

Minutes of the Meeting of Caldecott Parish Council held on Thursday 14th November 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

**Present
2024/64** Cllrs A Parker (Acting-Chair), L McCole and W Kendrick, Mrs Medwell (Clerk), County Cllr Andrew Brown, J Wilkinson (Allotment Site Representative) and 12 members of the public.

**Apologies
2024/65** Cllrs B Hook and A MacDermott - approved.

**Declarations
2024/66** There were no Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda nor any changes to the Members' Register of Interests.

**Minutes
2024/67** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th July 2024 were approved as a true record of the meeting and duly signed by the Chair.

Proposed Cllr McCole Seconded Cllr Kendrick

The Council was unable to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th September 2024. These will be deferred to the next meeting.

**Matters
Arising
2024/68** There were no matters arising from the last minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

**2024/69
Open Forum** Mr Wilkinson reported on the allotments. He advised that following the recent theft, a chain and combination lock had been put on the gate. He raised the overgrown hedges which were encroaching on the plots and needed cutting back. There will be two vacant plots from 1st January. It was suggested that these be divided in two if there was a demand for half plots.

A question was asked whether the obsolete dog poo bin on The Green would be replaced. The Council explained that it had received a quote for £604 from RCC to supply and install a mixed waste bin to replace this but was currently waiting to see whether the existing waste bin on The Green was sufficient before committing to purchase another at the site. Other site locations for a bin were discussed.

The Council was informed that the footpath over the bridge was obstructed by brambles and was therefore a hazard to pedestrians. The Clerk will contact the landowner to request that both this and the particularly obscured Caldecott sign on the southern gateway is cut back. **JM**

The planning application at Meadow Farm was raised. Residents were very concerned that the Design and Access Statement contained inaccurate information, including measurements of the highway, footpath access, number of bats and potential vehicle movement. Concerns were also raised that the adjoining land may be developed further and also that the welfare of local children would be impacted with the extra traffic. The Council urged all residents affected by this proposed development to submit individual objections with valid material considerations to RCC.

**Highways and
Rights of Way
2024/70** The Council noted the email from Alicia Kearns MP with the response from RCC Head of Highways and Transport. Rutland County Council is about to launch a comprehensive review of its Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) to align with both national and local planning, transport, and environmental policies. The Inclusion of a bypass for Caldecott in the LTP4 and the

subsequent implementation plan (Strategic Transport Investment Plan), is subject to this policy review. Additionally, RCC is awaiting the direction from the new government in terms of spending priorities to inform these plans. Ms Kearns MP will continue to push for the survey to be carried out as part of RCC's review and urged the Council to continue to lobby its local RCC Councillor.

The Council noted the response from Uppingham Town Council in which it stated that it is supportive of any initiative to reduce traffic congestion and HGVs in the village and Town centre and to encourage HGVs to travel along the A43 rather than the A6003. It will look to address these issues on an ongoing basis.

County Cllr Brown undertook to liaise with the Northants County Councillors on any planned changes to local infrastructure affected by the proposed West Corby SUE.

**Parish Assets
2024/71**

Routine Inspection of Assets

It was noted that the playpark assets were in order, with minor repairs undertaken. Dog fouling continues to be an issue again with the darker nights. Cllr McCole undertook to review the other parish assets and report back at the next meeting. She advised that new replacement pads for the defibrillator had been ordered

LM

Allotments

The Council discussed the problematic fence between playpark and allotments which had been pulled down again. The Council felt that a more substantial barrier needed to be installed. The Council approved the £30 for the sign for the allotment gates stating 'Caldecott Parish Council. No public access. Authorised personnel only'. The Council **agreed** to follow up with Cllr MacDermott on his contact with the hedge cutting contractor to cut both the inside and outside of roadside hedge and a follow up on his request for a quote from the mowing contractor to trim back the remaining internal hedges.

AP

To approve Garden Plot Tenancy

The Council **agreed** to extend the existing garden plot agreement for another seven years from 18th November 2024. A clause was added to the termination of tenancy section to read that the tenancy will be terminated if the tenant sells or lets the property at 11 Mill Lane. The Council **agreed** to increase the price to £20 per annum for the seven-year duration of the tenancy.

Proposed Cllr Kendrick Seconded Cllr McCole All in favour.

**Planning
2024/72**

2024/062 2024/1241/FUL Meadow Farm, The Green Demolition of existing buildings and erection of three new dwellings.

The Council objected to this application on the following grounds.

i) Access - Concerns regarding the narrow access to the site and the validity of the road width measurements which may not accommodate larger vehicles. It also has concerns with increased traffic turning in and out of the development, particularly as this area is frequented by children.

ii) Parking overflow - Concerns regarding parking overflow from the development onto the adjoining Village Green. Problems occur when The Green becomes congested with park cars, as clearance is required for a Primary School bus to drop off and turn around.

iii) Visual impact – The imposing height of the proposed properties is out of keeping in relation to the existing houses and that they appear to overlook Burgess Row. There has also been no effort to utilise the existing stone building or materials. It also has concerns with the demolition of the existing stone building forming a boundary to the gardens of Burgess Row and the nature of any replacement boundary.

iii) Ecology - The development will have a negative impact on wildlife, particularly bats which are present there.

The Council also highlighted the importance of the public footpath crossing the adjoining grassland. This route forms an important nature walk for residents and part of the only circular route which is not on the busy main road.

**Finance
2024/73**

a) To commence 2025/26 budget setting process

Preliminary discussions took place on the budget for next year. The Council discussed including an allocation for hedge cutting and a new allotment fence once quotes have been received and also a new bin. The final draft budget will be presented to the Council for approval and the precept set at the next meeting.

b) To approve Payments

The following payments were presented for approval and unanimously agreed.

J McCole	Grass Cutting	£520.00		OSA 1906 s.15
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c) Bank Reconciliation

Lloyds Account £8,647.14

The Bank Reconciliation was unanimously approved and then duly signed by the Chair.

All matters pertaining to finance are displayed on the website on www.caldecott-pc.gov.uk

The Council noted that bank charges are to be introduced on its current Lloyds bank account. In light of the difficulty in adding signatories to this account, the Council agreed to change to the Unity Trust Bank. The Clerk was instructed to authorise the switch.

Proposed Cllr McCole Seconded Cllr Parker All in favour

**Correspondence
2024/74**

There was no further correspondence to discuss.

County Cllr Brown updated the Council on RCC matters. He referred again to the lack of 5-year housing supply and that the requirement for new houses, previously 158, will be doubled. He advised of a potential move towards a combined authority whereby Rutland will most likely be absorbed by Leicestershire. Cllr Brown provided the Council with a template Community Emergency Response Plan

**Business and
Date of Next
Meeting
2024/75**

To approve 2025/26 budget and set precept.

The next meeting of Caldecott Parish Council will be held on Thursday 2nd January 2025 in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Signed..... Dated.....