**Minutes of the Meeting of Cawston Parish Council**

**held on Thursday 16th February 2023 at 7pm at Cawston Village Hall**

**Attendance:** Cllr Durrant, Cllr Livingstone, Cllr Monk, Cllr Purdy, Cllr Reckert, Cllr Sinclair, Cllr Soanes(Chair), Cllr Spencer, Cllr G Peck, Sarah Vergette, Clerk and eleven members of the public.

Cllr Soanes stated that the meeting is being recorded for the purposes of accuracy.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Buttifant, Cllr Hellewell - accepted.
2. **Declarations of Interest:**  Cllr Purdy declared an interest in the planning application for The Old Stable.
3. **To approve as accurate minutes of the previous meeting.** The minutes of the previous meeting were **approved.**
4. **Public participation session** 
   1. Public. There was much discussion relating to the GNLP Gypsies & Travellers Consultation. Cllr Livingstone suggested that when comments are made they should relate to planning matters and not become personal. Cllr Livingstone also explained that there is a Government directive for Local Councils to provide sites.

Cllr Sinclair stated that the Consultation is for site allocation, the site would still need planning approval.

Comments:

The ground on the proposed site has been cleared and there are multiple buildings on the site such as containers and portacabins.

There had been a previous application for building on this site which had been refused.

The site is outside of the parish development line.

The land currently has agricultural use, the proposed development would be against planning policy as it would change to residential.

Concerns over traffic and road infrastructure.

Concerns over water/sewers infrastructure.

The proposed allocation is for four pitches and every pitch could have two vans on it.

Cllr Peck arrived at this point and stated that he was minded to object to the proposal and call it in. He also stated that there had been no decision on sites to go forward, we need to see which are selected. The Consultation should be objected to as strongly as possible on planning grounds. Every council has to have an allocation for traveller sites.

Parishioners could contact the MP, Jerome Mayhew, and Cllr Peck for advice and help.

* 1. County/District Councillor. Cllr Peck reported that he would not be standing as District Council in the forthcoming elections in May although he would remain as County Councillor.

Cllr Peck reported that at District Council level there would be no increase in the Council Tax. However, the County Council had no choice but to impose a 5% increase. The Cabinet had been meeting every two weeks for six months to fill the £60m black hole in the finances. There will be some job losses and £17m had been saved from the strategic review. There will be no cuts to services. If the County Council does not impose a 5% increase they will be unable to apply for Government grants.

Cllr Peck went on to say that there is a currently a consultation relating to the County Deal which he is in favour of. There would be an elected leader. This would give more money and power to the Council and they would be able to decide where the money is to be spent. The only change to governance would be that the leader would be elected by the public. The Constitution needs to be finalised.

* 1. Police report. None.

1. **Matters Arising from the previous meeting**

5.1 Clerk’s report – noted.

5.2 The clerk will chase the contractor with regard to the rabbit fencing and shed at the Cemetery. **Action Clerk.**

5.3 Some dog fouling notices had been obtained, Cllr Livingstone will place these on posts etc. **Action Cllr Livingstone.**

1. **Planning**

6.1 GNLP Consultation Gypsies & Travellers. Cllr Durrant stated that she objected to the proposed site. Cllr Livingstone stated that objection could be made on the same grounds as a recent application for a house, the same criteria applies.

Following some discussion Cllr Livingstone proposed that an objection should be made on the grounds that the site does not meet the sustainability criteria of the Local Authority Policies. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Durrant with all in agreement. More research is needed. It was agreed to circulate a response to Councillors for comment before it is submitted.

6.2 Planning application 2023/0325 The Old Stable, single-storey extension. Cllr Purdy had previously declared an interest in this application. Cllr Livingstone proposed no objection, seconded by Cllr Reckert. As the application had only been received today it was agreed that responses should be sent to the clerk by Wednesday 22nd February. Agreed.

1. **Finance**

7.1 To approve payments

1. Clerk’s salary and expenses (SLCC membership included) £829.77
2. HMRC £171.03
3. Norfolk Pension Fund £245.91
4. Garden Guardian £894.52
5. Clerk for the new litter bin – approved at previous meeting £332.24

**Approved**

Cllr Soanes stated that he had contacted Jerome Mayhew MP for help with Barclays and everything had now been sorted out. Cllr Soanes proposed that compensation should be sought in the sum of £750 from Barclays Bank this was seconded by Cllr Spencer will all in agreement. It was **Resolved** to ask for compensation. **Action Clerk.**

7.2 To discuss Earmarked funds. It was agreed that the General Reserve should hold six months’ funds, £15,000. This was proposed by Cllr Livingstone, seconded by Cllr Purdy **agreed.**

It was **agreed** to add £1,000 to the Earmarked fund for the churchyard.

CIL/S106 monies were discussed, Cllr Spencer thought water could be put in for the allotments using these funds.

Cllr Reckert stated that the Recreation ground needs to be looked at as a whole, somethings are not used, others are used a lot. More maintenance is needed. Some parents had children of varying ages, it is difficult to look after all the children when the play areas are far apart. It was agreed that a working party for the Recreation Ground would be a good way forward. Non-Councillors and youngsters could be involved too. This will go on the March agenda. It was also agreed to discuss Earmarked funds at the March meeting.

7.3 To discuss and agree an additional bank signatory. Cllr Sinclair agreed to be another signatory. **Action clerk**

7.4 To agree bank reconciliation. **Agreed.**

7.5To note income in the sum of £120 from the sale of an Exclusive Rights of Burial.

7.6 It was agreed that if an invoice came in between meetings for hedge cutting it could be paid with agreement by email and ratified at the next meeting.

1. **Church** **& Cemetery**

Cllr Sinclair reported that the church wall in Church Lane has suffered from frost damage, it is dangerous and needs attention. Advice is needed on the type of mortar needed. The clerk will contact contractors who will meet with Cllrs Livingstone and Sinclair. **Action clerk.**

1. **To receive an update from the Working Group – Wind Farm/Solar Farm.**

9.1 Cllr Monk had circulated a report which was noted. Cllr Livingstone will arrange a Community Benefit meeting. **Action Cllr Livingstone.**

1. **Playingfield/Village Hall**

10.1 Grown, Make, Bake Show. Cllr Spencer asked if the Parish Council would make a grant in the sum of £500 to help with costs. Cllr Livingstone proposed agreement, with all in agreement. Vatenfall and Orsted could be asked to help with funding. Cllr Spencer stated that she was also going to apply for Tesco Bags for Help Scheme.

1. **Highways**
   1. To discuss the litter pick. It was agreed to carry out the litter pick on Saturday 1st April. This will be advertised.
2. **Correspondence**

Nothing to discuss.

1. **Date of the next meeting.** The date of the next meeting was set for Thursday 16th March 2023 at 7pm in the village hall.
2. **Any Other Business/Information**

King’s Coronation will be held on Saturday 6th May. The Village Hall Committee have agreed to have an open time at the hall inviting all the groups in the village on 8th May.

Items for the next agenda to be sent to the clerk by Monday 6th March.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.57pm.

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Chair Date