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CAWSTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 19 NOVEMBER 2020

DRAFT MINUTES

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

on Thursday 19 November 2020, the following members were present:

J Buttifant (Chair)

T. Durrant, J. Livingstone, C. Monk, V. Purdy,

G. Sinclair, P. Soanes, S. Spencer.

**In Attendance**

1 member of the public,

L. Mills (Clerk of the Council)

**102/040 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from A. Hellewell and Co/Dist Cllr G Peck.

**102/040 RESIGNATION**

The Chair informed the meeting that she had received a letter of resignation from Mr Court. The Council unanimously wished to record their thanks to Simon for all his efforts on behalf of the parish, especially in reference to the proposed windfarms.

**102/041 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

C. Monk – judicial review crowd funding

G. Sinclair – windfarms

**102/042 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 15 October 2020 having been circulated to all members, were confirmed as an accurate record and will be signed by the Chair.

**102/043 MATTERS ARISING**

Mrs Spencer reported that the remembrance wreaths had been laid at the memorials.

Mr Livingstone asked whether the Council had applied for a part of the Parish Partnerships scheme this year. It was **AGREED** to apply for the ‘Village gates’ and associated signage.

**102/044 ADJOURNMENT**

1. COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT: None
2. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

**102/045 FINANCE**

1. The Financial report for the first half of the year was received and adopted.
2. The first draft of a budget for 2021-2022 was received and will be considered more fully at the next meeting.
3. The Clerk reported that the ‘Limited Assurance Review’ had been completed by the external auditor and all was in order apart for a sum of £300 which had been placed in the wrong column. This will be resolved on the next Review. This had added no further costs to the basic fee the auditor charges.
4. Accounts for Payment: it was **RESOLVED** that payment of the following accounts totalling £3479.14 be approved and the necessary cheques signed by two authorised members.

Garden Guardian, grounds maintenance, £815.60

E.On, Street lights energy, £56.31

Community Heartbeat Trust, electrodes fo defibrillator, £87.60

Administration, £948.43

RBL Poppy Appeal, wreaths, £34.00

Earth Anchors, picnic tables, £1297.20

PKF Littlejohn, external audit, £240.00

**102/046 CLERK’S REPORT**

* The clerk had received an email from the Charity Commissioners Office regarding the trusts that the Council is responsible for. They are offering to help to “revitalise” slow moving trusts.
* The reference book *Arnold-Baker on Local Council Administration* has been updated and is available to preorder. As this is the twelth edition and we own the ninth permission is asked to purchase a new copy for the Council at a reduced price of £119. This was **AGREED**.

**102/048 PLANNING**

APPLICATIONS:

[a] 20202055, The Old Railway Gatehouse, Oulton Street, Cawston

It was **AGREED** to **SUPPORT** this application.

[b] 20202085, Autumn Cottage, Back Lane, Cawston

It was **AGREED** to **SUPPORT** this application.

[c] 20202026, Twin Oaks Farm, Little Acorns, Buxton Road, Cawston.

It was **AGREED** to **OBJECT** to this application on the following grounds: It is in open countryside, it lacks connections to services, it does not fulfil the sustainability requirements for new development in terms of transport, schools, pavements and facilities. There are no outstanding architectural qualities about the proposal that make it eligible for an exception under the Paragraph 79 exception provisions.

The Design and Access statement says that the house is linked to an agricultural need, but the plot is not big enough to justify this. If a genuine agricultural need can be demonstrated, the Council feels an agricultural restriction should then be applied.

Mr Soanes and Mrs Durrant voted against this objection.

[d] It was **AGREED** that the Clerk should distribute a copy of any letter he receives informing of a new application when he receives it, as is the present practice.

**102/047 TRAFFIC MATTERS**

The group held its first meeting by Zoom on Wednesday 18th November. Mr Purdy was elected as chair and will produce minutes to forward to the Clerk, and a report to the Council.

A “wishlist” has been produced and Mr Purdy will distribute this.

The next meeting will be held on 16th December.

**102/048 PLANNING**

WINDFARMS/SHERINGHAM SHOAL

1. C. Monk updated the council as follows

The crowd funding appeal for the Judicial Review application on Norfolk Vanguard succeeded in raising the £8000 target, with good support from Cawston residents. Fund raising carries on as legal costs continue to increase with a two-day hearing set for the New Year.

The Norfolk Boreas examination closed on 12th October with the Decision due to be announced in April.

We made our final submission to the Secretary of State on Hornsea Three earlier this month, repeating our request that he strengthens requirements to guarantee the safety of Cawston residents, their homes and livelihoods.

An interesting point to note is that the Wildlife Trusts have expressed disappointment at the lack of engagement and are already preparing for the possibility of Judicial Review proceedings after the final decision is published on 31st December.

There has been no further news from H3 and Norfolk County Council over the 105 abnormal 3.3 metre wide cable drum loads that H3 propose.

Equinor (SEP/DEP) - I spoke to Nigel Tompkins last week as he wanted to confirm receipt of his email with their Summary report. He said if there were any queries or issues, to let him know and he can arrange a Zoom meeting. I told him I would raise this at the PC meeting tonight.

I also mentioned I had received the leaflet in the post; he said they did a 12000 drop along the cable route.

In a recent adjournment debate in Parliament, our MPs got a positive response from the Minister, Kwasi Kwarteng, regarding the possibility of a future Offshore Transmission Network, but the problems with the current applications remain.

1. There have been rumours on social media that the Parish Council had received £6,000 from a windfarm company as “hush money.” The Council strongly denies receiving any such money. All of its dealings with any companies is open and transparent, and reported in the minutes.

Mr Monk was thanked for all his work and noted that Mr Court’s input will be missed in the future.

**102/049 PLAYING FIELD**

1. PICNIC TABLES had been delivered and await installation
2. RABBITS: Mr Sinclair had met with the company on site and had agreed the final length would be 325m and cost as £4240 + vat as authorised at the October meeting of the Council (102/049 [ii])
3. FRUIT TREES: It was **AGREED** to downsize the project and to plant an initial ten trees. Mr Livingstone will post on the Cawston Facebook page to explain the plans more clearly and encourage more participation.

**102/051 WEBSITE**

It was **AGREED** the website requires improvement. Mr Purdy to produce more information at a future meeting

**102/052 FUTURE PROJECTS**

There was a short discussion regarding the possibility of adult gym equipment for the playing field

**102/052 CHURCHYARD WALL**

Mr Livingstone will try to contact the contractor again.

**102/052 SEATING AREA (opp. Village Hall)**

Mr Sinclair will take a further look at the possibility of removing and reusing the seats.

**102/053 PARISHIONERS’ CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**102/054 ITEMS OF INFORMATION / FUTURE AGENDA**

1. AGENDA:

Budget 2021/22; Village Hall Committee representative; Website *Mr Purdy*; Windfarms *Mr Monk,* “Shopping List” of proposed projects; Churchyard wall *Mr Livingstone*; Traffic working group; Queen Victoria Jubilee seating area; Fruit trees on Playing Field *Mr Livingstone*.

**102/055 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 19 November 2020 at 7pm. Online via Zoom

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR THANKED EVERYONE FOR ATTENDING AND DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.55pm