

**Minutes of the Meeting of Cawston Parish Council
held on Thursday 18th January 2024 at 7pm at Cawston Village Hall**

Attendance: Cllr Buttifant(Chair), Cllr Durrant, Cllr Harrison, Cllr Reckert, Cllr Soanes Cllr Spencer, Cllr Peck (County Councillor), Cllr Thomas (District Councillor) Sarah Vergette, Clerk.

1. **Apologies & approval of absence.** Cllr Hellewell Cllr Livingstone, Cllr Purdy, Cllr Sinclair.
Approved.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** None.
3. **To approve as accurate the minutes of the previous meeting.** The minutes of the last minutes, having been circulated, were **agreed**.
4. **Public participation**
 - 4.1 A member of the public attended to discuss item 10 on the agenda. However, the Village Hall Committee had decided they did not wish to lease the land.
 - 4.2 Cllr Peck stated that the County Council had a balanced budget, although consultations may be required. From 1st January DIY waste from household is permitted free of charge. Fire stations are being refurbished to make them more user friendly as there are now more female fire fighters. Many tankers had attended to deal with the recent flooding, the fire service had also helped out.
Cllr Thomas stated that he will be holding village surgeries and would share the dates. The grant award has been renewed, he has awarded funds to Cawston Community Choir for a new projector. Cllr Thomas is happy to receive applications for funding.
 - 4.3 None.
5. **Matters Arising**
 - 5.1 Clerk's report. Noted.
 - 5.2 Cllr Durrant stated that the tree's roots, near the shed in the Cemetery , run through the hedge to the Bowls Club. The Club would like to dig a trench and cut the roots. Although there was no objection to this in principle the Club should consult with an expert to make sure there is no damage to the tree.
6. **Finance**
 - 6.1 To agree payments;

a) Garden Guardian	£983.00
b) S Vergette – salary	£780.07
c) HMRC	£200.62
d) Norfolk Pension Fund	£270.72
e) NPower	£138.65
f) G Sinclair	£36.19 posts and fixings for dig bins
g) Kingfisher Direct	£350.04 dog bins

Approved.
 - 6.2 To discuss and agree the bank reconciliation. **Agreed.**
7. **Planning**
 - 7.1 A new Licence application had been received for Woodrow Garage. There are extended opening hours. Noted.
8. **Church & Cemetery**
 - 8.1 The clerk will contact the stone mason to ask if he left any concrete from the grave stones and ask him to arrange for the removal. Cllr Purdy and his wife had cleared the dead leaves and freed the gates – thank you.

9. Wind Farms

- 9.1 A report had been circulated and was noted. It is hoped there will be a meeting with Vattenfall shortly.
The CCTV through the High Street will be installed on 19th January, this is to monitor the flow of traffic.

10. Playing Field/Village Hall

- 10.1 To make a final decision on the new playground equipment. Option 6 had been agreed. Cllr Harrison will get a site plan drawn up.
Cllr Soanes stated that the Constitution of the Oakes Trust states that the Trust should be consulted on all matters relating to the playingfield. The clerk will formally write to the Trust regarding the new play equipment and the football storage container.
- 10.2 To discuss a the possibility of leasing a piece of land to the Village Hall. As stated above the Village Hall Committee do not wish to lease any land.
- 10.3 A quote had been received to deal with the rabbits on the playingfield. This was agreed.
- 10.4 Cllr Spencer reported that Plugin Norfolk had accepted the Village Hall for EV chargers. There will be four spaces.

11. Highways/Environment

- 11.1 Biodiversity Policy. Further amendments are needed, these will be made and the document circulated for adoption at the February meeting.
- 11.2 The dog bins have not arrived yet. There is an ongoing discussion with Veolia’s Operations Manger regarding the emptying of a bin on Marriotts Way.
- 11.3 Biodiversity Policy. Under the 2021 Environment Act, public authorities (including town and parish councils) operating in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity. A model policy had been circulated. It was agreed that the clerk would make any amendments and this would be discussed again in January.

12. Allotments

- 12.1 Two tenants have not paid their fees, the clerk will follow this up.

13. Correspondence

- 13.1 Correspondence had been circulated and was noted.
- 13.2 Cllr Harrison reported that he had heard that due to lack of participants the skatepark scheme would not go ahead. However, Cllr Thomas gave an update that some people had come forward to help and it is hoped there will be a meeting shortly.

14. Date of the Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 13th February at 7pm in the Village Hall. Agenda items should be sent to the clerk by Monday 5th February.

15. Any Other Business/Information.

The clerk asked if the June meeting date could be changed. It was agreed to hold the meeting on 27th June.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.53pm

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Chair

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Date