

CASTLE BYTHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2018

Present

Cllr Dennis (Chairman), Cllr Harvey (Vice Chairman), Cllrs Candler, Goodman, Hayward, Hinton, Martindale, Webber.

In attendance

County Cllr Mr B Adams, District Cllr Mr M Wilkins, 4 members of the public.

Apologies

Cllr Thomas

1. Declarations of interest

Cllr Dennis and Cllr Candler regarding item 5.

2. Approve minutes 20 December 2017

The notes of the 20 December 2017 meeting were approved as minutes and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Harvey, seconded by Cllr Goodman, all in favour.

3. Matters arising

A. Cllr Dennis gave a report following the Village Hall Committee's last meeting - the current running costs were £3,000; in 2017 net income exceeded fixed costs by £632. The new stage curtains and runners (£1,300) were the largest capital expenditure; new crockery has been purchased and emergency funds were used for the boiler room roof repairs. Refurbishment of the toilet block- details of grant result awaited; preferred dates for building work would be July/August. The new key system was working well, allowing regular users access on specific dates and times only. The need for fire alarms and regulatory requirements are being investigated. Membership of Community Lincs Community Buildings Association to be continued at a cost of £45. B. District Cllr Mr M Wilkins will inform the Parish Council of the date applications S17/2153 and S17/1499 will be discussed at Committee. Cllr Wilkins has arranged for a planning event to take place on 31 January at the Toft Hotel at 19.30, with Mrs Sylvia Bland from SKDC.

4. Discuss purchase of dog waste bins

District Cllr Mr M Wilkins to give advice at the next meeting.

5. Discuss donation to village hall committee

The Councillors approved the grant of £5,000 to the CBVH Committee towards the cost of refurbishing the toilet block. Proposed by Cllr Candler, seconded by Cllr Harvey, all in favour, with following caveat: the grant will be paid against invoices to the grant's total value as they arise rather than in a lump sum before building begins; three quotations should be obtained.

6. Discuss donation to senior residents' Christmas lunch

The Councillors were in favour of Cllr Dennis's suggestion of a grant in principle; organisers of the Christmas lunch will be contacted.

7. Discuss donation to children's Christmas party

The Councillors agreed to wait for a formal request should there be a need in future.

8. LCC highway grass cutting

It was agreed for the PC to take responsibility for the grass cutting and ask LCC to reimburse the 4.4p/sq/m for the areas they used to cut twice a year. Cllr Hinton had calculated exact areas - 9000 sq/m and will prepare maps for every location; a schedule of cuts will be drawn up and the grass cutting budget increased. Item on the agenda at the February meeting.

9. Precept 2018/19

Cllr Goodman to send Amenities Committee's expected expenditure for 2018/19. Clerk to request a precept of up to £14,000 depending on the AC's figures.

[Post meeting note: a precept request of £13,000 was subsequently sent to SKDC].

10. Discuss set up of planning working party

Cllr Dennis and Cllr Goodman suggested setting up a planning working party which, on receipt of planning applications would make site visits and prepare notes for the PC. The PWP would also check that conditions attached to granted planning applications were adhered to. No decision was taken and the item will be back on the agenda.

11. Planning - S17/1315 – Mr N Perry. Erection of cottage and garage and demolition of existing farm buildings and erection of house with integral garage. The Priory Farmyard, 14 Station Road, Castle Bytham

A number of Councillors had been on a site visit prior to the meeting. The Councillors voted against the application by a majority for the following reasons:

- The proposed house would be in close proximity of St James' Church (Circa 1151, Grade 1 Listed), The Priory (Circa 1472, Grade 2* Listed) and its barns – both listed buildings and Heritage assets in the Conservation Area; The Priory is the oldest dwelling in the village.
- The proposed house has a very large footprint; its height was a concern – the removal of trees (leylandi) would make the dominance of the proposed dwelling even more severe.
- There were wildlife concerns because of the nesting owl and the bat population.
- The water supply to the church and The Old School House would have to be re-routed as it currently runs across The Priory Farmyard.

The Councillors wished for the application to go to Committee.

The Councillors would consider further applications, should the issues aforementioned be addressed.

12. Parish Council administration (at the request of Cllr Martindale), re the structuring of the agenda and the circularisation of documentation

Deferred.

13. Amenities Committee - riparian owners' proposed work at the pond at a cost of 1,000 - £1,200 to the parish council

Cllr Goodman was expecting a short report from Ponds UK on the riparian owners' proposal to drain the pond to remove silt. Clerk to write to the three riparian owners to ask for the specific reasons for this proposed action as the PC was not convinced that it was necessary; no mention about testing the silt had been made and this needed addressing. It was agreed that the riparian owners would have to meet the cost of silt removal and transportation. The Amenities Committee Working Party had scheduled 24 and 25 February for volunteers to do work at the cemetery, including cutting back trees.

14. Correspondence – seen

- Smaller authorities audit appointments - notification of external auditor appointments for the 2017/18 financial year. The annual return will now be known as the 'annual governance and accountability return' and will need to be completed in accordance with 'proper practices' as set out in 'Governance and accountability for smaller authorities in England, a practitioners' guide', and then published in accordance with the applicable transparency codes. The new forms will be sent electronically by the appointed auditor [PKF Littlejohn LLP for Lincolnshire].
- PFF Littlejohn LLP - interactive webinar on 23 January at 11 am-12.30 pm for a one hour powerpoint presentation and a 30 mn Q and A session. The webinar will be recorded and made available.
- Clerks and Councils Direct magazine.
- LCC - road closure from 7.2.2018 to 9.2.2018; High St (between Cumberland Gdns and Pinfold Rd) for essential maintenance works by Clancy Docwra/Anglian Water.

15. Accounts

Cheque approved:

Snowbird - upper green Christmas tree £120.00

16. AOB

The construction of a waiting area concrete base next to Station Rd bus shelter had gone to tender.

