



# Caston Parish Council

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

**MINUTES OF  
THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL  
MONDAY 3 OCTOBER 2016  
CASTON VILLAGE HALL at 7.30 pm**

Councillor's present:- David Blincow, Kay Farmbrough, Brian Brooker, Frank Brown, Rob Lond-Caulk, Peter Chapman, Jaki Porter

Also present:- Members of the Public

1. **Apologies for absence:** None.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2016 be signed, by the Chairman, as a true and correct record subject to an amendment at 11c, which should read Andrew Balls instead of Andrew Bell. Proposed by Cllr Farmbrough and seconded by Cllr Brown.

**The Chairman closed the Council Meeting to permit public discussion.**

2. **Participation and questions from the public, session 1:**

A member of the public suggested that road markings should be repainted at the sharp bend at the end of Dukes Lane (see 5 below).

3. **Guest Speakers:**

District Councillor Phil Cowen was unable to attend the meeting but sent his comments by email, as follows:-

"The Local Plan consultation is underway and a number of drop in events have been arranged across the district which are open until 8 p.m.

The relevant pages to Caston are found at pages 193-195 insofar as the settlement boundary is concerned and page 249 re the five criteria, of which Caston scores three out of five, which means it is designated a village with a settlement boundary. As a consequence, the proposed policy PD05A applies and this can be seen in the text on pages 181 and 182 although the whole section 28 that commences on page 179 is relevant background reading.

Through the use of policies like PD05A it is hoped that we will encourage growth of a limited amount in our rural areas that will help them to become more sustainable over time and provide a variety of housing types for a range of potential residents during the life of the plan.

This is a consultation exercise and I would encourage members of the public to comment upon the proposals contained within the document. The period commenced on 19 September and runs until the end of October.

It is hoped to submit the finalised version to the Planning Inspectorate in February/March 2017 with a view to having it adopted this time next year or just after. Please note that until the new plan is adopted any planning applications are dealt with using the current plan and policies."

The Clerk will post a list of the drop in sessions on the village noticeboards or these can be viewed online at <http://www.breckland.gov.uk/local-plan-consultation>

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED: .....

CLERK: Joanne Blackman, Westcroft, Watton Road, Ashill, Norfolk, IP25 7AQ  
Tel: 01760 447484 Email: [parish.clerk@castonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@castonparishcouncil.gov.uk) [www.castonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.castonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

4. **Caston Speed Watch Co-ordinator Colin Bearne – Contact 01953 483961**

The attached report was provided by the Speed Watch, Co-ordinator, Colin Bearne and was read by all present.

The Speed Watch Co-ordinator, Colin Bearne asked if we could approach Highways with a view to having the road markings repainted on to the road, just beyond the village hall and from the opposite direction, advising of the sharp bend at the end of Dukes Lane. The matter was discussed and **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Clerk would approach Highways to discuss the possibility of having these lines repainted as it is considered that this is a particularly sharp, dangerous bend. Further, the pavement also narrows at this point towards Flaxmoor House.

Mr Bearne further advised that the SAM2 sign appeared to be having a positive effect however, we were awaiting two further poles to be installed. The Clerk advised that she was aware of this and that she was looking into it.

Cllr Blinco read out a letter received from HMP Wayland, in response to our own letter, advising that a number of prison personnel had been reported as speeding through the village. HMP Wayland agreed that they would remind their staff of speed limits in neighbouring villages when travelling to and from work.

5. **Caston Home Watch Co-ordinator Colin Bearne – Contact 01953 483961**

(i) The attached report was provided by the Home Watch Co-ordinator, Colin Bearne and was read by all present.

(ii) Mr Bearne suggested that a meeting is held for the residents of Caston to highlight the benefits of the scheme and to obtain general security advice. This could be done as part of the general meeting or as a standalone meeting. This was discussed and **IT WAS RESOLVED** that Mr Bearne would seek to arrange for this to take place as part of the general Parish Council meeting on 5 December.

**The Chairman reopened the Council meeting.**

6. **Declarations of Interest**:- None.

**Dispensations** from Council Members: - None

7. **Planning Applications**:-

A. **3PL/2016/0911/F** – The Field, Northacre, NR17 1DG – Portal steel framed building for storage of agricultural equipment (retrospective). The Clerk advised this application had now been approved subject to conditions.

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

A. The Clerk advised that she had received a quote from RG Maintenance to trim the verge and trim the hedge at Coronation Terrace in the sum of £55 plus VAT. **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the quote be accepted, proposed by Cllr Farmbrough and seconded by Cllr Porter.

9. **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the following payments should be made:-

- A. Salary payment including holiday pay allowance to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman, for the months of September 2016 in the sum of £207.61.
- B. Payment to RGM for grass cutting in September - £192.00 incl. VAT.
- C. Payment to Caston Village Hall, Hire Fees, April through September - £30.00.
- D. Payment to Norfolk Parish Training & Support for the Clerk to - Preparing the Budget and Setting the Precept - £45.00.
- E. Payment to Norfolk ALC for the Clerk, CiLCA two day training - £250.00.

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F. Payment to Open Spaces Society Annual Subscription - £45.00.

Proposed by Cllr Lond-Caulk, seconded by Cllr Brooker.

The following additional payment should be made, as follows:-

G. Payment to Andrew Deptford for supply of defibrillator and cabinet - £1,674.00.

Proposed by Cllr Brooker and seconded by Cllr Brown.

10. **Matters to Report:-**

- A. The Clerk advised that the references sought in relation to the supplier had proved positive and that the cabinet had been received and the defibrillator was due for delivery the following week. The Clerk would then contact the electrician to arrange for the new circuit and defibrillator to be installed.
- B. The Clerk advised that the Welcome Pack was in progress and that she would ensure that a draft is available for the next meeting.
- C. The Clerk advised that she had been unable to obtain a contact number for Andrew Balls but that she would seek updated quotes from the two tree surgeons previously contacted and a further quote from Andrew Coombes and/or an alternative tree surgeon suggested by Cllr Farmbrough.
- D. The Clerk advised that the previously reported matters were still being investigated and she would update further in due course.

Further Highway issues were highlighted which the Clerk will report, as follows:-

- (i) The Northacre sign at the far end of the village had been knocked down and requires reinstating.
- (ii) Highways to evaluate the road junction at the end of Northacre as view is restricted due to height of hedge.

Cllr Farmbrough pointed out that the timetable at the bus stop on The Green is out of date (2010). The Clerk will investigate if it is possible for this to be replaced and will also check the timetable at the bus stop near the school.

The piggery site on the Stow Bedon Road had been reported. The Clerk is awaiting further information and would report further in due course.

- E. The Clerk advised that the ancient village cross is a Scheduled Monument and therefore requires Scheduled Monument Consent for repair works to be carried out. Any works would require the expertise of an authorised conservation builder and it is possible that a Grant may be obtainable from Historic England. **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Clerk would seek to obtain three quotes in relation to this work with the assistance of Cllr Lond-Caulk.
- F. The Clerk advised that it was possible for a Parish Council to enforce a fine for dog fouling. The Parish Council would be required to obtain a Dog Control Order and it would be necessary to prove that it is a proportionate response to problems. Consideration would also need to be given as to how this would be enforced. Following discussion **IT WAS RESOLVED** not to pursue the enforcement route but seek to encourage delinquent dog walkers to act responsibly and use the Dog Waste Bins. The Clerk further advised that she was speaking to Highways regarding the installation of a new Dog Waste Bin near to the school.
- G. The Clerk advised that she was completing the application to the Parish Partnership Scheme for a retrospective claim in respect of the village gates recently installed, funding having previously been unavailable.

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- H. Cllr Farmbrough advised that the Village Appraisal Working Party had met once since the last meeting. One member of the team had unfortunately left however two more members have since been recruited. This has put the project back by about two months and the questionnaires should be delivered at the start of the New Year. A first draft of the questionnaire would be made available for the next meeting of the Parish Council.
- I. The Clerk provided the attached schedule showing the current financial balances.
- J. The Clerk and Cllr Brown informed the Council of the difficulties being experienced in arranging internet banking with Barclays Bank and communicating with the Bank generally and further that CAF Bank are intending to charge a monthly account fee of £5 from 17 October, 2016 in respect to the accounts of the Trustees of Caston Highway Surveyors Land Charity ["Charity"]. Following discussion **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Clerk, assisted by Cllr Brown, close the CAF Bank accounts of the Charity and the balance on CAF Gold Account No. 80825 reported to be £614.94 and CAF Cash Account 3017 reported to be £682.89 amounting in total to £1,297.83 be transferred to the Charity's 45 day notice deposit account currently yielding 1.30 per cent gross interest reducing to 1.05 per cent gross interest with effect from 23 October, 2016 held with Cambridge & Counties Bank and **FURTHER** that the Clerk and Cllr Brown investigate and report back at the next meeting of the Council on the desirability of the opening of community and internet banking facilities with Lloyds Bank in replacement for Barclays Bank. Councillor Lond-Caulk commented that he had good contacts within Lloyds Bank that might assist the process and it was agreed that he would pass the contact details to the Clerk.
- K. Councillors had, prior to the meeting, been provided with a copy of the Precept Consultation document received from Norfolk ALC. After discussion **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Clerk would contact Norfolk ALC to establish whether this had a direct consequence to Caston.
11. Any correspondence and associated information added to the Councillors' Folder for circulation.
12. **To agree the next meeting date Monday 7 November 2016.**
- The Chairman closed the Council Meeting to permit public discussion.**
13. **Participation and questions from the public – session 2.** None.
- The Chairman reopened the Council Meeting.**
14. **Any other business/matters to be noted for next Agenda**
- Cllr Farmbrough suggested that the Parish Council should attempt to integrate and communicate with the village school. Previously this has been very good. After discussion **IT WAS RESOLVED** that Cllr Blincow would draft a letter to the Headmistress of the school.

Meeting closed at 9.46 pm.

Joanne Blackman  
Parish Clerk  
08.10.2016

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED: .....

CLERK: Joanne Blackman, Westcroft, Watton Road, Ashill, Norfolk, IP25 7AQ  
Tel: 01760 447484 Email: parish.clerk@castonparishcouncil.gov.uk [www.castonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.castonparishcouncil.gov.uk)