



Caston Parish Council

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

MINUTES OF
THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL
MONDAY 6 MARCH 2017
CASTON VILLAGE HALL at 7.30 pm

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

Also present:- Members of the Public, Claire Bowes - County Councillor

1. **Apologies for absence:** None
2. It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 6 February 2017 could be signed, by the Chairman, as a true and correct record. Proposed and seconded by Cllr Brian Brooker and Cllr Jaki Porter.

The Chairman closed the Council Meeting to permit public discussion.

3. **Participation and questions from the public, session 1:** None.
4. **Guest speakers:**

County Councillor Claire Bowes reported as follows:-

Members of Norfolk County Council last week voted to agree a budget for the year ahead which invests an additional £25 million net to support adult social care and children's services as part of a package designed to put the authority on a secure footing for the future. The decision means the County Council's share of the council tax increased by 4.8 per cent – a rise of £57.15 for a Band D property, or around £1.10 extra per week. This includes a 3% adult social care precept permitted by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, with a further 1.8% to fund the recommendations of service committees. The budget will see the Council invest just under £1.4 billion in Norfolk over the next year and continues to support a shift towards earlier intervention services which reduce the long-term demand for council services.

It is National LGBT Adoption and Fostering Week from 6 to 12 March and Norfolk County Council is calling for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people to come forward to help change a child's life. We are looking for prospective carers from the LGBT community to adopt or foster children of all ages – and in particular, teenagers and brothers and sisters who need to stay together.

Norfolk County Council has launched a new website to support its Social Care Recruitment Campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to encourage more people to work in social care across Norfolk by creating a central digital platform. Details are posted on the new Norfolk Care Carers website and on the campaign's Twitter feed @NorfolkCareJobs and Facebook page, Norfolk Care Jobs.

There have been several enquiries regarding temporary traffic lights in the local area where it does not appear that any work is being carried out. County Cllr Bowes advised that she was looking into this.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED:

Cllr Farmbrough raised the problem with litter on the main roads and specifically the A11. County Cllr Bowes advised that this is the responsibility of the District Council.

The Chairman reopened the Council meeting.

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

The Speed Watch Co-ordinator Colin Bearne, reported as follows:-

There have been three sessions since the last council meeting. 307 vehicles were observed, and we were able to record 13 of these as speeding.

Phil Wells of The Mill has kindly volunteered to help with the moving of the SAM2 flashing sign.

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

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

The Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, Colin Bearne, reported as follows:-

There have been no reported crimes in the Parish since the last meeting of the Council.

Telephone can cold caller scams appear to be a continuing problem. If you are at all unsure about any approaches made to you please call the Police on 101 for advice.

There are still a number of advice booklets and window stickers available on application at the number shown above.

As soon as the weather settles to a fine, dry spell it will be possible to replace the old Homewatch sticky signs.

The Chairman reopened the Council meeting.

7. **Declarations of Interest:-** Cllr Rob Lond-Caulk item 8A and 8B.

Dispensations from Council Members: - None

8. **Planning Applications:-**

- A. **3PL/2015/1080/F** – removal of The Barn, Dukes Lane – Cllr Lond-Caulk advised that he was approximately 8 weeks behind schedule to remove the storage building and had made an application to Breckland Council for an 8 week extension of time.
- B. **3PL/2016/1507/F** – Bilham Cottage, The Street – conversion of garage to 1 ½ storey cottage. It was reported that this application has been refused by Breckland Council.
- C. **3PL/2016/1557/HOU** – Highfields, Stow Bedon Road – alterations and extensions to dwelling including loft conversion and construction of detached garage. It was reported that this application has been approved by Breckland Council.
- D. **3PL/2016/1532/F** – Land adj Walnut Tree Cottage – erection of 5 new dwellings. It was reported that this application has been withdrawn.
- E. **3PL/2016/1316/VAR** – The Field, Northacre – variation of condition 2, 4, 5, 6 of 3PL/2016/0911/F. It was reported that this application remains undecided by Breckland Council.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED:

9. **To discuss propose and vote on the following subjects**

A. **Any response from Caston PCC following request to contribute towards Churchyard Maintenance at Holy Cross Church in 2017**

Cllr Blincow read a response received from Caston PCC. The PCC advised that any contribution made by the Parish Council would be used towards grass cutting in the churchyard. The PCC are setting aside two small areas, ten square metres, of ground for survey by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust which will take place from March to August. A statement to this effect was published in the March Waylander. Cllr Blincow advised that the raison d'être for the Parish Council contributing towards the churchyard maintenance is that any resident of Caston has the right, upon decease, to be buried in the churchyard, should they so wish. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that the contribution towards the churchyard maintenance would be reviewed in the next financial year.

B. **To consider implementing a Policy for meetings with potential developers prior to a formal planning application being submitted to Breckland Council**

Cllr Frank Brown had suggested three possible ideas on how best to deal with such requests by potential developers. Some discussion took place and County Cllr Bowes reminded the Parish Council that they are not the decision making Council and discussions with a developer can be considered as part of the consultation and if discussed at a Council meeting, any discussions are completely transparent and members of the public can also be in attendance. Following discussion on a Council Policy for informal meetings with prospective developers whether residents of Caston or otherwise or their representatives it was **RESOLVED** that it is the Policy of the Council that any and all pre-planning application discussions or soundings be conducted at a Council Meeting(s) and not at informal meetings or through informal contacts save that the Chairman or any Councillor contacted be and is hereby authorised to advise such prospective developer(s) of this Policy and that the general planning approach of the Council is to encourage [1] appropriate linear development; [2] development in keeping and consistent with the style and substance of a small rural Norfolk village community and Caston in particular and [3] to discourage high density development and otherwise generally in accordance with Breckland District Council and National Planning Policy and that the Chairman or any Councillor contacted report such contacts to the Council as soon as practicable. Cllr Blincow suggested that this should be written in to the Parish Council's Standing Orders.

10. **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 February 2017 in the sum of £207.61. Proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Farmbrough with all in favour.

Payment for the following additional item was proposed by Cllr Lond-Caulk and seconded by Cllr Brown:-

- B. To approve the invoice of Glasdon UK Limited for the purchase of the dog waste/litter bin in the sum of £197.86 including VAT.

11. **Matters to Report**

A. **Update on defibrillator**

The Clerk advised that she had been attempting to rearrange the training with East Anglia Ambulance Service which had to be cancelled. Unfortunately the Clerk has been unable to make contact to date but will continue to pursue this matter.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED:

Further, there is currently a problem with the defibrillator box in that it will not open without a firm bang to the top right of the box. This has been reported to the supplier and a new latch was sent but this has unfortunately failed to resolve the problem. The supplier has been notified that the new latch has not resolved the problem and the Clerk is awaiting a response from the supplier. The Clerk will continue to attempt to resolve this problem as a matter of urgency. **Item for next Agenda.**

B. Update on Tree Report

The Chairman introduced the subject of the failing Beech tree at Coronation Terrace and the issue of public safety. There followed lengthy discussion on the subject of the Tree and specifically the issue of immediate and ongoing remedial works recommended by the Breckland Council Tree Officer, Hugh Coggles c.f. the felling of the tree. The Clerk reminded the Council that immediate remedial works are quoted at a cost of £1,535. The Councillors expressed serious concern at the cost of immediate remedial action and the likely ongoing cost of further remedial works in the future and the consequence for the Precept. Cllrs Chapman and Lond-Caulk indicated that the felling of the tree by qualified contractors might be achieved without or at a minimal charge in consideration of the contractor being allowed to keep the wood. The Clerk confirmed that the tree in question was not the subject of a TPO or located within the village conservation area and reminded Councillors that the Breckland Tree Officer, Hugh Coggles had indicated that Breckland Council might be minded to attach a TPO if the Parish Council were contemplating felling. Councillor Lond-Caulk commented that there is always considerable room for a wide variety of opinions on the subject of remedial works to damaged and diseased trees and indeed the cost effectiveness of such decision making. Following further consideration and discussion it was **RESOLVED** to authorise Councillor Lond-Caulk to accept a verbal quotation from Andrew Coombes, a qualified tree specialist, of £150 to inspect and report as-soon-as possible on the Beech tree in question following which the Council will reconsider again the question of the cost effectiveness of immediate and ongoing remedial works c.f. felling. **Item for next Agenda.**

C. Update on original Village Cross repairs

The Clerk advised that she was still experiencing difficulties in sourcing a specialist conservation builder who is even prepared to quote for the works to be carried out. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would return to Heritage Britain and explain the difficulties that she was experiencing and enquire whether they could suggest an alternative specialist. **Item for next Agenda.**

D. Update on Dog Waste Bin

The Clerk advised that the bin had been purchased and that it was being delivered to Cllr Lond-Caulk that evening. Cllr Lond-Caulk will install the bin in position. The Clerk further advised that she had notified Breckland Council that the bin has been purchased and will be installed imminently and to request that the collection of waste be added to the collection run and for dual stickers be supplied notifying that both dog waste and normal rubbish can be placed in the bin.

E. Update on Village Appraisal and Prize Draw

Cllr Farmbrough advised that the first phase of the Village Appraisal had been completed and that she had personally removed all address labels before handing them to the database operator for processing. The Village Appraisal team reported a 64% return of Appraisals and would like to thank parishioners and the working party for their assistance. The Village Appraisal Team now have the task of collating all the information and producing an Appraisal Report. The next meeting of the team is scheduled for 21 March. The prize draw was then drawn by the Clerk, the winning number being 120. The winner will be notified. **Item for next agenda.**

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED:

F. **Financial Balances and Statements to 31 January 2017**

The Clerk advised the current balances and reported on the statements to 31 January 2017.

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

The Clerk advised that all Barclays Bank accounts had now been closed and the balances transferred to the new Lloyds Bank accounts. Cllr Brown advised that he now had internet access in place. Cllr Farmbrough also has access. Cllr Blincow is to complete his access as soon as possible.

Cllr Frank Brown proposed that Cllr Brooker is added as an additional signatory to the accounts and permitted internet access with authority to process payments with the authority of one other authorised Councillor. Further, the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman, be permitted internet access to the bank accounts for viewing purposes only with no authority to instigate nor authorise payments. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that the above proposal would be put in place as soon as possible. All Councillors voted in favour. *Item for next Agenda.*

H. **Adoption of telephone boxes**

Some discussion took place as to whether the Parish Council should adopt the two telephone boxes in the village. Phil Wells provided the Councillors with a copy of the Agreement that the Parish Council would be required to enter into, should they proceed with the adoption of the telephone boxes. There were several concerns raised specifically in relation to maintenance and insurance of the same and it was agreed that the Agreement required careful consideration. Further, the Clerk would make enquiries of Norfolk ALC and Rocklands/Thompson Parish Council as to the adoption process. *Item for next Agenda.*

I. **Matters for the Rangers**

The following items require attention by the Rangers:-

Washing of signposts, sweeping of pavements, gutters unblocking and siding out. It was noted that the work carried out recently was not acceptable and the Clerk will report this accordingly.

J. **Northacre/Village Hall Noticeboard**

The Clerk advised that she had been let down by one maintenance person and that she was trying to organise another maintenance person to provide a quote for the repairs to the noticeboards. *Item for next Agenda.*

12. **Correspondence from:** None save for Caston PCC which has already been dealt with at 9A above.

13. The next meeting date **Monday 3 April 2017.**

The Chairman closed the meeting to permit public discussion.

14. **Participation and questions from the public:**

A member of the public enquired when Faster Broadband was expected to arrive in the village. The rumours are that it will be sometime in March however there is no firm date set at the present time. There are three cabinets now in the village. Details will be updated on the website www.betterbroadbandnorfolk.co.uk

Colin Bearne, Speed Watch Co-ordinator, advised that he had been to a meeting last week and has been informed that Norfolk Constabulary have appointed 2 PCSO to engage with the Speed Watch volunteers.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED:

Cllr Porter advised that the SAM2 data could be reviewed and this is something which Cllr Porter will look into.

The Chairman re-opened the Council meeting.

15. **Matters for future discussion**

Traffic calming and items for next Agenda above.

The Parish Council Meeting closed at 8.58 pm.

Joanne Blackman
Parish Clerk
13 March 2017

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CHAIRMAN.....

DATED: