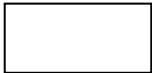




Caston Parish Council

Year 2015 - 2016

CHAIRMAN: - Mr. David Blincow VICE CHAIRMAN: - Mrs. Kay Farmbrough



THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL 2nd November 2015, at 7.30 P.M CASTON VILLAGE HALL

Councillors present: - Mr. David Blincow, Mrs. Kay Farmbrough, Mr. Brian Brooker, Mr. Frank Brown, Mr. Peter Chapman, Mrs. Leslie Crosthwaite, Mrs. Jaki Porter.

Also present: - Members of the Parish of Caston. Mr. Colin Bearne - Co-ordinator for Caston Home Watch & Caston Speed Watch team.

1. **To accept apologies for absence:** - Councillor Mr. Phil Cowen. PCSO Tonya did not attend.
2. **The minutes** of the previous Parish Council meeting held on **5th October 2015** were handed out to the public and Councillors as Draft. It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes could be signed by the Chairman, as a true and correct record. Countersigned by the Vice Chair who chaired the previous meeting.
3. **Declarations of Interest** from members, in any item to be discussed were noted: - None.
Dispensations from Council Members: - None.
4. **District Councillor Mr. Phil Cowen** Contact: - phil.cowen@breckland.gov.uk
Mr. Cowen was attending another meeting.
5. **County Councillor** A Bi-election will be held on November 19th in Watton for this position. There will be no charge to the Parish council.
6. **The PC Chairman opened the public meeting at 7.35pm.**
There was no **guest speaker** this month.
7. **Participation & questions from the public:** -
There were no general questions from the public.
The public discussed the planning application 3PL/2015/0887/F The following comments were made: - Building a property on this site using garden land is "backfilling". This sets a new precedent for the vast majority of the rest of properties in the village as many properties have rear gardens. It is outside the settlement boundary. The Settlement Boundary definitive line was recently changed at this site and other areas of the village. The building footprint is too large for the plot in comparison to other older and historic properties nearby. The garden for Montgomery House will become truncated - loss of character and amenity for Montgomery House. This will destroy the natural environment and there will be a loss of biodiversity on the site and in the local surrounding land. This has been undisturbed for many years. This may cause extra flooding of the land of the neighbouring properties which already suffer from this during wet weather. The windows will overlook the neighbours and cause loss of privacy for them. The design is out of character for the village does not look like other properties. This is not a social housing development. This would be another large executive property in the village. The Settlement Boundary is there to protect the village and it is already been ignored by a development in Attleborough Rd. The Attleborough Rd. development is on the edge of the village. This site is next to a cluster of new large homes and will add to the overcrowding of the area. Not directly adjacent to the main road - i.e. not ribbon development, the preferred PC style for the village. If this goes ahead it could make the Settlement Boundary worthless throughout the whole village. The roadway down the side of Montgomery House is inappropriate as it is too wide for an entrance for just one property. Wider than other main roads in the village which are 5.5mt? It is a road not a driveway. It may be used to service further properties. The road will cause noise and loss of privacy for the neighbour. This will cause loss of security for the neighbour. This roadway will no doubt open up the land at the rear of the rest of the properties along The Street and Dukes Lane to future developments. Over development of the corner of The Street where traffic turning the tight corner and speeding vehicles is already a problem. The application refers to tandem development and then contradicts itself in its descriptions. This is in the Conservation area and may have an effect on the village character and loss of green space. The village parishioners think that it is totally inappropriate for Caston and will start a precedent for "garden grabbing" and new properties at the rear of existing ones - "backfilling".
8. **Caston Speed Watch Co-ordinator Mr. Colin Bearne.** Contact: - 01953 483961
There were 4 sessions since the last report. 430 vehicles were recorded 10 speeders and 3 travelling at 35mph or over. A police monitoring device is currently operating 24/7 in the village, and this should provide valuable data for us. We have had a positive response from several GPS organizers.
If you are concerned about speeding in the village please join the team and help us. It takes only 1 -2 hours of your time every alternate week.
9. **Caston Home Watch co-ordinator Mr. Colin Bearne.** Contact: - 01953 483961
Since the last meeting there has been one break-in and burglary. If you that a property is empty, for however long, please take precautions. The Police continue to warn us about heating oil thefts. Make sure



Caston Parish Council

Year 2015 - 2016

CHAIRMAN: - Mr. David Blincow **VICE CHAIRMAN:** - Mrs. Kay Farmbrough

you have adequate working security lighting and locks. If you are going away please tell a neighbour or friend or contact Homewatch to keep watch on your property.

The Chairman opened the Parish Council meeting at 7.50pm.

4. Planning: - The following decisions were noted:-

- A. **3PL/2014/0608/F** Northacre Farm Pool, Caston. Change of use of office & store room to one bedroom caretakers flat. No decision from Breckland Council.
- B. **3PL/2015/0613/F** Former coach depot Dukes Lane. Residential development of 3 new dwellings (Including: - Removal of a temporary structure used as a site office and store). No decision from Breckland Council.
- C. **3PI/2015/0147/F** Land East of Walnut Tree Cottage, Attleborough Rd. Erection of 4 dwellings. (Reduced from 8 dwellings). Planning permission was given on 27.10.2015
- D. **3PL/2015/0765/LB & /F** Thatched Cottages, The Street. New garage/office & ancillary accommodation, replacement porch and reconfigure part of roof, remove chimney and flue. Planning permission was given on 16.10.2015
- E. **3PL/2015/1095/F** Plots at Allcrest site, The Street, Caston. Variation of conditions on 3PL/2013/1109/F Change of access and changes to plots 1 & 2. No decision from Breckland Council.
- F. **3PL/2015/0887/F** Land at rear of Montgomery House, The Street. Erection of single storey dwelling and garage. After further discussion and consideration the Parish Council voted unanimously against this application.
- G. **3PL/2015/1103/F** Ivan House, The Street. First floor extension to provide shower room. Planning permission was given on 26.10.2015
- H. **3PL/2015/1198/F** Wardles, The Street. Erection of garden room. After discussion the Parish Council voted to support this application as there are no major changes and it is a like for like replacement.

5. Finance: - To report and approve the following expenditure:-

- A. **Payment** to RGM for grass cutting September £192.00 inc. VAT (each green x 2 cuts). In budget under village maintenance. Proposed By Brian Brooker and seconded by Frank Brown that this cheque should be paid when invoice arrives. Clerk to get signatures for cheque with invoice.
- B. **Payment** to Roger Canwell internal auditor fees £52.00, in budget under audit. Proposed by Brian Brooker and seconded by Frank Brown.
- C. **Payment** to The Clerk - wages for September £108.11 and October 2015 £108.11 in budget under Wages. Proposed by Brian Brooker and seconded by Frank Brown.
- D. **Payment** to The Clerk - Expenses for July, August and September, £60.44 in budget under Expenses. Proposed by Brian Brooker and seconded by Frank Brown.

Paid to Plexus Media - PC website £24.95 year. Paid as emergency payment on 13.10.15. Proposed by Brian Brooker and seconded by Jaki Porter.

6. Matters to report: - Clerk

- A. **Notice board on The Green.** This is a heavy item and Mr. Hall will need help. The Councillors agree that the Clerk should find a company who can erect this heavy item easily and quickly. Clerk to get quotes.
- B. **Defibrillator.** The open meeting will be in the village Hall on Nov 24th at 7.30pm. Computer, office equipment and new email address for PC - on going item.
- C. **Computer,** office equipment new email address.
The Clerk informed the Council that the result of a grant application for £350 towards a laptop and £100 towards a scanner would be known very soon as it was being considered this week. The need for a new email address was proposed by Jaki Porter and seconded by Brian Brooker. This is to be changed to amore professional one which allows each PC member to have his/her own mail box. The need for a projector to view plans at PC meetings was discussed and the Chairman said that it would be best to get more information on this item before purchasing one.
- D. **Request for permanent flashing sign showing speed of traffic** - update of working group meeting. Cnllr. Jaki Porter gave an update on the meetings the team had had over the last month. The Police have installed a traffic measuring device outside the village hall for 2 weeks to check the speed of the vehicles. A visit from Westotec (a traffic speed sign company) recommended 2 flashing mobile signs. Paul Sellick of NCC Highways had met with them to discuss signage. The cost of the signs would be part paid for 50/50 with a grant from NCC. The cost of each sign plus post battery and data capture unit approximately £3,200. There would also be a cost to pay for the electricity to recharge the batteries. Plus additional items added to the PC insurance.



Caston Parish Council

Year 2015 - 2016

CHAIRMAN: - Mr. David Blincow **VICE CHAIRMAN:** - Mrs. Kay Farmbrough

The Councillors discussed this cost and its effect on the PC savings and budget. They asked if there would be a need for the Precept amount to be raised to pay for this.

The Chairman closed the PC meeting at 8.35pm to allow the public to discuss the need for this and the costs. The meeting resumed at 8.45pm.

Update on information from last month.

- **The crocus bulbs** would be distributed on Friday at the coffee morning. Each person will choose their own planting area to plant the bulbs and be asked to plant the bulbs when it is convenient for them. Each person will receive about 1kg of bulbs. Mr. & Mrs. Horner have kindly offered to plant around the perimeter of the whole of the war memorial so have been given a larger amount.
- **Trees on Coronation Terrace.** The Clerk is to contact UK Power networks to survey the trees for trimming to make them safe around the electric cables. It was agreed that the PC should get further remedial work done with the company who has quoted for the work.
- **Extra hedge trees** to replace dead ones - It was agreed that the Clerk should apply for 50 plants from the Woodland Trust. The Clerk said that if they were successful the trees would not arrive until March 2016.
- **Planning application review process.** It was agreed that it was not necessary for the Clerk to investigate the processes used by other PC and that the revised arrangements implemented by Resolution on 27 May, 2015 continue to be observed. It was further agreed that the PC consider what additional arrangements might be implemented to deal with the those material planning applications which for practical reasons are processed by "round robin" circulation but which did not by this process enable councillors to consider the comments and observations of colleagues. To be reviewed at the next meeting.

F. Any urgent information for PC to consider.

- **Broadband (BBfNorfolk).** Cnllr. Frank Brown asked when this will be done in Caston. He is willing to write to the various bodies to find out. Item for the next Agenda.
- **Fuel Allotment Charity trustee change.** The PC has been informed that a trustee had died and the remaining trustee wished to appoint a replacement with the approval of the PC. The role of the PC in this matter was discussed and in the absence of a definitive position it was agreed that the governing trust documents be reviewed by trustee John Chapman and fellow trustees to determine the facts for presentation at the next PC meeting.
- **Accounts scrutiny.** Following discussion it was agreed that whilst this function was not mandatory that Cnllr. Frank Brown should continue with this function quarterly for reasons of good practice. It was further agreed that the Clerk would furnish the books; vouchers and financial records by the end of the month following the quarter end.
- **Sweeping.** The Clerk to request Breckland to sweep all the leaves off the paths.
- **Tree branches** are covering signposts at School Lodge. The Clerk to write to Mr. & Mrs. Sawyer.
- **Water leak.** Mr. P. Hall and Mr. N. Hall have inspected the hole on Coronation Terrace grass next to the BT exchange and informed the Clerk that they believe there is a broken drain causing water to flood the land and wash away the soil. The Clerk will contact Anglian Water this week to get an inspection done.

Correspondence from: -

- Mr. G. Edwards of Sengana, Griston Rd has asked the PC to sort out the problem with road water and lack of cleared grips and gullies near his property. The Clerk to do this.
- Mrs. B. Hall asked if there had been any progress on repairs to alleviate the flooding outside Highfields, Stow Bedon Rd. The Clerk had contacted Highways in August and would ask them for an update on this.
- Other items moved to Councillors' Folder for consideration.

Matters for future discussion to be noted: -

- Precept

The next meeting date is agreed as **Monday 7th December 2015** in Caston Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Clerk: - Alison Skipper

Public Participation: - None