

## CASTLEMORTON PARISH

### Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 22 May 2025 at the Parish Hall, commencing at 7.00 pm

**Present:** **Parish Councillors:** Mike Wilkinson (Chairman), Jeremy Hubbard, Dan Bowker, Hilary Flanders, Dawn Fisher, Yvonne Milne and Rebecca Rollinson

**In Attendance:** Christina Leake (PC Clerk) DCllrs Christine Wild & John Gallagher

**Members of the Public:** 4

**1A/25 Apologies:** PCllrs N Baker, and CCllr T Wells

#### **2A/25. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23 May 2024 be signed by the Chairman as being a true record of that meeting.

#### **3A/25 Matters Arising**

None

#### **4A/25 Report by the Chairman of the Parish Council**

The Chairman presented a comprehensive report noting various matters of the parish council proceedings and activity over the last 12 months with acknowledgements to the support from fellow councillors and their responsibilities. Particular mention of increased precept, success of hall management and hirers, Liaison with WCC over highway matters and footpath maintenance, Consideration over planning applications with the appeal refused for the traveller site, Supporting involvement with Birtsmorton Parish Council and land owner over the potential siting of a mobile phone mast to improve connectivity in the area, a planning application is awaited, Management of the War Memorial restoration project, The production of the monthly What's On, The very successful activities of the environmental group. Representation on local groups including Malvern Hills Trust and interaction with district and county councillors.

#### **5A/25. Finance Report by the Responsible Finance Officer**

Details as attached and explained:

**Opening balance of £5,854.07**, receipts of £12,749.66 & expenditure of £7,888.06 and a **closing balance of £10,715.67. Restricted Funding of £5,371.59**

- The Responsible Finance Officer reported on financial records particularly highlighting the increasing income of restricted funding. This largely due to the Environmental Group raising funds for their activities in addition to the War Memorial Project and the Community Infrastructure Levy from new builds in the Parish.

#### **6A/25 County/District Councillor Reports**

Brief mention of the availability of the Community Grant Scheme, applications open until 6 June. District and County Matters are largely dominated by the future with Local Government

Reorganisation and Devolution. What will be the result in 2 years time as regards the proposed Unitary Authority? Proposals are being considered for public consultation in June. Mention of the first new Worcestershire County Council and first meeting, post elections, with Reform party member appointed as Leader. (Tom Wells was re-elected member for Powick and Longdon Division)

### **7A/25 Reports**

**Parish Hall Trust:** Included the healthy state of the financial affairs of the hall with a steady level of bookings and enhanced with the benefits of FITs from the PV's.

**Footpaths:** Cllr Flanders report included footpath activity as regards maintenance with the support of WCC officers, landowners and the lengthsman.

**Highways:** Cllr Rollinson reported on the project completed at Cherry Orchard, some drainage issues to be explored as regards riparian matters and the continued efforts of the excellent lengthsman as regular flooding areas.

**CEG:** Cllr Fisher noted in her report the continued increasingly successful range of activity including talks, visits and the churchyard project.

### **8A/25 Public Comments**

Update on future administration of St Gregory's Church. Present incumbent to retire at the end of June and contact on any church requirements will be through churchwardens. Arrangements in hand to progress with the advertising of the vacancy. The 2 Benefices Longdon and Berrow have been working together for the past 18 months.

No further comments from parishioners.

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

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