

MINUTES OF THE AILSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 15th JANUARY 2024 AT 7.30PM

at the Cedar Centre, Castor

Present were Councillors: Dr M Ellershaw, Mr S Langston Jones, Mr R Moon, Mrs A Perkins (Chairman) and Mr M Stalley.

Clerk Miss J Rice

Members of the public present: 6; 3 for a planning application, Mr John Hodder (Neighbourhood Plan and Joint Parish Liaison Group) and Mr N Boyce (Chairman of Castor Parish Council) and one other member of the public.

23/132	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. To receive and record apologies sent to the Clerk. There were apologies received from Mrs J Pickett.
23/133	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive all declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda. Reminder to members to update their register if necessary. (Members should disclose any personal, prejudicial or pecuniary interests in the business to be discussed and are reminded that the disclosure of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest will require that the member withdraws from the meeting room during the transaction of that item of business). There were no declarations of interest made.
23/134	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION Arrangements will be made for the public to join the meeting and a maximum of 15 minutes will be permitted for members of the public to address the meeting on any item on the agenda. A member of the public thanked the council for their time. He expressed his disappointment at the response sent by the Parish Council in respect of his planning application, especially in respect of the 3-storey objection and stated it is not 3 storey, but 2 storeys with a loft and still within the Neighbourhood Plan. He stated he feels the materials are in the village already and the colours have been supported elsewhere. He expressed his sadness at their perceived hostile behaviour towards the family from neighbours since and deterioration in relationships. He was advised to discuss the permitted development element with the local planning authority and to cite comparative properties in Ailsworth, not Castor, plus he can amend plans or appeal against a decision – not made by the Parish Council. It was confirmed that the Parish Council would only change their response if new and relevant information came to light. Mr N Boyce was there to confirm he is standing as City Councillor in the Peterborough First (Independent) Party in the May 2024 elections.
23/135	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (previously circulated) and matters arising To confirm as correct the record of the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18th December 2023, Chairman to sign, previously circulated. The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.
23/136	FINANCE, GOVERNANCE AND TRAINING
136.1	To receive and note quarterly finance report to end of December 2023 for any monetary decisions, here-with. The Clerk ran through the report, mainly that the basic expenditure budget is at 70% spent, at 75% through the year. Project monies are not spent (not part of precept) as hedge done last year and no more traffic calming planned in the end. Some budget lines are underspent ie tree work but survey due soon. This was agreed and advice on tree T31 to be sought. Groundwork is overspent but nature recovery grass cutting is underspent. Reserve levels predicted are adequate. Bank balance is 33k but includes 19k CIL monies for community infrastructure, and 10k earmarked. A VAT refund is due of 6k.
136.2	To note burial grounds invoice/costs compared to budget figure and resolve action, asked PCC. The Clerk confirmed that the precept forms had been resubmitted to account for the higher burial grounds invoice – the precept remained the same overall as slighter more will now come from reserves, and the parish amount, meaning the % increase also stayed the same. The burial grounds figures will be circulated and a question over how expenses are agreed. Action Clerk
136.3	To note training opportunities and agree any new bookings, circulated. Cllr Perkins attended Action Plans. There were no requests for training courses and Cllr Perkins fed back about the Action Plans course.
136.4	To note period of bi-election ends 16/1/24 and process for co-option to vacant councillor position. The process was outlined and confirmed. A poster advertising for a new Councillor will be put up and Councillors should start to canvass. Action All

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

	136.5	To decide new bank signatory and start process. It was agreed that Cllr Stalley will be a new signatory to replace M Samways. Action Clerk
	136.6	To receive and note advice from insurers re volunteer cover for general tasks. The Clerk confirmed the insurers will only cover volunteers doing low level and low risk tasks and a risk assessment is always needed. The age limits for cover are for 16- 75 yos, so need to clarify putting up bunting and tree lights and hall setting up. Action Clerk
23/137	METHODIST CHAPEL	
	137.1	To discuss any village group interest in purchase of the Chapel and resolve relevant action/support. Cllr Perkins reported from the recent subgroup meeting with residents over the sale of the chapel by the Methodists. It is confirmed that they support the use of the building as a community facility and one person is interested in buying for herself and another from a village group and will be checking the inside of the building. The Parish Council agreed they would in principle support a venture from a village group and would discuss in more detail once a business plan and costs were known. There was no decision regarding financial support, but it was suggested a resident survey or ballot could maybe be carried out at a later date. A response will be sent to the individuals. A member of public asked that considerations be given to the neighbours for any future planning application, in terms of noise and privacy. Action Cllr Perkins
23/138	PLANNING; TO NOTE LATEST APPLICATIONS AND RESOLVE RESPONSES TO NEW ONES The following was noted.	
	138.1	To receive applications between issuing agenda and date of meeting and decide if can agree response. There were none.
	138.2	23/01416/CTR Fell large box Elder in front garden at 7A Maffit Road. Sent response. Application refused.
	138.3	23/01330/LBC Replacement windows and patio door at 47 Main St. Response sent. Permitted 20/12
	138.4	23/01666/HHFUL demolition of former side 1 ½ extension and construction of 2 ½ storey extension, including loft conversion, entrance porch and external works, s/s outbuilding and brickwork walls with metal railings at 11 Holme Close. Objection response sent, awaiting decision.
	138.5	23/01589/CTR Tree of heaven reduce crown by 35% and reduce overhanging. Support sent. Permitted 19/12
	138.6	23/01330/LBC replacement windows and patio door at 47 Main St. Permitted 20/12/23.
	138.7	To note form re Local Plan review development sites submitted to City Council planning dept. Thanks to Cllr Moon for compiling the comments were noted.
	138.8	To receive and note feedback from the PCC Local Plan meeting. An overview from the meeting was given regarding the timescale for the Local Plan and review period, noting that the target number of housing pa is questionable and high. The NP will still hold weight, but the newest plan could dominate. The village size status of medium was questioned and confirmed as relating to services, which will be challenged in June 2024.
	138.9	To receive and note communication from ICON TOWER about a planned siting of a mobile phone mast on Peterborough Road, Sutton. Resolve initial response. It was agreed to await a full planning application before making a comment. Action Clerk to reply.
23/139	ALLOTMENTS, PARISH LAND MANAGEMENT GROUP PLMG (Cllr Ellershaw, Cllr Moon, Cllr Pickett and Cllr Stalley) and NATURE RECOVERY GROUP	
	139.1	To clarify members of all groups and terms of reference and any changes needed on process. It was agreed to do this via email. Action all
	139.2	To receive and note update from Nature Recovery Group, including the water harvester update/costs/risk assessment. It was agreed to move this to near the end of the agenda, however no expenses were submitted.
	139.3	To receive feedback from the City Council on installation of a gate at the allotment gap/site. The Clerk confirmed that PCC have said a gate onto the highway is not permitted. It was agreed to let allotment holders know that they do not sanction the use of the gap and a gate is not permitted. Action Clerk
	139.4	To receive feedback on PECT grant application and information on village pond and agree a way forward. It was agreed this will be put on the February agenda.
	139.5	To receive any feedback on New Close rental and other landowner interest received.

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

		It was agreed that 2 Councillors will attend the meeting with PECT and the PCs to discuss possible rental as a joint approach with Castor. Photos of the dilapidated shelter will be obtained for action. Action Cllrs Ellershaw and Stalley	
23/140	PARISH COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN		
	140.1	C/F To receive the draft action plan and discuss/agree taking into account budget ideas and CIL amount of 19k. Agree content. Cllr Perkins adjusted the plan due to the vacant position and the content was noted.	
23/141	PLAY AREA		
	141.1	C/F To receive and note risk assessment for play area/equipment and check/agree, herewith. Cllr Perkins had completed a new risk assessment and the issue regarding moles was discussed and agreed to be left due to excessive rain. It was noted a first aid kit is needed for all events.	
23/142	VILLAGE GROUPS / UPDATES		
	142.1	To note village group donations budget remaining and consider any new requests. The new requests were received and noted. It was agreed to donate £450 to the Friends of the Castor School for projects, and £1000 underwritten to the events group for K900 this year and more if needed next year, once form received. The Scouts have had some already so no more is permitted in same year. The Neighbourhood Watch request could wait if not urgent as budget in demand. The village tribune invoice for £125 will be paid as before. Action Clerk	
23/143	PARISH LIAISON/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/JOINT MEETINGS		
	143.1	To note new date for Joint Parish Liaison Group meeting. Mr Hodder suggested 29/2 or 15/2 and the 29/2 at the new time of 19.30 was agreed best – to be put to Castor PC.	
	143.2	To receive and note feedback from Castor Parish Council meeting, Cllr Pickett. There had been no meeting as it was postponed until 18/2/24.	
23/144	PARISH MAINTENANCE ISSUES		
	144.1	To receive and note feedback from Councillor asset checks and agree any action needed. Cllr Perkins. Cllr Perkins reported all benches are in good order.	
	144.2	To note branches over bus shelter tree application submitted. This was noted.	
	144.3	To check new defib checks/rota and resolve any issues. The rota is in place and training between councillors is working well.	
	144.4	To note verges in Helpston Road to be addressed by developer, Hereward Homes. The developer has agreed to re-seed them again as a goodwill gesture. This was noted and appreciated.	
	144.5	To note resident issue with flooding in Holme Close/horse field and resolve action. Cllr Langston Jones reported an issue with the recent heavy rain affecting Holme Close more than normal. It was noted to be a lot of rain at once but some action by the landowners is necessary and a ditch installed - it was noted a tree nursery nearby will help. Action Clerk to contact Homes England and PCC	
	144.6	To note graffiti removal and resolve any more action. It was noted that this is on the street signs and will be reported on fix my street.com plus a contact will be approached to help. Action all The goal holes will be sought via a metal detector. Action Cllr Stalley.	
23/145	CLERK REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE: To receive and note correspondence and decide any actions. The rates for CGM grass cutting for 24/25 season were communicated and confirmed – they were itemised previously in the contract to 2025.		
23/146	ORDERS FOR PAYMENT; The following payments were agreed to be made as follows:		
	146.1	Clerk pay 26 hours pm £395.46 plus £26 home office less tax/NI	£342.46
	146.2	Clerk; Reimburse ink shared pm J Rice paid December	£4.22
	146.3	Clerk; mileage Dec/Jan	£9.90
	146.4	HMRC employer/ee payment for February	£79
	146.5	Cedar Centre for meetings room hire	£60
	146.6	Burial grounds share of costs, pay in April	£2530.57
	146.7	Donation to Friends of Castor School	£450
	146.8	ICO data protection subs by direct debit	£35
	146.9	Cllr Ellershaw for Xmas lights/decs	£75.83
	146.10	Village Tribune	£125
23/147	RECTS	None	

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

23/148	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting was agreed as the 19 th February 2024 at 7.30pm to be held in the Cedar Centre, Castor.
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See notice board/website (www.ailsworthparishcouncil.org.uk) for dates of meetings. Any associated papers/information are available by request from the Clerk at clerk@ailsworth-pc.gov.uk

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____