



CASTLE EATON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Castle Eaton Parish Council 4th December 2023

Present

Cllr C Williams - Chair

Cllr S Cooper Caine – Vice Chair

Cllr P Hall

Cllr L McVey

Cllr M Patrick

T. Whyborn (Clerk)

Four residents

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Declarations of Interest

Chair C Williams declared an interest in the budget for the Village Hall, where he is the Chair.

3. Minutes of previous Meeting – 23rd October 2023

Minutes agreed and signed by Chair, passed to Clerk.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes of Meeting 23rd October 2023

Chair C Williams has written to Gayner Gallagher (Highways) regarding the RSK response. As part of the email, Chair C Williams asked whether Highways transport experts could advise CEPC regarding PICARDY software, of which CEPC has no knowledge. This could preclude CEPC having to hire experts itself.

5. Items for discussion

a. AD Plant Update

A response to the RSK document was sent to Gayner Gallagher and Tom Buxton on behalf of DWG by Louise Kennington and Chair C Williams.

Cllr P Hall suggested that the Castle Eaton specific traffic issues are being confused and tied into the AD plant expansion application. Separating the two items will be more productive. AD HGV traffic using the C114/A419 junction and the C114 as far as Droveaway is potentially the major reason the AD plant may be refused permission.

Cllr P Hall suggested that the Parish Council contact the AD plant owners to request information on what the owners' plans are for the future.

It is understood that Privilege (the company who own the AD plant) are in a lot of debt which is unlikely to be written off. Resident T Archard to provide details of a contact at Privilege. It was agreed by all Councillors for Cllr P Hall to contact Privilege for comment.

b. Traffic Survey update

Jon Harris from SBC had been due to give an update on the previous traffic requests, however could not attend due to ill health, a further invite will be sent for the next meeting.

Cllr P Hall contacted Water Eaton resident J Prior about the latest RSK document. J Prior suggested employing a Traffic Officer to review the document. The budget would be approximately £8k for a Traffic Officer.

As the C114 falls within Latton Parish, Chair C Williams and Cllr P Hall will attend the next Latton Parish Council meeting on the 12th December to discuss the C114 and try to persuade Latton Parish to contribute to the potential Traffic Officer costs.

Cllr P Hall attended a surgery at Highworth with Highworth Councillors. There are 1450 houses being built by the junction with Blunsdon and the A419, along with the other new housing estates in the area which are in the process of being approved. The traffic will only continue to get worse. Discussions are underway regarding a new road network to cope with this.

In addition to the traffic from new housing estates, when the A419 "missing link" is finished, it is likely that A419 traffic loads will increase. Presuming this occurs, it is likely that the inter-carriageway gap at the junction with the C114 will be shut by Highways. The previous Parish Council wrote to Gaynor Gallacher of Highways expressing their view that this crossing should be closed. However, there is no Minute to this effect in Parish records.

Chair C Williams suggested that a letter should be sent to residents to discover if closure is the majority view of residents. The outcome ultimately lies with Highways after their assessments.



c. Airbnb effects on Castle Eaton

A document was submitted by a resident with concerns about how Airbnb's are affecting Castle Eaton. The resident did not attend the meeting to discuss the topic.

The document submitted detailed scenarios where if Airbnb's expand too quickly it could negatively impact local areas close to the Airbnb's. It did not reference Castle Eaton directly.

As Castle Eaton has only two Airbnb's and a diverse selection of other housing stock, it was agreed that the document is not relevant to Castle Eaton and it will have no impact on Castle Eaton's infrastructure.

The Airbnb's owners detailed the advantages each Airbnb has on the village, bringing in extra revenue and providing a place for relatives of residents to stay.

d. Parish Charter

Due to the size of the document a meeting to discuss this will be held on 8th January at 7pm in the Village Hall.

e. Council Tax benefits for Castle Eaton residents

Castle Eaton pays £243,418 in Council Tax, and receives back £18k directly via the Precept. CEPC acknowledges that a proportion of the remainder pays for services such as local waste collection and the Police etc.

Chair C Williams wrote to Francesca Stek (SBC liaison officer) regarding the lack of response from Jon Harris. An initial response from Francesca Stek was received in two days, however the follow-up was not received for 32 days. In the Draft charter from SBC, it states that a response will be received in 21 days.

Resident B Wicks suggested the following ideas for Castle Eaton to become more visible to SBC: -

Castle Eaton should combine with Cricklade and Latton to become one entity. Cllr P Hall said that this would only be possible with Latton as Cricklade is in Wiltshire.

Resident B Wicks gave an example that South Cerney Parish Council and Stratton Parish Council have already achieved this.

Cllr P Hall will contact South Cerney Parish Council to discuss how this works and talk to the Councillors in Highworth to get their ideas.

6. Planning Matters

S/LBC/23/1413 – New Gas supply into Glebe House



Chair C Williams contacted the applicant regarding the positioning of the access to pipework and how it could affect residents using The Street. The applicant is waiting for confirmation from the contractors of the details.

Parish Council have no objection to the application.

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

Resident T Archard highlighted the issues of blocked drains into the village, problems exist in all areas in village.

Is there anything that can be done, as this will cause problems in the future? Responsibility lies with Thames Water, Chair C Williams to write to Thames Water.

8. Finance

a. Budget and Precept Sign off.

Budget agreed by all Councillors, Precept agreed by all Councillors and signed off as required.

b. Bank Statements approval

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Williams', is written in a cursive style.

Treasurer Account

Transaction Date	Transaction Description	Debit Am	Credit A	Balance
Opening balance 17th October 2023				19,343.28
18/10/2023	Quickbooks	22.80		19,320.48
20/10/2023	Parish Council website Annual Cost	120.00		16,903.98
20/10/2023	Village Hall Grant	2,286.50		17,023.98
20/10/2023	Village Hall Hire	10.00		19,310.48
25/10/2023	Printer Ink	13.09		16,890.89
30/10/2023	T M WHYBORN	692.81		16,198.08
03/11/2023	Extra grass Cut	360.00		15,838.08
09/11/2023	Interest		0.55	15,838.63
20/11/2023	Quickbooks	22.80		15,815.83
28/11/2023	T M WHYBORN (Inc Payrise and Backpay)	996.16		14,819.67
Closing Balance 29th November 2023				14,819.67

CBF Account

Transaction Date	Transaction Description	Debit Am	Credit A	Balance
Opening balance 17th October 2023				14,280.16
	45,239.00 INTEREST (GROSS)		15.49	14,295.65
Closing Balance 29th November 2023				14,295.65

Bank Statements approved by all Councillors.

c. Non-Standard payments

No non-standard payments since last meeting

d. Playground payment from VCC.

This has now been received and transferred back to the CBF.

9. AOB

No Councillors wish to claim their allowances.

Cllr P Hall has put together a leaflet which could be posted around the village to give the residents an idea of what the Parish Council are involved in.

Clarification is needed to confirm whether the Parish Council would be liable for any input in the leaflet.

Cllr P Hall will distribute the leaflet for comments.



Councillors unanimously agreed that CEPC will no longer discuss anonymously submitted items.

Cllr P Hall stated that Highworth Councillors would like to be copied in on the minutes.

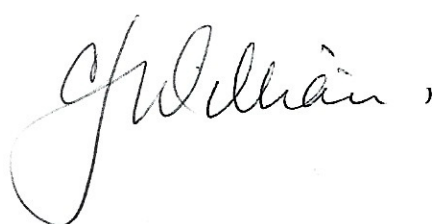
10. Date of next Meeting

22nd January 2024, 7pm Village Hall

Meeting was adjourned at 8.30pm by Cllr Colin Williams – Chairman

Minutes submitted by: Teresa Whyborn - Parish Clerk

Approved by: Cllr Colin Williams - Chair

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