



APPROVED

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL
1st FEBRUARY 2016 at 7.30 P.M CASTON VILLAGE HALL

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

Also present: - Members of the Parish of Caston. Mr. Phil Cowen - District Councillor.

- 1. To accept apologies for absence: - Claire Bowes was absent due to attending another meeting.
2. The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 11th January 2016 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.
3. County Councillor Claire Bowes. Contact: - claire.bowes@norfolk.gov.uk No report this month.
4. District Councillor Phil Cowen. Contact: - phil.cowen@breckland.gov.uk Cnlr. Cowen explained the Breckland Council budget for the forthcoming year and the cost saving changes the Council hope to make. He said that it is hoped that their budget can be supported by their commercial income from property owned by them and also by trading their services with interested parties. It was noted that the Department of Work and Pensions (Job Centre and other services) has moved from its town centre offices to Breckland Council Dereham entrance foyer. It is hoped that this will help "tie up" services with those provided by Breckland e.g. housing benefit. The council are currently debating whether the devolution of tax raising powers to localism will help Breckland Council. Mr. Cowen gave a clear explanation of the "Local Plan Preferred Options" which is currently undergoing consultation with the public. This document (3 books) is available to view at council offices and libraries in the District. There are also public open meetings in villages and towns - advertised on the web and on the village notice boards. The Local Plan is a document which collects together suggested, (by the land owner up until 9th Jan 2015), potential plots of land throughout Breckland for consideration as appropriate growth areas of development over the next 20 years. Each town and village has its own map of current suggested areas. These can still be added to, with new suggestions of plots, until July. He explained that it does not necessarily mean these plots already have planning permission or that they are definitely "suitable areas" for development. Caston is considered to be a "rural area" in this scheme. The documents also state the criteria which Breckland Council planning department use when considering the planning applications for any potential development in the District. They would like comments and guidance on these documents from local people. These can be made until 22nd February 2016 either online, by mail or at a meeting. The final draft will not be available until September. It will then have to be "adopted" by Breckland Council by the end of 2016 before it can be used.
5. Caston Speed Watch Co-ordinator Colin Bearne. Contact: - 01953 483961 No report this month as Colin was unwell Although there were several speed watch sessions since the last report. If you are concerned about speeding in the village please join the team and help us. One to two hours every alternate week is all that is needed.
6. Caston Home Watch co-ordinator Colin Bearne. Contact: - 01953 483961 No report this month. If you are going away please tell a neighbour or friend or contact Homewatch to keep watch on your property.
7. Participation & questions from the public session 1: - The public asked Mr. Cowen about the Local Plan and aspects of it. He stated that the planning process will remain the same, he said that this does not necessarily mean planning permission will be given for these areas of land as this depends largely on the intended use, the type, number and style of the building/s and these will be considered at the time of planning application. The public were concerned that too much farm land was being used as building land in the District. Mr. Cowen said that Breckland were trying hard to get people to visit the meetings to discuss such issues with them to help them understand issues. The public were also concerned that excessive building could be detrimental to the character of parts of the village. Mr. Cowen also explained that that Breckland Council would also like the public's opinion on the use and position of the Settlement Boundaries in the villages. Some villages do not have one and this could affect the character as much as those that did, because this can create too much building in one area. He said that the PC and the public also need to consider the size of the boundaries and their positions and if they would like these changed.
8. The PC Chairman opened the council meeting at 8.35pm.



Caston Parish Council

Year 2015 - 2016

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Declarations of Interest from members, in any item to be discussed were noted: - none.

Dispensations from Council Members: - none.

9. Planning Applications: -

- A. **3PL/2014/0608/F** Northacre Farm Pool, Caston. Change of use of office & store room to one bedroom caretakers flat. Information on Breckland Council website states that the decision should be made by 14.02.16
- B. **3PL/2015/1348/F** Willow Barn, Northacre. Single storey rear extension. Permission given on 06.02.16.
- C. It was also noted that the application 3PL/2015/0613/F Former coach depot Dukes Lane. May be subject to a Section 103 agreement. The Clerk was asked if a S103 agreement could benefit the village.

10. To discuss propose and vote on the following subjects: -

- A. Speed control measures - Cnllr. Jaki Porter is currently working on this. The result of the application for the Sam 2 signs will be the end of March. It has been agreed to purchase this even if unsuccessful. More information is to be gathered regarding purchasing verge "gates" for the roads entering the village. A survey for costs is to be done. *Item for the next agenda.*
- B. Parish plan - Cnllr. Cowen said that the Parish Plan at Shipdham is already working, as it has been quoted when planning applications are being considered for the village. The Chairman is to write a short piece for the March issue of the Waylander magazine and PC website to gauge the public interest in formulating a plan for Caston. It was suggested that it could be in the same format as the Caston Parish Appraisal done in 2001 and again in 2007. *Item for the next agenda.*
- C. Breckland Council Local Plan Preferred Options - see above. Plus - Councillors were asked by the Chairman to send their comments about the Local Plan documents to the Clerk by 20th February, so that a letter from the PC (checked by the Chairman first), could be sent to Breckland Council.
- D. Co-option of new parish councillor. No requests for an election had been received by Breckland Council and when the letter stating this has been received, the PC will be able to invite applications for the Co-option of a new parish councillor. Adverts should be up by Friday. The closing date for applications will be on the advert, and they should be sent in writing to The Chairman or the Clerk. *Item for the next agenda.*

11. Finance - The following expenditure was proposed by Cnllr. Frank Brown and seconded by Cnllr. Kay Farmbrough for payment: -

- A. **Payment to Village Hall** - January PC meeting (extra date), £5.00 in budget under Misc.
- B. **Payment to Hilton Studio** - Remembrance book photos, £45.36 in earmarked funds.
- C. **Payment to the Clerk**- Repayment for purchase of Dell Inspiron17-5758 laptop @ £328.99 and HP 8610 printer/scanner @ £129.98. Total = £458.97 in Transparency Grant funds.
- D. **Payment to the Clerk** - Wages January 2016 £126.12, in budget under Wages.
- E. **Payment to the Clerk** - Expenses for Oct, Nov, Dec - £24.79, in budget under Expenses.

12. Matters to Report: -

- A. Update on information from last month - Clerk to report current situation: -
 - IT equipment - The Dell lap top, HP scanner/printer and lap top bag are now in the clerks possession.
 - Transparency Code - 2nd grant application - the result should be known next month.
 - PC Email addresses - the Clerk and Chairman thanked Cnllr. Brian Brooker for his help with setting up the new .gov email address.
 - Defibrillator - the grant application result should be known by the end of this month. It was previously agreed to purchase this item should this be unsuccessful.
 - Internet banking - the Clerk is currently waiting for the Pinsentry device to complete the application.
 - Coronation Terrace Hedge plants - the Woodland Trust have donated 30 hedge plants to replace some of the dead plants. These will arrive in March when volunteers will be needed to plant them.
 - Road surfaces / Highways questions form last month - to be done - *next agenda.*
- B. Any urgent information for PC to consider. Cnllr. Brian Brooker has been asked to make any appropriate changes to the website to incorporate the new .gov email and web address.

13. Correspondence from:-

Any correspondence and associated information added to The Councillors' Folder for circulation. Public information notices posted to the village notice boards and web sites.

14. Participation & questions from the public session 2.

It was asked when the extra concrete on the verge on the entrance to Dukes Lane is to be removed. The Chairman asked for a letter to be sent to Mr. Rob Lond-Caulk asking this question.

15. Matters for future discussion to be noted - none.



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16. To agree the next meeting date MONDAY 7th MARCH 2016 in Caston Village Hall at 7.30 pm.
The meeting closed at 9.05pm
Alison Skipper Clerk