

CASTLE EATON PARISH COUNCIL

**MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held on THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 8, 2016, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

MINUTES

PRESENT

Cllr W Hughes (Chairman)
Cllr D Sainsbury (Vice-chairman)
Cllr L Saunders
Cllr S Gruszka
Borough Cllr Mrs M Penny
1 resident
Mr M Hambidge (SBC)
A Gorton (clerk)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Dinesh Naidu (resident) and Mrs K Phimister (SBC)

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No specific declarations were made at this point. The Chairman reiterated the declaration of 'interest by association' applicable to all Councillors.

3 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

The Chairman reported correspondence and a meeting he had held with Mr Dinesh Naidu.

It was AGREED unanimously that Mr Naidu be co-opted onto the Parish Councillor.

4 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

In the absence of Mrs Phimister (SBC), this agenda item was deferred until the next meeting.

5 TRANSFER OF SERVICES

Martin Hambidge of SBC reported the transfer of responsibility for certain services from SBC to Parish Councils. He concentrated particularly on those provided currently by StreetSmart, ie grass maintenance and verge cutting, graffiti removal, street cleaning, fly-tipping disposal, litter-picking. As from April

1, 2017, SBC will no longer provide them but anticipates that Parish Councils will adopt responsibility. Mr Hambidge gave details of funds which would be transferred to the Parish Council to meet the extra costs of providing these services (*vide* Addendum 1). Other services currently provided by Highways or other Departments were not included in these funds.

The Chairman reported that grounds maintenance would be undertaken by the Parish Council, and Mr Hambidge confirmed that SBC would continue to meet its statutory responsibility for cutting a metre-wide highway verge under the Rural Verges Contract, and that there were no plans to alter the large road sweeper programme.

Discussion followed on 2 aspects, viz the specific areas of grass to be maintained by the Parish Council, and (2) disposal of fly-tipping detritus.

It was AGREED that the Parish Council will not be able to accept responsibility for removal of fly-tipped materials/waste, and the clerk was instructed to inform SBC of this.

6 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 20, 2016

The Minutes, previously circulated, were ACCEPTED as a fair and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman and clerk.

7 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

7.1 The clerk reported that no response had been received from Wiltshire Council in reply to his emailed correspondence

7.2 Cllr Gruszka reported discussions he had had about provision of broadband in the village (*vide* Addendum 2)

7.3 The Chairman reported the destruction of the Village Website to which the Parish Council web provision is allied. To meet its statutory responsibilities under 'transparency' regulations, the Parish Council must publish certain information on a publicly-available website, and the Chairman suggested that it may be necessary to employ a website specialist to build one for the Parish Council. He proposed that payment for this could be met from the Community Benefit Fund.

It was AGREED that this should be explored further.

The clerk was instructed to inform SBC (Law & Democratic Services) of this.

8 COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

The Public Address system had been purchased, and used, but the invoice for payment had not yet been received.

9 PLANNING MATTERS

The Chairman reported receipt of two planning applications, for both of which comments had been forwarded to SBC, viz

- 1 S/16/1606 Castle Eaton Farm – prior approval application for installation of solar panels to farm building roofs;

2 S/HOU/16/1944RM The Cottage, The Street.

10 FINANCE

10.1 Following resignation of Mr Barry James, it was necessary for another Councillor to become a signatory for cheques.

It was proposed by Cllr Sainsbury and seconded by Cllr Saunders that Cllr S Gruszka become a signatory. This was AGREED.

10.2 As every Councillor had a declarable pecuniary interest when discussing the budget and setting a precept, each Councillor signed the Dispensation Form.

10.3 The Chairman presented a draft budget for the financial year 2017-2018.

This was discussed in the context of taking responsibility for providing services until now undertaken by SBC. The draft was amended accordingly.

It was proposed by Cllr Sainsbury and seconded by Cllr Saunders that the revised budget be adopted. (*vide* Addendum 3)

This was AGREED unanimously.

10.4 It was AGREED that a precept be made on SBC in the sum of £4,959.

The appropriate form was signed by the Chairman and two Councillors (*vide* Addendum 4).

10.5 Bank balance

| | | |
|--|--------|-------------------|
| Bank account balance (01529286) as at 1.12.2016 stands at | | £55,431.16 |
| Cheques for signature | | |
| Grant Thornton (external audit) | | £480.00 |
| A Gorton salary | 342.05 | |
| expenses | 36.89 | 378.94 |
| Post Office Ltd (PAYE to HMRC) | | 70.45 |
| | | |
| Total cheques | | 929.29 |
| Bank account balance after payment of cheques | | £54,591.87 |

(Deposit account balance = £500

Defibrillator 'account' = £615

Community Benefit Fund 'account' = £52,239.21

11 CORRESPONDENCE FOR COMMENT

SBC Codes and Protocols

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Public Sector Executive – weekly

What's New in Local Government – weekly

Local Government News – weekly

Clerks and Councils Direct – monthly

What's On In Cricklade – November 2016

SBC Members' Bulletin – weekly

WALC Newsletter – November 2016

Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group – Patients and Public Newsletter

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED that this will be held on March 2, 2017

Signed (chairman)

..... (clerk)

..... (date)

