



Caston Parish Council

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL

MONDAY 4 DECEMBER 2017

LITTLE ELLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL at 7.30 pm

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

Also present:- Members of the Public

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Porter.
2. It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 6 November 2017, 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:** None.
4. **Guest Speakers:** None.
5. **Caston Speed Watch Report by Co-ordinator Colin Bearne – Contact 01953 483961**

"There have been eight sessions since the last council meeting. 740 vehicles were observed, and despite our signs and very obvious presence, we were able to record 30 of these as speeding. The problem is most acute on the Attleborough Road at Coronation Terrace mornings and evenings. This appears to be because of traffic using the road as a rat run between the Thetford road and Hingham or Attleborough.

Our new style improved speed gun is proving both more flexible and easier to handle.

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."

6. **Caston Neighbourhood Watch Report by Co-ordinator Colin Bearne – Contact 01953 483961**

"After our recent experiences in the parish we should take extra precautions with safeguarding our possessions over the coming holiday season. Keep everything under lock and key and as far as Christmas gifts are concerned out of sight.

Invest in additional security equipment where needed and enjoy the festive season.

If you should be lucky enough to be going to warmer climes for a while let a neighbour know and make according arrangements.

For Neighbourhood Watch ring 483961. For reporting suspicious activity and seeking advice use 101"

Colin Bearne further reported that since submitting his report, a further break in had occurred in the early hours of this morning at Chase Farm. The workshop had been ransacked and various small items of machinery had been stolen. The offenders had been spotted and items were subsequently disposed of in ditches in the village. A call was made to the Police around 5am but they were unable to attend until 9.30am. The victim had great difficulty in contacting the Police following the break in.

CHAIRMAN..... DATED:

A discussion took place and it was noted that there had been a significant increase in the level of crime in the village and some residents felt the village was being targeted.

Cllr Lond-Caulk proposed and Cllr Farmbrough seconded that a letter should be sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner expressing our concerns over the increase in crime in the village and to the unsatisfactory response of the Police whilst a crime was in progress. Further, the letter should be sent to the local press. Some discussion took place and whilst it was felt that this may not achieve anything, it was considered appropriate, given the recent events. It was **RESOLVED** that a letter be sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner and local press expressing our concerns over the increase in crime in the village and unsatisfactory response of the Police whilst a crime was in progress. All voted in favour. Colin Beame will provide to the Clerk a breakdown of the crimes committed in the village in the last year and a letter will be drafted accordingly.

The Chairman reopened the Council meeting.

7. **Declarations of Interest**:- Cllr Lond-Caulk, item 8A. Cllr Farmbrough, item 8D.
Dispensations from Council Members: - None

8. **Planning Applications**:-

- A. **3PL/2015/1080/F** – The Barn, Dukes Lane. Cllr Lond-Caulk advised that he has a planning application with Breckland Council seeking approval to relocate The Barn to his Carbrooke facility and is awaiting a decision of Breckland Council which is due on Christmas Day. The storage building will be removed from Dukes Lane in the New Year, whatever the decision.
- B. **3PL/2017/1466/HOU** – Highfields, Stow Bedon Road, Caston, NR17 1DP – The Parish Council has no objections to this planning application.
- C. **3PL/2017/1333/LB** – The Cottage, The Green, Caston, NR17 1DB – The Parish Council has no objection to this planning application however, a condition should be considered to prevent the outside building being used for separate stand alone accommodation in any form.
- D. **3PL/2017/1267/0** – Land adjacent to Caston Primary School, The Street, Caston, NR17 1DD – The Parish Council has submitted their comments and the matter remains undecided by Breckland Council.

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 month of November 2017, in the sum of £211.77. Proposed by Cllr Farmbrough and seconded by Cllr Brown. All voted in favour.
- B. To reimburse Cllr Brooker for payment to Daily for Caston On-Line mail box in the sum of £8.39 (incl VAT). Proposed by Cllr Farmbrough and seconded by Cllr Lond-Caulk. All voted in favour.

10. **Matters to Report**

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

The Clerk advised that she met with Fiona Wells from Historic Britain to assess the village cross. Fiona Wells is to provide details of contractors who she feels would be willing to quote for and undertake the work. She confirmed that funding remains available in this financial year and is hopeful that the Parish Council might be able to obtain an allocation although she could not guarantee the full sum. The Clerk will continue to chase. ***Item for next Agenda.***

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED:

B. Financial Balances

The Clerk provided the current balances.

C. Adoption of telephone boxes

Phil Wells advised that he has begun to wash and clean one of the phone boxes. It was confirmed that the electricity supply has been disconnected and the Clerk will check the contract and speak to BT re the same. Phil Wells to provide an update at the next meeting. **Item for next Agenda.**

D. Matters for the Rangers/update from Claire Bowes

The Clerk advised that County Cllr Claire Bowes had passed on her apologies that she was unable to attend this evening's meeting and had promised a report which had not been received. It was confirmed that the Rangers had visited Caston and had carried out some clearing of the paths. The Clerk will continue to chase CC Bowes for a response to previous correspondence. **Item for next Agenda.**

E. Provision of a Childrens' Play Area Facility

Cllr Lond-Caulk confirmed that he has been unable to progress this any further at the present time and would try and look at it over the Christmas period. **Item for next Agenda.**

F. Update on letter to County Councillor re traffic in Caston

The Clerk confirmed that the matter had been passed to County Hall and a response was awaited. CC Bowes had also promised a response this matter but this too had not been received. The Clerk will continue to chase a response. **Item for next Agenda.**

G. Update on Village Hall refurbishment project

Cllr Blincow gave an update on the progress of the refurbishment works at the Village Hall. There had been a slight delay as an old blocked land drainage pipe was found in front of the village hall which has needed to be redirected. Kitchen quotes are awaited. Cllr Brown proposed that if Caston Village Hall Charitable Trust wishes to appropriate all or part of the earmarked village hall refurbishment project allocation agreed at the meeting of the Parish Council on 4 September, 2017 item 10J e.g.-requests that the Parish Council purchase kitchen equipment, that the Parish Clerk be permitted to order appropriation request[s] up to the aggregate value approved of £6,250 including VAT. All voted in favour. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that should Caston Village Hall Charitable Trust allocation[s] up to the aggregate value approved of £6,250 including VAT that the Clerk **BE AND IS HEREBY** authorised to place appropriate orders following the approved protocol for such council transactions

H. Report on Fuel Allotment Meeting.

Cllr Farmbrough advised that she had attended a meeting of the Trustees regarding the distribution of monies for this year. The interim accounts were provided to the Council. The Trustees have been confirmed with the Charity Commission.

11. Correspondence from: None.

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 8 January 2018 at Little Ellingham Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting to permit public discussion.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED:

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

Cllr Farmbrough asked the position regarding Welcome Packs. It was agreed that the Clerk would print some more copies and distribute them to Councillors in due course.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the large puddle at the end of Dukes Lane. The Clerk will add this item to the outstanding matters currently with County Cllr Claire Bowes.

The Chairman reopened the Council Meeting.

14. **Matters for future discussion:** Items for next Agenda as above. Budget/Precept.

The Parish Council Meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Joanne Blackman
Parish Clerk
5 December 2017

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED: