

## CASTLE RISING PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of an extraordinary Castle Rising Parish Council meeting held in the Cricket Club on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 commencing at 6pm

#### **Present**

Cllr. J. Taylor (Chair)  
Cllr. C. Smith  
Cllr C. Curtis

Cllr D. Webb (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr G. Cheney

#### **Apologies**

None

#### **Declarations of Interest**

None

#### **Co-option to CRPC**

Following the resignation of Lord Howard and Mr. Goddard, the Electoral Services Manager at the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk confirmed on the 4<sup>th</sup> December that the post vacated by Lord Howard will be filled by an election on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and, because the post vacated by Mr. Goddard had been advertised for the statutory period but no application for an election had been made, it may be filled by the Parish Council by co-option.

Two applications were received for the appointment, one of which was subsequently withdrawn due to pressure of work. The sole applicant, Mrs Sarah Savage, is eligible for co-option to the Parish Council, and was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr. Smith. The Parish Council unanimously voted in favour of her co-option. Mrs Savage completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was welcomed to the Parish Council by the Chair.

#### **AOB**

##### **Traffic Management Working Group**

A meeting of the Traffic Management Working Group was held on 13<sup>th</sup> December. Cllr. Smith will circulate a summary of their discussions to Councillors in due course. The blue 'conservation area please slow down' signs at both ends of the village was raised as an issue. From the accounts, it was clear that the Parish Council paid £1800 for the signs and a further £700 for installation (approximate figures) and therefore the Parish Council owned the signs outright. These signs were installed by the previous Parish Council as an alternative to a 30mph speed limit but there was no evidence that these signs had any effect on traffic speed. More investigative work is being undertaken and the opinion of the village will be sought before any decision is made about these signs.

### Press Coverage

There has been considerable press coverage following the resignation of Lord Howard. There are many inaccuracies in the reports that most residents will be aware of, for example, describing the five councillors that represented the majority wishes of residents and voted for the 30mph speed limit motion as 'newcomers' when they have collectively resided in Castle Rising for over 150 years. Nonetheless, the Parish Council has decided not to engage with the press by making a public statement.

### Minutes of Meetings of the 6<sup>th</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup> November

At their meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November, the Parish Council agreed to sign off the minutes of the meetings of 6<sup>th</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup> November, believing them to be an accurate record. However, the Chair stated that it has now become clear, particularly due to press misreporting and comments received from residents, that the minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> October are insufficiently detailed to enable a reader who was not present at the meeting to gain a full understanding of the events and discussions at that meeting. Furthermore, the minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> November contain an incorrect statement, and the motion proposed without proper notice by the then Chair to dismiss proposed amendments in total without further discussion should not have been allowed.

The Parish Council therefore agreed that the minutes of both the 6<sup>th</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup> November meetings should be revisited, and a special motion will be brought forward in accordance with Standing Order 7 to reverse the decision to sign off the minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup> November, reverting these minutes to draft status that may be amended in accordance with Standing Order 12 (c&d).

### Electricity Bill and Street Lighting

Concern was expressed about the cost of the electricity bill that is apparently for just 6 or 7 street lights. This matter will be investigated further by the Acting Clerk and the RFO and reported at a subsequent meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6:50pm.

Chair:.....