



CASTLE EATON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Castle Eaton Parish Council

23rd October 2023

Present

Cllr C Williams - Chair

Cllr S Cooper Caine – Vice Chair

Cllr P Hall

Cllr L McVey

Cllr M Patrick

T. Whyborn (Clerk)

Five residents

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Declarations of Interest

As the Chair of the Village Hall Committee Cllr C Williams declared an interest in the Village Hall section of the Annual Budget

3. Minutes of previous Meeting – 4th September 2023

Minutes agreed and signed by Chair, passed to Clerk.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes of Meeting – 4th September 2023

No Issues Raised

5. Items For Discussion

a. AD Plant Update

Highways have requested a 6-month delay from mid-September 2023 until March 2024 to examine the applicant's responses to their queries and the applicant's proposed mitigations.

The applicant submitted a very detailed and technical document which would only have been understood by a professional traffic manager. Cllr C Williams has written to G Gallegher (Highways Agency) to confirm receipt of the document and to further highlight our continued concerns.

Councillor P Hall has received advice from a resident who has expertise in this area, they highlighted numerous errors and shortcomings in the report and suggested that we should investigate employing a traffic officer. Councillor P Hall to investigate the costs of engaging a traffic officer.

b. Traffic Survey

New Speed signs have been erected on the C114, there is a gap on the lead up to Castle Eaton where the speed goes back up to 60mph for approximately 120m, the discrepancy is due to Wiltshire owning the C114 up to this point, the ownership then moves to Swindon Borough Council. Cllr P Hall suggested that we should contact Latton Parish Council with a request to attend their next Parish Council meeting.

Due to no response from the Head of Roads at Swindon Parish Council after our Traffic Survey, Cllr C Williams has written to Fransceca Stec (Parish liaison officer) to chase this up.

c. Mud on Road C114 (Water Eaton Road)

Concerns have been raised by some residents regarding mud on the C114. Cllr S Cooper Caine experienced this but could not see how this issue could be mitigated. A further concern was raised due to the strong rear-view lights on the back of the tractor.

Resident J. Roberts attended to provide details from the farmer's perspective as to why there was mud on the road whilst the crops were being brought in. It was agreed that while driving on the road, leaving the rear facing lights that illuminate the trailers is illegal and something that could be mitigated by making the appropriate farmer aware. Resident J. Roberts will speak to the tractor drivers regarding the trailer lights.

The mud issue has been exacerbated by this year's weather of a prolonged period of dryness which compacted the mud then extreme wetness. The weather has also led to an extremely limited time that the farmers must get their crops in. Farmers have put out signs making people aware of the dangers of the mud on the road, there is little else that they can do whilst the crops are being brought in. The latest heavy flooding has cleared most of the Roads.

d. Precept Budget

All Councillors agreed that the £750 will remain in the budget, due to a possibility of a General election next year.



The increase in Grass cutting was agreed by all Councillors.

Cllr C Williams will confirm with the Village Hall committee if there will be an increase this year.

The clerk's salary may increase, it is unknown yet.

No other increases have been noted.

A cost may be needed for the engagement of the Traffic Consultant, Cllr P Hall, to investigate the cost.

All Councillors agreed on other line items.

6. Planning Matters

S/HOU/23/1128

Installation of new and replacement windows. At: No.3 Ettone Barns, Castle Eaton Farm Mill Lane Castle Eaton Swindon

There are no details regarding the style of the windows that will be fitted, other than they will be in keeping with current ones. The Parish Council can see no issue if the dormers are as described.

An issue was raised by resident J. Roberts regarding a previous planning application for the same property, see Item 7.

7. RECESS - Residents may raise any matter related to the work of the Parish Council.

Resident J Roberts, pointed to the previous application from 3 Ettone Barns, S/23/0743. He stated that the application has yet to be approved, and the work that has started has not adhered to the submitted plans.

Cllr C Williams, Cllr S Cooper Caine, and T Whyborn will visit the site on Wednesday 1200 to check the details of the planning permission.

Resident J Roberts confirmed that there is not any visual impact on his property, however he is concerned with the effect on the access to his property.

Resident D Saunders suggested that due to the continued lack of response from Swindon Borough Council on numerous issues should the Councillors arrange to go to the offices.

The recent heavy rain caused substantial flooding in the village. It was suggested that the Parish Council should contact Thames Water to check the drainage systems within the village. Cllr C Williams is in dialogue with Thames Water on a personal issue and will bring this to their attention.

Cllr P Hall suggested that the Parish Council meeting minutes only reach a small number of residents, to enable us to reach a wider audience could there be an option to put a shortened version into 'The Messenger'. This may need to be signed off in the same way as the full



Minutes. Cllr S Cooper Caine suggested putting in a link to the website in the magazine. Cllr P Hall is in conversation with April Hill, who runs the magazine, to discuss options.

Cllr P Hall highlighted that there seems to be an increase in dog barking within the village. Resident T Archard said that there is now a problem with people baiting dogs to bark which could be adding to the problem.

8. Finance

a. Bank Statements

Treasurer Account

Transaction Date	Transaction Description	Debit Amount	Credit Amount	Balance
Opening Balance				10,378.32
11/09/2023	Interest		0.47	10,378.79
18/09/2023	Quickbooks	22.80		10,355.99
20/09/2023	Transfer From CBF for Playground		2,595.60	30,021.59
20/09/2023	Transfer From CBF for Playground		17,070.00	27,425.99
21/09/2023	ABA CONSTRUCTION Playground	17,070.00		10,355.99
21/09/2023	ABA CONSTRUCTION Playground	2,595.60		27,425.99
22/09/2023	Precept Payment		9,177.50	19,533.49
28/09/2023	T M WHYBORN	692.81		18,840.68
09/10/2023	Interest		0.46	18,841.14
10/10/2023	HMRC VAT Refund		4,373.88	23,215.02
12/10/2023	Transfer of VAT to CBF for CBF payments	3,871.74		19,343.28
Closing Balance 17th Oct 2023		24,252.95	33,217.91	19,343.28

CBF Bank Account

Transaction Date	Transaction Description	Debit Amount	Credit Amount	Balance
Opening Balance				30,031.65
11/09/2023	INTEREST		28.06	30,059.71
20/09/2023	Transfer to treasurer Acc for Playground	2,595.60		10,394.11
20/09/2023	Transfer to treasurer Acc for Playground	17,070.00		12,989.71
09/10/2023	INTEREST (GROSS)		14.31	10,408.42
12/10/2023	VAT Refund Transfer from Treasurer Acc.		3,871.74	14,280.16
Closing Balance 17th Oct 2023		19,665.60	3,914.11	14,280.16

Bank statements agreed by All Councillors.

b. Ad hoc Payments

£4,000 is still outstanding from the VCC for the playground improvements.

No ad hoc payments.



9. AOB

A resident has sent a note regarding AirBnB's unfortunately it was unable to be opened and resident wasn't in attendance therefore will be raised as an item in the next meeting.

Cllr L McVey will forward the document as a pdf to all Councillors.

10. Date of next Meeting

4th December 2023

Meeting was adjourned at 8.15pm by Cllr Colin Williams – Chairman

Minutes submitted by: Teresa Whyborn - Parish Clerk

Approved by: Cllr Colin Williams - Chair

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Colin Williams' and the signature on the right is 'Teresa Whyborn'.