

OLD CATTON PARISH COUNCIL, MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON THURSDAY 24TH APRIL 2008
AT THE VILLAGE HALL, CHURCH STREET

PRESENT: Mr D Thompson - Chairman
Mr J Arnott Mrs A Chandler Mr C Green
Mr A Lovett Mrs G Masdin Mr B Palmer
Mrs A Riches Mr B Sabberton-Coe Miss P Wilkin
Mrs J Williams

Mr S Dunn – Norfolk County Councillor
2 residents

APOLOGIES for absence were accepted from Mr B Leggett

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting.

79. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr B Sabberton-Coe and Mr. D Thompson declared their personal interest in the Catton Park Trust.

80. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF 27.3.2008

The minutes, which had been circulated, were confirmed as a true record, and signed by the Chairman.

The meeting was adjourned for public discussion.

The meeting resumed.

81. PLANNING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

81.1. Mr B Sabberton-Coe PROPOSED the confirmation and adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 14.4.2008. AGREED.

81.2. Matters arising from the minutes.

Minute 105. Cemetery roundabout. The Chairman and Committee Chairman had approved the lower of two quotations in the sum of £1,050.00 for the work to clear and level the area. The work would be carried out in the next few weeks.

Minute 103.4. Improvements to Recreation Ground entrance driveway. It was hoped to have quotations for the Committee's consideration at its next meeting.

Minute 111.1. Highways matters. It was noted that Norfolk County Council planned to remove the overgrown and weed infested shrubs at either side of the entrance to the car park at the Somerfield shopping area at The Paddocks.

81.3. Finance, to confirm approval of payments and receipts.

The Committee had scrutinized the lists as the Finance and Property Committee had not met. Mr C Green PROPOSED that the lists be approved. AGREED.

82. PROPOSAL THAT THE CLERK OF THE COUNCIL SHOULD ACT AS COMPANY SECRETARY OF THE CATTON PARK TRUST AS FROM 17TH JUNE 2008 AND THE CLERK'S HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT BE INCREASED FROM 30 TO 32 HOURS PER WEEK

The Chairman explained that Mr K Leggett had resigned as Company Secretary of the Catton Park Trust with effect from the 17th June 2008. It was PROPOSED by Mr B Palmer and SECONDED by Miss P Wilkin that the job description of Clerk of the Council be amended to include this role and the hours of employment be increased from 30 to 32 hours per week.

Mrs G Masdin PROPOSED, and Mrs J Williams SECONDED, an amendment that discussion of this item be deferred for further discussion by the Finance and Policy Committee before a decision was made by the Council. This amendment was lost by a majority vote.

The Chairman invited a full discussion of the agenda proposal and members expressed their views for and against. Some members felt the work should be carried out by a volunteer. Other members felt it was important that the work was carried out professionally in the Council office; the Council had a valuable connection with the Park and should support Catton Park in this way as it was to the benefit of the Village community.

It was noted that the Council was empowered to do this by the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act of 1976, s19, and the Local Government Act of 1972, s 137.

A recorded vote was requested and AGREED.

Those voting in favour of the proposal were Mr J Arnott, Mrs A Chandler, Mr C Green, Mr A Lovett, Mr B Palmer, Mrs A Riches and Miss P Wilkin.

Mrs G Masdin and Mrs J Williams voted against the proposal.

Mr B Sabberton-Coe and Mr D Thompson did not vote as they had a personal interest as Trustees of the Catton Park Trust.

The proposal was AGREED.

83. UNITARY COUNCILS FOR NORFOLK

A précis of the relevant parts of Norfolk County Council's presentation to a meeting with Clerks of Quality Councils had been copied to members. The County's full bid to the Boundary Committee was available on its website.

Norfolk County Council wished to let the Boundary Committee know Quality Parish Councils' reactions to the relevant parts of its bid.

It was noted that the bid included replacing the present 3 tier system of local government with a new system with 3 tiers; there would be the unitary authority, a new Community Partnership Board which would include representatives of Parish and Town Councils and Parish and Town Councils, possibly with enhanced responsibilities.

It was PROPOSED by Mr J Arnott that the Council should respond expressing its pleasure that Norfolk County Council was interested in working with local councils in future, especially as its past record had not been impressive; however the concept of a new 3 tier system where one tier was an unelected quango was not supported. AGREED.

84. REPORT OF VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Mrs A Chandler reported that the recent coffee morning had been successful.

85. CATTON PARK

Mr D Thompson reminded the meeting of the Service of Dedication which would be conducted by Bishop Graham on 11th May 2008.

Fifteen seats were being placed in the Park; some of which had been paid for by sponsors. The Warden had arranged volunteer groups to work in the Park and this attracted additional funding. The tractor, to which the Council had contributed, had been acquired.

Mr J Arnott, as Parish Tree Warden, reported that individual Tree Preservation Orders had been revoked by Broadland District Council as the Park was part of the Conservation Area.

Mr B Sabberton-Coe reminded the meeting that the Trust had to work very hard to stay within its budget and that funds were used very carefully.

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and closed the meeting at 8.25 p.m.

Chairman, 22nd May 2008