



Caston Parish Council

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL

MONDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2017

CASTON VILLAGE HALL at 7.30 pm

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

Also present:- Members of the Public

1. **Apologies for absence:** None.
2. It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 3 July 2017 could be signed, by the Chairman, as a true and correct record. All voted in favour.

The Chairman closed the Council Meeting to permit public discussion.

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

Parishioner Jane Horner requested that the Parish Council approve the purchase of fifty 1 metre canes to support the hedge at Coronation Terrace. Cllr Blincow advised this would be dealt with as an additional expenditure under item 9 of the Agenda.

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

There have been nine sessions since the last council meeting. 1132 vehicles were observed, and despite our signs and very obvious presence, we were able to record 60 of these as speeding.

The problem appears to have become more acute on the Attleborough Road at Coronation Terrace mornings and evenings. One session here produced at least 17 speeders. We are still considering why this should be.

Please join us if you are concerned about speeding in the village. It takes only 1-2 hours of your time every alternate week. We are still critically short of volunteers.

Cllr Porter reported the following data recently captured from the SAM2 sign operating in the village:-

- Between the hours of 6am-9am, on a weekday, typically up to 1,000 vehicles travel through the village (highlighted by key routes through the village)
- Between the hours of 4am-5am, on one occasion, 281 vehicle movements have been recorded
- Maximum speed recorded (May) was 85mph

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

Thankfully there is nothing to report for this period.

If you are going to take advantage of late summer offers or are visiting friends and relatives remember to tell a neighbour and nominate a key-holder for your property.

The Chairman reopened the Council meeting.

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

6. **Declarations of Interest**:- Cllr Lond-Caulk, item 7A.
Dispensations from Council Members: - None

7. **Planning Applications**:-

- A. **3PL/2015/1080/F** – The Barn, Dukes Lane. Cllr Lond-Caulk advised he is in the process of making an application to Breckland Planning Department for a further extension of time to remove the building. The reason for this is that a planning application is being submitted for his site in Carbrooke so the structure can be taken down and reassembled at the same time, in its new location. Cllr Lond-Caulk reassured the Council that the building was not being used and that he was hopeful the application at Carbrooke would be approved. Should the application not be approved then the building would be dismantled. Cllr Lond-Caulk advised that either way the building would be removed by the end of the year.
- B. **3PL/2017/0438/F** – Land adj Walnut Tree Cottage – application has been approved.
- C. **3PL/2017/0641/HOU** – Foxhall Farm, Northacre, NR17 1DG – application has been approved.
- D. **3PL/2017/1045/0** – Land adj Old Rectory Cottage, Attleborough Road. The Council discussed this matter at some length and agreed that, with the exception of the amendment to the splay to and from the property, the application and response of the Council remained the same. Cllr Blineow opened the meeting to the public and concerns were raised over existing new properties which remain unsold, the danger posed by the access to and from the site and concerns over creepage of the boundary. The Council voted and it was agreed, unanimously, that the application would be opposed as per the Council's previous objection on planning application 3PL/2017/0425/0 whilst further highlighting the grounds on which the application was refused by Breckland Council. The Clerk will draft and submit the opposition on behalf of the Council.

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

- A. **Application by Caston Village Hall for a Grant towards its Annual Insurance Renewal Cost in the sum of £640.20.** It was confirmed that the previous donation made to the Village Hall in respect of the insurance was in the sum of £450. The budget includes a donation of £450 to the Village Hall for the year 2017/18 and there are surplus funds available. It is recognised that the Village Hall is the hub of the village and **IT WAS PROPOSED** by Cllr Chapman that the Parish Council contribution to the Village Hall Charitable Trust should be increased to £640.20, seconded by Cllr Lond-Caulk. All Councillors voted in favour. **IT WAS RESOLVED** that a donation of £640.20 would be made to the Village Hall Charitable Trust in respect of the insurance renewal of the Village Hall.
- B. **Application by Caston PCC for a contribution towards the grass cutting at the church.** The Parish Council previously donated the sum of £450 to Caston PCC in respect of the maintenance of the churchyard. The budget includes a donation of £450 to Caston PCC for the year 2017/18. All Councillors voted in favour. **IT WAS RESOLVED** that a donation of £450 would be made to Caston PCC in respect of the churchyard maintenance.

9. **Finance – to approve and report the following expenditure**

Payment of the following items was proposed:-

- A. To approve the salary payment, including holiday pay allowance to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman for the months of July and August 2017 in the sum of £423.54. All voted in favour.
- B. To approve payment of invoice number 2238168 to RG Maintenance Limited for grass cutting for the month of July in the sum of £192.00 (inclusive of VAT). All voted in favour.
- C. To approve payment of invoice number 2238489 to RG Maintenance Limited for grass cutting for the month of August in the sum of £192.00 (inclusive of VAT). All voted in favour.

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- D. To approve payment to D & Y Nurseries for the planting and maintenance of the containers in the sum of £450. All voted in favour.
- E. To approve payment of invoice number 1618 to A T Coombes Associates Limited for works to the Beech Tree at Coronation Terrace in the sum of £1,212.00 (incl VAT). All voted in favour subject to clarification that bracing has been fitted to the tree.
- F. To approve the purchase of 50 one metre canes to support the hedge at Coronation Terrace. All voted in favour.

10. **Matters to Report**

A. **Update on defibrillator training**

The Clerk reported that it was agreed to remove this item from the Agenda following checks made with Breckland Council who confirmed that they do not have an internal trainer. Cllr Blincow remains concerned regarding the fitting of the additional items in the defibrillator box and the Clerk confirmed that she had sent an email to Cllr Blincow in this regard.

B. **Update on Tree Report**

The Clerk advised that the works had now been completed to the Beech Tree at Coronation Terrace.

C. **Update on original Village Cross repairs**

The Clerk confirmed that she has spoken several times to Historic England regarding the difficulty the Council is having in trying to obtain quotes for the works to the village cross. Historic England requested that details are sent to them setting out who we had approached and the reasons for contractors not being able to quote for the works. Historic England further confirmed that the Council would be eligible for funding and that this is by invitation from Historic England. With this in mind, Historic England will arrange to visit the site in the coming weeks and we will hear further in due course. The Clerk will continue to keep in contact with Historic England in this regard. ***Item for next Agenda.***

D. **Financial Balances**

The Clerk reported the current financial balances to the Council.

E. **Update on transfer of banking facilities from Barclays to Lloyds and the implementation of internet banking**

The Clerk confirmed that she had found the original application for viewing access for the Clerk attached to some other papers. These were immediately sent to Lloyds Bank for processing. ***Item for next Agenda.***

F. **Adoption of telephone boxes**

The Clerk advised that she had been in contact with BT as the telephony had been removed from the boxes however, to date, no completion notice has been received and there are concerns that the light in the box by the school appears not to be working. Electric was to be left in place at both boxes, as per the Agreement. BT have confirmed that the money box in one of the boxes needs to be drilled out and BT will send a completion notice once this has been completed. BT will also check the position regarding the electricity. ***Item for next Agenda.***

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G. Matters for the Rangers

The Clerk advised that she has not received any updates in relation to the outstanding works reported to the Rangers. Concern was raised that matters are getting worse and that these should be reported to Claire Bowes. The road and pavements along by Flaxmoor House are extremely bad, signs require cleaning and vegetation removed. The Clerk will further report these outstanding matters to the Rangers and express the dissatisfaction of the Council.

There are concerns regarding the stream and who is responsible for the maintenance of the same. The stream outside School View is extremely bad. A member of the public advised that the property owners are known as riparian owners and each is responsible for the stream by their property. It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate the position and report to the Council in due course. **Item for next Agenda.**

H. Provision of a Childrens' Play Area Facility

Cllr Lond-Caulk put forward his vision for a Childrens' Play Area in the village.

There are several main points:-

- 1) is there a desire/requirement for such a facility – yes the Village Appraisal highlighted this to be high.
- 2) Location – the Village Hall, the Village Green and land at Coronation Terrace are suggested sites.
- 3) Funding.

The Chairman opened the meeting to the public to put their views forward in relation to this idea.

The general view of the public is one of support but some concerns were raised such as vehicular access/parking if the site at Coronation Terrace was considered and safety.

Cllr Brown suggested that a working party needs to be put in place to put together a full report of the various points which the Council can then consider with full knowledge of the facts.

Cllr Brooker also suggested that it was important to approach the residents at Coronation Terrace to seek their views.

The Chairman re-opened the Council Meeting.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the residents at Coronation Terrace to seek their support for the project. A further letter would be sent to the Parish Council in respect of the site at the Village Hall. **Item for next Agenda.**

I. Parking on Green at Coronation Terrace

The Council has been approached by a member of the public over concerns of vehicles continually parking on the Green at Coronation Terrace. The Council agreed that a polite letter should be sent to all residents of Coronation Terrace asking them not to park on the Green. The Clerk will arrange for these letters to be sent.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED:

J. Outcome of investigation into assistance which may be available to Caston Village Hall Charitable Trust

The Clerk described the results of investigations into the proposal that the Council apply the earmarked village hall refurbishment allocation of funds of £5,000 by incurring qualifying expenditure for goods and/or services which are subject to a charge to VAT for donation to the Caston Village Hall Charitable Trust ["Trust"] impending refurbishment programme to take advantage of the recovery of the input VAT by the Council pursuant to Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to the end that the monies thus available to the Trust in respect to the earmarked funds would thereby be increased to £6,250. It was noted that the Council must [a] place the order; [b] receive the supply; [c] receive a tax invoice addressed to it and [d] make payment from its own funds (including grants it has applied for and has been subsequently awarded) without either being reimbursed by or receiving any kind of benefit from the voluntary organisation which will receive the goods and/or services, or any other body. Following discussion **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Council apply the earmarked village hall refurbishment allocation of funds of £5,000 net by incurring qualifying expenditure for goods and/or services which are subject to a charge to VAT in the gross sum of £6,250 for donation to the Trust impending refurbishment programme to take advantage of the recovery of the input VAT by the Council pursuant to Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 subject to compliance with the relevant VAT regulations inter alia that the Council must [a] place the order; [b] receive the supply; [c] receive a tax invoice addressed to it and [d] make payment from its own funds (including grants it has applied for and has been subsequently awarded) without either being reimbursed by or receiving any kind of benefit from the voluntary organisation which will receive the goods and/or services, or any other body.

11. Correspondence from:

- A. The Clerk advised that a request had been received from the Mid Norfolk Citizens Advice Bureau for a donation to their Charity. The Clerk confirmed that £100 was allocated in the budget. A vote was taken and **IT WAS RESOLVED** that a donation of £100 would be made to Mid Norfolk Citizens Advice with 6 in favour and 1 abstention.
- B. The Clerk advised that funding may be available for small works to be considered and allocated by Claire Bowes from the Small Highway Projects Budget. The Clerk will forward the email to all Councillors for review.
- C. The Clerk advised that the Parish Partnership Scheme initiative is being repeated for 2018/19 with £300,000 being available on a 50/50 basis.

Any correspondence and associated information added to the Councillors' Folder for circulation, Public Information notices posted to the village noticeboards and websites.

12. The next meeting date is Monday 2 October 2017.

The Chairman closed the meeting to permit public discussion.

13. Participation and questions from the public – session 2:

A member of the public raised concerns over the flooding outside Delmar House. Noted.

A member of the public asked about the data from the SAM2. Cllr Porter advised that the data does not unfortunately provide details such as the weight of vehicles etc. If more refined data is required then it will have to be recorded manually. Data would then support any arguments with Highways. A member of the public questioned whether data was necessary as there is evidence to support speed etc.

The Chairman reopened the Council Meeting.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED:

- 14. **Matters for future discussion**: Items for next Agenda as above.

The Parish Council Meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Joanne Blackman
Parish Clerk
15 September 2017

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