

CASTLEMORTON PARISH

Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 11 May 2023 at the Parish Hall, commencing at 7.00 pm

Present: Parish Councillors: Don Lupton (Chairman), David Smallwood, Mike Wilkinson, Nigel Baker and Hilary Flanders.

In Attendance: Christina Leake (PC Clerk)

Members of the Public: 6

1A/23 Apologies: CCllr Tom Wells. PCllrs D Fisher, J Hubbard and E Wilkes

2A/23. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12 May 2022 be signed by the Chairman as being a true record of that meeting.

3A23 Matters Arising

None

4A/23 Report by the Chairman of the Parish Council

The Chairman presented the report of parish council proceedings and activity over the last 12 months including: welcome to new councillor, Dr Powell, the necessity for a precept increase, a high volume of planning applications taking much time for PC comments, work with highways and footpaths, responding to various consultations and the Electoral Commission review. The Chairman noted our thanks for the much-valued contribution and support given by our former District Councillor, Mick Davies. New initiatives included the environment sub-group and its activities, the purchase and installation of a defibrillator following fund raising (with particular thanks to Castlemorton Common Association) and circulating a bi-monthly leaflet following the demise of the parish magazine. The Chairman noted the Parish Hall was attracting even more use and that the extension project has been a significant community achievement. In conclusion, the Chairman thanked fellow members for all their support.

5A/23. Finance Report by the Responsible Finance Officer

Details as attached and explained:

Opening balance of £8,826.15, receipts of £15,261.97 & expenditure of £20,582.49 and a **closing balance of £3,505.63**.

- The Responsible Finance Officer reported on financial records commencing with a few outstanding matters re hall extension. Although works are completed there was the final retention invoice and lottery funding to complete the project accounts which will leave sufficient funds for parish council activities in the ensuing year.

6A/23 County/District Councillor Reports

Both councillors were unable to attend but members took the opportunity to thank them for their contribution to matters over the year. Particularly thanks to DCllr Mick Davies, who had not sought re-election at the recent May elections for his diligent support to parish matters. Following Electoral Commission Review the boundary changes means that Castlemorton is

now in the Castlemorton, Wells & Welland Ward and this ward will be served by 2 district councillors, John Gallagher and Christina Wild. The Parish Council looks forward to learning how they will work with us and to welcoming them to future meetings.

7A/23 Reports

Parish Hall Trust: Included the healthy state of the financial affairs of the hall with an increasing level of bookings compared to pre covid and some capital expenditure on internal door sound proofing improvements. Thanks particularly to the team who manage all hall facilities. Full report on website.

Footpaths: Cllr Flanders reported on footpath activity as regards maintenance and the support from WCC. There is also the new ongoing project of seeking to register the track from the B4208 up to Worcestershire Wildlife property alongside Bannut Tree House. Full report on website.

Highways: Cllr Smallwood highlighted the remedial highway activity which takes place especially in conjunction with the lengthsman and water leak notifications to Severn Trent. Also included: Ongoing work at Chandlers Cross with kerbing now in place, pavement repairs by the church, and flooding due to drainage issues near Cherry Orchard. Full report on website.

CEAG: Cllr Fisher noted in her report the increasing enthusiasm in the range of activity and projects for the committee. Full report on website.

8A/23 Public Comments

No further comments from parishioners.

9A/23. Acknowledgment

The chairman thanked everyone for their support in attending this meeting.

Parishioners expressed their thanks to the chairman, Don Lupton and Cllr Wilkes for their very valued contributions to Parish Council life over the last 15 and 12 years respectively, following their decisions not to seek re-election at the recent May elections.

With no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 7.40pm

Signed..... Date.....