

CASTLE EATON PARISH COUNCIL

**MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held on THURSDAY,
AUGUST 25, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Cllr W Hughes (chairman)
Cllr D Sainsbury (vice-chairman)
Cllr L Saunders
Cllr S Gruszka
Cllr B James
Mr P Smith (Planning Policy Manager, SBC)
A Gorton (clerk)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were given

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman confirmed that the 'Interest by Association' was operative and applied. No other interests were declared

3 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Chairman introduced Phil Smith of SBC. The Chairman gave the background to the Parish Council's earlier discussions about a Neighbourhood Plan and reported how the Councillors had followed the progress of other Parish Councils. The Councillors now considered it was time to look at the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan again.

Mr Smith explained that 7 Parish Councils within SBC were working on Neighbourhood Plans, which were at various stages. Hannington was the nearest Parish Council to Castle Eaton. He also explained the reasons for the Government's encouragement of Neighbourhood Plans, to enable development rather than prevent it and in such Plans take a 'presumption in favour of sustainable development'.

A Neighbourhood Plan can be as short or as long as a Parish Council wishes, and is intended to establish policies that reflect what a Parish Council wishes to do for the village and parish as a whole. It does not have to identify specific sites or locations for development.

Mr Smith outlined the benefits of creating a Plan ie

i the community has some control over development proposals, in so far as once a Plan is adopted SBC must take it into consideration as it has equal status to the Local Plan, though it can be over-ruled;

ii where a Neighbourhood Plan exists a Parish Council will receive 25% of any CIL, rather than 15% where no Plan exists (CIL is currently £57/sqm of floor space)

Disbenefits were the cost of time and effort, it is not an easy task, a Parish Council would need a working group with some-one to drive it forward, there are a number of

stages to get through, such as an initial application to SBC for registration as a designated area, Regulation 14 which requires consultation before drawing up a draft Plan, and Regulation 15 a later consultation inviting residents to comment on the draft, with Regulation 16 requiring SBC to consult with residents. SBC will appoint an examiner, and if and when he/she is satisfied, the Plan will be adopted by SBC.

It must be noted that a Plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan, strengthened by details at local level. It can include Local Design aspects, redrawing the Settlement Boundary, give policies referring to specific areas of the village/parish, and recommending particular uses of land such as equestrian uses.

Mr Smith recommended that Councillors look at Plans submitted by Parish Councils of similar size and that early engagement with SBC was necessary.

Funding is available, with a Government allocation of up to £9,000 to enable the development of a Plan. Costs are incurred if the Parish Council decides to employ someone to write the Plan, for consultation and printing (especially if a questionnaire is distributed, and drafts of the Plan are sent to all households), for holding public meetings to gather views before drawing up a Plan and then for consulting again and inviting comments.

Mr Smith recommended Councillors read the National Planning Policy Framework at the heart of which is the 'presumption in favour of sustainable development', Briefing Paper No. 05838 of July 11, 2016 – Neighbourhood Planning, and SBC Local Plan.

The Chairman thanked Mr Smith for attending and giving the Councillors an insight into what is involved.

The Chairman asked Councillors to look at the documents recommended and the clerk to ensure the topic was on the next agenda.

4 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF MAY 26, 2016, AND JUNE 22, 2016

It was AGREED the Minutes were a fair and accurate record, and were signed by the Chairman and clerk

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The clerk reported that the chevron sign on road to Kempsford had been re-erected, but not the 'Stop' sign at the end of that road. The explanation given by Wilts CC was that this was in a different contract.

RECESS: residents are invited to raise any question relating to the work of the Parish Council

Cllrs Saunders and James raised the matter of deterioration in the C114 road surface.

The clerk was instructed to write to SBC about pot-holes in the Borough section, and to Latton Parish Council about the remainder of the road.

6 COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

6.1 The Chairman distributed details of the current balance of the Fund (addendum 1)

6.2 After discussion it was AGREED that a Newsletter should be distributed making clear to all residents that the Fund was still open and that suggestions for projects for funding, within the parameters set, would be welcome. Cllr James agreed to draft a Newsletter.

6.3 The Chairman brought forward an application from the VCC for replacing fencing in the Play Park, using a more robust system. After Evaluation and discussion it was AGREED that this project should be supported.

6.3 The Chairman brought forward an application from the CEVH Trustees for funding of provision of fans in the Village Hall. This was a suggestion put forward by residents and has been researched by the CEVH Trustees. The proposal was Evaluated but no agreement could be reached. After further discussion the Chairman closed the agendum.

7 FINANCE

Bank account (01529286) balance as at 23.8.2016 **£60,735.27**

Cheques for signature		
Castle Eaton Village Hall (boiler guard)		£168.00
Castle Eaton Village Hall (install cycle racks)		342.00
Castle Eaton Village Hall (electrical work)		4,755.00
Castle Eaton Village Hall (grant and room hire)		756.00
A Gorton salary	342.05	
expenses	41.42	383.47
Post Office Ltd (PAYE to HMRC)		70.45

Bank account after cheques **£54,260.35**

(This includes the sum of £615 'ring-fenced' for the defibrillator)

(Balance of Community Benefit Fund as at 23.8.2016 is £58,989.26, or £53,724.26 if cheques above are signed)

Bank account (deposit account) balance remains at £500.00

It was proposed by Cllr James and seconded by Cllr Sainsbury that these accounts be received and accepted.

8 CORRESPONDENCE

First News – Community First Enews

Public Sector Executive – twice weekly

What's On In Cricklade? – June, 2016

Government News – weekly

SBC Members' Information Bulletin – weekly

Wiltshire Neighbourhood Watch AGM (June 25)

Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group – Patient and Public Involvement Newsletter, June, 2016 - fortnightly

What's On In Cricklade, July 2016

Swindon Clinical commissioning Group - May Governing Body Talking Points

WALC Newsletter, July, 2016

Community First –Enews – August

What's On In Cricklade – August

SLCC – National Conference

Adjacent Government – Government News - weekly

Correspondence with resident about broadband, and subsequently with MP

Community First AGM (October 12)

Swindon Borough Council members' Bulletin Report and Update – weekly

Patient and Public Involvement Newsletter – August, 2016

8.1 The Chairman drew attention to correspondence with a resident about provision of broadband within the parish, noting that Cllr Saunders had written again to the MP seeking information about progress by BT.

The clerk was instructed to respond to the resident informing him of the discussion by the Parish Council, who were waiting for a response from the MP.

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meetings will be held on Thursday, October 20, and Thursday, December 8, both at 7.30pm and in the Village Hall.

Signed (Chairman)

..... (clerk)

..... (date)