further communications had been received from the local MP.

Cllr Gruszka reported that as a 'Broadband champion' of the Superfast Swindon programme, and as no suitable sites for a mast had been identified, he had discussed with SBC the possibility of a small cell system; this system has disadvantages of reduced coverage and security; no time scale could be given for this.

After discussion it was AGREED that Cllr Gruszka would contact Gigaclear or whichever firm was responsible for laying fibre optic lines in nearby Kempsford and Marston Meysey, and report to the next meeting.

**4.2 C114.** The clerk reported that no response to his emails had been received from either Wilts Council or Latton Parish Council.

Cllr Penny described her correspondence with SBC Highways, and had now provided the clerk with the name of a person to contact directly within Wilts Council.

## **5 RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR**

5.1 The Chairman reported the resignation from the Parish Council of Barry James. The Parish Council recorded unanimously their thanks to Mr James for his service over 20 years and wished him well for the future.

5.2 Describing the two-stage process, the Chairman reported that Election Notices had been posted on the Notice Board and the website. He explained that if no call for an election had been made to the Returning Officer, the Parish Council moved to the next stage, which is of co-option.

It was AGREED that the final date for receiving expressions of interest for co-option to the Parish Council would be November 24, 2016

## **6 TRANSFER OF SERVICES**

The Chairman explained previous discussions about transfer of services from SBC to Parish Councils and this Parish Council's decision at that time. However, it is necessary to look again at this.

The clerk reported the services which SBC intend to stop, ie street cleaning, low-level graffiti removal, certain outbreaks of fly-tipping, litter and waste bin emptying.

Cllr Penny stated that 'fly-tipping' includes the removal of dead animals.

Cllr Sainsbury considered that removal of fly-tipping materials was complex and should not be undertaken by the Parish Council: specialist personnel and equipment was necessary, as well as appropriate disposal sites. He mentioned that the lay-by on the C114 towards Lushill was a 'popular' place for fly-tipping; usually it is builders' waste but may be hazardous.

Cllr Saunders considered that removal of asbestos products could not be undertaken by the Parish Council.

The Chairman summarised the above, stating that as a small Council without staff, resources or equipment, or the means of managing the problem, transfer of this service was not possible. He drew attention to the possibility of grass cutting to verges at Church View and the clerk was instructed to enquire of David Newman Contractors Ltd if this could be included in his annual programme of grounds maintenance. The Chairman wondered, too, if small Parish Councils nearby might consider some form of co-operative activity to provide the services now mentioned by SBC.

As no formal statement had been received from SBC it was AGREED that no further action should be taken at this time.

## **7 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The Chairman reported the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment correspondence from SBC. This had been circulated to all Councillors. Mrs Penny outlined its purpose and ramifications for identified sites.

As this was inter-connected to the Neighbourhood Plan the Chairman asked if Councillors had had opportunity to consider discussions at previous meetings. He estimated that creation of a Neighbourhood Plan would take 3-4 years, would be a very demanding task and he questioned the benefits for this parish.

Cllr Penny described the vulnerability of the Parish Council vis-à-vis developers looking for sites unless a Neighbourhood Plan is in existence.

It was AGREED that K Phimister of SBC Forward Planning Dept should be invited to the next meeting to discuss this further.

## 8 COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

The Chairman outlined the proposal that had been put forward by a resident since the last Parish Council meeting. Details had been circulated and discussions held with the VCC: the latter had agreed to adopt the proposal.

It was AGREED unanimously

- (i) that the proposal be supported
- (ii) that a ceiling of £300 be allowed (the estimated cost was £289.99)

## RECESS

i A resident (JP) suggested that erection of a CCTV camera at the site of most fly-tipping might be a deterrent or even solve the problem.

Cllr Sainsbury supported this suggestion.

Cllr Gruska suggested that an appropriate warning sign may act as a deterrent.

The Chairman put forward the possibility that if SBC will continue with fly-tipping removal, the Parish Council will consider working with them in other services.

ii A resident (BP) sought clarification of the process of creating a Neighbourhood Plan, and urged the Parish Council to include residents in any discussions about it. The Chairman gave information about the Government's publications, Cllr Gruszka gave information about SBC website, and the Chairman noted that SBC Forward Planning Dept would attend the next Parish Council meeting to take discussions further.

The Chairman described problems created by dumping garden and other waste in the River Thames and reported that he had been approached by a resident who had witnessed another resident tipping garden waste in the River. The Chairman had advised the resident to report this to Environment Agency.

## 9 PLANNING MATTERS

The clerk reported receipt of two applications, viz.

S/16/1606 – prior approval application for installation of solar panels to farm building roofs

S/16/0805 – Lushill Farm erection of a replacement shed, now approved

## 10 FINANCE

Bank account 01529286 balance stands at		£56,766.41
Cheques for signature		
Castle Eaton Village Community Cttee		
(fencing for playground)	1,125.00	
David Newman Contractors Ltd (grounds maintenance)	828.00	
A Gorton salary	342.05	
expenses	16.84	358.89
Post Office Ltd (PAYE to HMRC)		70.45
Total cheques	2,382.34	
Bank balance after payments		£54,384.07

This includes the sum of £615 'ring-fenced' for the defibrillator.

The balance of the Community Benefit Fund stands at £52,599.26 after payment above)  
Bank account (deposit account) balance remains at £500)

**11 CORRESPONDENCE**

**CORRESPONDENCE FOR COMMENT**

SBC Planning Department – Sites for development

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group – Patient and Public Newsletter – weekly

Local Government News – weekly

What’s On In Cricklade – September, 2016, and October, 2016

Public Sector Executive – weekly

WALC newsletter – September, 2016

SBC Members Bulletin – weekly

Upper Thames Protection Society – Newsletter and notice of AGM (Nov 2)

River Thames Alliance – Newsletter

WALC Newsletter - October, 2016

The Chairman drew attention to the correspondence from Upper Thames Protection Society and River Thames Alliance. Cllr Sainsbury described the two organisations and his membership of the latter. He will continue to represent the Parish Council on it.

**12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

This will be held on December 8, 2016, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Signed ..... (chairman)

..... (clerk)

..... (date)

