



APPROVED

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL
7th March 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. Ms. Claire Bowes - County Councillor, Mr. Phil Cowen - District Councillor.

- 1. To accept apologies for absence: - Alison Skipper - Clerk. Minutes to be taken by Kay Farmbrough.
2. The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 1st February and 4th March 2016 were handed out to the public and Councillors as Draft. It was RESOLVED the minutes could be signed by the Chairman, as a true and correct record. Proposed and seconded by - 1st Feb - Cllr. Porter and Brian Brooker, 4th March - Brian Brooker and Frank Brown.
3. A. Motion to propose and co-opt Mr. Rob Lond - Caulk as a parish councillor for Caston. Proposed by Brian Brooker and seconded by Cllr. Porter.
B. Appointment of Rob Lond-Caulk co-opted Parish Councillor. Signing of Declarations of Acceptance of office, Register of interests and Written Undertakings.
4. Participation & questions from the public session 1: - None.
5. County Councillor Claire Bowes. Contact: - claire.bowes@norfolk.gov.uk She said that she will be attending the Planning Inspectorate hearing in Watton on 8th March. Will be emailing the budget report for NCC.
6. District Councillor Phil Cowen. Contact: - phil.cowen@breckland.gov.uk
- 2,600 comments were received on the new Breckland Council Local Plan. A final consultation will be held in June and finalised by the end of 2016. Breckland are engaging with M.P.'s and the health service providers. If the Settlement boundaries are to be changed then a Capita rep will walk around the boundaries to see what is suitable to be included for housing and what is not.
- Breckland Budget has been set for next year. Caston Council Tax rate Band D for 2016/17 will be £1524.70, an increase of 0.09p per week.
- Mr. Cowen then explained the Section 106 agreement and its uses. These are private agreements made between local authorities and developers and can be attached to a planning permission to make acceptable development which would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms. This could mean a levy is requested and the sum or sums have to be paid to the local authority. http://www.breckland.gov.uk/content/obligations. This money is then used by the local authority to provide grants towards play grounds, open spaces, infrastructure, schools etc. It is a complex process and does take time to set up. The payment could go to a completely different village and not where the village or town the planning application is situated in.
- There is to be a new power station at Snetterton.
7. Caston Speed Watch Co-ordinator Colin Bearne. Contact: - 01953 483961
- Since the last Council meeting Caston Speedwatch has held 1 session, observing 192 vehicles and 3 of these were exceeding the stipulated limit. These low figures are the result of the intervention of inclement weather and the Christmas holidays. A CSW session has been arranged for this week. 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.
- The Police speed survey for the village results: - Highest speed of traffic travelling towards Watton was 38mph and 85% speed limit compliance. Highest speed of traffic travelling towards Attleborough was 62mph and 72% speed limit compliance.
8. Caston Home Watch co-ordinator Colin Bearne. Contact: - 01953 483961 In the past month or so there have been a number of thefts of unattached trailers and horse-boxes. The police are advising owners to make sure such vehicles are kept securely clamped and locked. As usual take adequate precautions with all your possessions, both indoor and outdoor. If you are going away please tell a neighbour or friend or contact Homewatch to keep watch on your property.
9. The PC Chairman opened the council meeting. Declarations of Interest none. Dispensations from Council Members: - none.
10. Planning Applications: - A. 3PL/ 3PL/2014/0608/F Northacre Farm Pool, Caston. Change of use of office & store room to one bedroom caretakers flat. Permission given on 12.02.16.



Caston Parish Council

Year 2015 - 2016

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

- B. S403 S106 agreement information. Cllr. Cowen explained this legal agreement above.
- 11. **To discuss propose and vote on the following subjects: -**
 - A. Speed control measures - It is already agreed by councillors that village gates will be purchased and a decision will be made as to the amount to be spent. It was noted that a grant decision for the SAM2 flashing signs will be made next week which will then allow determination of the finance available for the village gates. A final decision on spend can be made at the next meeting. Cllr. Porter reported the costs for the village "gates", along with two diagrams of styles available. The ex-VAT totals excluding installation were; £5647.80 for the plainer version, £7051.27 for the version with large 30mph signs on them. Cllr. Chapman commented on the high cost and asked how they could be funded. Cllr. Brown explained that it might be possible to fund it from the Highways Surveyors Charitable Trust funds, as said funds are designated as being for the benefit of the parishioners. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Charity Commissioners to explore the possible release of said funds. This should be done as a matter of urgency to ensure full details are available for the next meeting. Cllr. Blincow expressed concern at the costs as the available studies indicate a reduction in speed of between only 1-7 mph. Cllr. Brooker said that village gates offered more than speed reduction. They also gave a special feel to the entrance of the village making it far more attractive and appealing. Is that not the very reason we have invested in planters at the village entrances? Village gates he said would make a far greater impact. It was noted that the other options considered by the PC are constrained due to agricultural traffic considerations. Cllr. Porter said that she had been informed by Paul Sellick (NCC Highways) that there may be no funding available for traffic management issues in the foreseeable future.
 - B. Parish plan - After discussion it was decided that the creation of a new Village Appraisal would be more appropriate rather than a Parish Plan. This would follow the format of one created by the PC some years ago. It was proposed by Cllr. Porter and Seconded by Cllr. Farmbrough. Cllr. Farmbrough, Cllr. Lond-caulk and Cllr. Porter to form a working group. The parishioners will be invited to a meeting in the village hall to discuss this, and to ask for volunteers to help with delivering the survey questions as well as collecting and collating the information. The Clerk to find previous Appraisal.
 - C. Breckland Council Local Plan Preferred Options. The PC sent letter was sent to Breckland Council - Caston a view to the future - about the planning preferences for Caston.
 - D. Co-option of new parish councillor. Rob Lond-Caulk was welcomed and given information about introductory course for new councillors. To be booked by him and charges to the PC.
 - E. Parking on the village green roadway - It was reported that the Clerk had, at the request of Cllr. Farmbrough following receipt of a parking complaint, sent a letter to the occupier of the Thatched House on the The Green. The Chairman commented that the occupier had written and spoken to him denying the allegations. The Chairman went on to say that he had taken informal advice which indicated that there was nothing that could in any event be done in relation to the complaint. Discussion ensued as to the process leading to the letter and IT WAS RESOLVED that any councillor may request that the Clerk draft correspondence on any matter within the remit of the Parish Council for circulation and approval at the next Council meeting save that in an emergency such draft may be approved by the Chairman and one other councillor or in the absence of the Chairman two other councillors.
 - F. 90th Birthday medals - Rob Lond-Caulk to make enquiries.
- 12. **Finance** - The following expenditure was proposed by Cllr. Brown and seconded by Cllr. Brooker for payment: -
 - A. **Payment to** Village Hall - March PC meeting (extra date), £5.00 in budget under Misc.
 - B. **Payment to** The Clerk- Repayment for purchase of lap top case and mouse, £21.94 from Transparency fund.
 - C. **Payment to** Julian Gibson - £46.16 for standing in for the Clerk at consideration of new parish councillor on 4th March 2016.
 - D. **Payment to** The Clerk - £126.12 for February in budget under Wages.
- 13. **Matters to Report: -**
 - A. Update on information from last month - Clerk to report: -
 - Transparency Code - 2nd grant application was successful and PC due to receive £355.00 to cover expenses for training and setting up time.
 - Defibrillator - next Agenda.
 - Internet banking - is now possible. The Clerk to check the need for extra code machines.
 - Road surfaces / Highways questions - to be done.
 - B. Any urgent information for PC to consider. Drain opposite Wardle's, The Street blocked. Clerk to



Caston Parish Council

Year 2015 - 2016

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

inform Highways/Rangers.

- 14. **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
- 15. **Participation & questions from the public session 2.**
- 16. **Matters for future discussion to be noted _**
Invoice for HCI data.
Donation to Church for churchyard maintenance.
To purchase 2 x memory hard drives for PC.
Clerks expenses to date.
Look at Standing Orders for PC and choose working group to report to PC.
- 17. To agree the next meeting date **MONDAY 4th April 2016** in Caston Village Hall at 7.30 pm.
Alison Skipper Clerk