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CAWSTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 20 AUGUST 2020

DRAFT MINUTES

At the meeting of the Cawston Parish Council held online via Zoom

on Thursday 20 August 2020, the following members were present:

S. Court, T. Durrant, J. Livingstone, C. Monk, G. Sinclair, P. Soanes, S. Spencer,

**In Attendance**

G.Peck (County/District Councillor), 1 member of the public,

L. Mills (Clerk of the Council)

**102/015 ELECTION OF CHAIR**

In the absence of J Buttifant it was **AGREED** that J Livingstone chair this meeting.

**102/016 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from J. Buttifant and A. Hellewell

**102/017 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

G Sinclair - windfarms

**102/018 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 9 July 2020 having been circulated to all members, were confirmed as an accurate record and will be signed by the Chair.

**102/019 ADJOURNMENT**

1. COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT: Cawston Care Home was brought back into action for Covid recovery patients. Athough it has not had many patients it will be kept open in case of further need. Likewise, the mortuary at |Scottow has not been used but is also being retained in case.

Norfolk County Council has provided food parcels and personal protection equipment through out the pandemic.

The local MP, Jerome Mayhew visited Cawston last week, and discussed the windfarm traffic issue with residents.

Mr Peck is meeting with Mathew Rooks and Helen Mellor of Broadland District Council Planning Dept tomorrow. He will try to arrange a meeting between them and the Parish Council.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS: the member of the public present pointed out that last month he had raised the issue of the access steps to Marriott’s Way adjacent to the old railway bridge down Birds Lane which are in need of repair although this had not been recorded in the minutes (102/005 [iii].) He confirmed that he had been assured the work is due to be undertaken soon.

**102/020 FINANCE**

Accounts for Payment: it was **RESOLVED** that payment of the following accounts totalling £2140.67 be approved and the necessary cheques signed by two authorised members.

Information Commissioner, Annual registration, £35.00

Garden Guardian, grounds maintenance, £815.60

E.On, street lighting, £56.31

URM(UK)Ltd, recycling, £36.00

Administration, £912.16

Kompan Ltd, play area inspection, £285.60

(all figures inc VAT where applicable|)

**102/021 CASUAL VACANCY**

Unfortunately, the resident interested in joining the Council had been unable to send in a letter to councillors due to work commitments. She hoped to do so soon.

**102/022 PLANNING**

1. APPLICATIONS:

[a] 20201541, The Woodrow, Holt Road, NR10 4HP

The Council **SUPPORTS** this application although they have concerns regarding entrance and exit to the B1149 Holt Road.

[b] 20201544, 1 Nettleship Farm Cottages, Birds Lane, NR10 4JB

The Council **SUPPORTS** this application.

[c] 20201545, Paddocks, Easton Way, Eastgate, NR10 4HF

The Council **SUPPORTS** this application.

1. WINDFARMS/SHERINGHAM SHOAL

C. Monk updated the council as follows

Since the last PC meeting we have had online meetings with NCC Highways and Vattenfall. Neither was very positive from our point of view and we continue to press our case to the Norfolk Boreas Planning Inspectors, who will be the first to examine and recommend upon the latest scheme which VF & NCC say is the final one. Several flaws and issues have already been exposed.

Greg Peck is trying to arrange a meeting with Broadland, no success so far.

The remaining deadlines for submissions on Boreas are 25/8, 1/9 and 8/9, so the next month will be busy.

Last week Jerome Mayhew MP visited the village with Greg, we had a long and productive discussion with other residents and he agreed to send a submission to the Planning Inspectors expressing his concerns.

A local resident has been pursuing the Judicial Review challenge to the Sec of State’s decision to approve Norfolk Vanguard. I circulated some detailed information a little while ago: since then the grounds for review have been finalised and a formal application to the High Court for permission to proceed was submitted on 12th August. The SoS has 21 days to respond and then a judge will decide whether the case can proceed; this could take another 8 weeks.

All of this involves legal costs. Support has been offered by many individuals and Parish Councils, including Oulton (£1200) and Necton (£2500). As our village is one that will suffer greatly from the cumulative impacts of these projects I would like to Propose that Cawston PC agrees to make a donation towards these costs. I suggest £2500 would be a suitable amount.

1. Mr Monk also asked if the Council would be willing to make a contribution to the fund set up to apply for a Judicial Review of the Secretary of State’s decision to approve the Vattenfall project.

A letter from a resident had also been previously distributed which asked the Council to support this action.

Following discussions Mrs Durrant proposed a donation of £500. This was **AGREED** by a vote of 2-1 in favour with 4 abstentions.

Mr Monk having originally proposed £2500 then proposed that a further £2000 be donated. This was **AGREED** by a vote of 3-2 in favour with 2 abstentions.

Mr Soanes asked that the fact he had voted against both proposals be recorded in the minutes.

Therefore, a total of £2500 will be donated to the support fund under the provision of Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972.

1. Equinor: a letter previously circulated to all councillors in response to the initial consultation was **APPROVED**, as follows:

CAWSTON PARISH COUNCIL INITIAL RESPONSE TO EQUINOR CONSULTATION

CPC wishes to offer this initial response and suggestion to the Equinor consultation.

This is the fourth such proposal we have faced in recent years and the drain on our time and resources in dealing with these applications has been excessive. The cumulative impact on the village will be devastating and is unacceptable.

While we strongly support renewable initiatives in principle, we cannot support onshore construction work that drives large volumes of traffic through our historic village centre. Major concerns are pedestrian safety, adverse impacts on local businesses, noise, and vibration damage to listed buildings.

Norfolk County Council has described the latest proposed Highway Intervention Scheme, in the Norfolk Boreas Examination, as “technically possible”, while listing several areas which would cause it to fail, including driver compliance, parking outside the designated area and traffic failing to give way correctly. We consider that, even if “technically possible”, it will prove to be impossible in practice, and serious remedial actions will be attempted, to the further detriment of residents’ amenity and with little chance of success.

Both NCC and Broadland District Council are on record as stating their preferred option in dealing with the issue of construction traffic in the Cawston area is a “haul road route aimed at removing HGV construction traffic from Cawston village” (see Norfolk Boreas REP 11-016), using the developers haul roads, enhanced as necessary.

Since the Equinor proposal is only at the scoping stage we strongly suggest that this approach is taken when planning the cable route near to Cawston. The road network around Cawston is clearly inadequate to support these proposals. Any plans to route traffic on the B1145 through the village will not reflect the preferred option of NCC & BDC and will meet concerted opposition from residents.

We note that you are working with Royal Haskoning, who are also being used by Vattenfall on the Norfolk Vanguard and Boreas projects. They should be able to draw on that experience and confirm the many issues around traffic in the Cawston area, though we are concerned that past experience has shown an intransigent attitude and complete disregard for the well-being of our community. After many attempts over several years they are still trying to come up with a workable scheme for construction traffic, while NCC, BDC and CPC have all expressed a preference for the haul road solution.

We would be happy to meet with you to discuss these matters and explain our position in more detail.

1. The Clerk updated the Council regarding the Government’s two white papers regarding changes to the planning process and the calculation of local housing needs. Clerk to provide a report for consideration at next month’s meeting.

**102/023 PLAYING FIELD**

1. PLAY AREAS SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT

The Council received the report and acknowledged its recommendations. Mr Livingstone will follow up

1. RABBITS: Council asked the clerk to provide full pricing options for rabbit proof fencing from Village Hall entrance round to the Chapel Street entrance. Also prices for a shorter length along the western edge.

Clerk also to provide prices for rabbit drop boxes, and maintenance.

The Clerk was instructed to provide these in good time for the next meeting of the Council.

1. PICNIC TABLES: Clerk was instructed to obtain price options for replacement picnic tables, in good time for the next meeting.
2. TREES AND HEDGES: Clerk to contact contractor and put him I contact with Mr Sinclair to obtain prices for works to trees required on eastern side. Clerk also to contact recently retired contractor to obtain recommendations for contractors who will give hedges their annual cut back

**102/024 INTERNAL AUDITOR’S REPORT**

Clerk confirmed registers will be updated this financial year, in line with auditor’s recommendation.

**102/025 PARISHIONERS’ CORRESPONDENCE**

1. A request had been received to allow a small tree and memorial plaque to be installed in the cemetery. Council **AGREED** to the request and asked the Clerk to liaise.
2. A letter had been previously been distributed from a resident concerned about the traffic speed on Booton Road. Council **AGREED** to ask for consent to place SAM2 on the relevant stretch of the road (exact location to be confirmed by Mr Court.)
3. Following on from the above discussion Mr Soanes raised the issue of signs on Brandiston Road. He stated “Beware of Pedestrians” signs had been agreed with the Highway Engineer. Clerk to contact Highway Engineer.

He also said that a recent resurfacing of the highway had led to a fire hydrant being covered in tarmac outside 19 Brandiston Road. Clerk to inform NCC Highways.

**102/026 ITEMS OF INFORMATION / FUTURE AGENDA**

1. INFORMATION:

[a] Mrs Spencer asked for an update regarding offer of hand sanitisers etc from Broadland District Council. The Clerk replied he had obtained permission from NCC Highways but that his emails to the BDC contact had been returned as undeliverable. He will try to follow up further.

[b] Mrs Durrant asked why the chair of Cawston Bowls Club had not received a reply to his letter of January 2020. The Clerk replied that he understood that the letter’s questions had been answered in council meetings that Mrs Durrant had attended. She repeated that the letter had not been answered. The Clerk repeated his response. She said the letter had not been answered. The Clerk said he would write to the chair of the Bowls Club.

1. AGENDA:

Rabbits on Playing Field *Mr Soanes*; Windfarms *Mr Monk/Mr Court*

**102/027 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 17 September 2020 at 7pm. Online via Zoom

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR THANKED EVERYONE FOR ATTENDING AND DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.26pm