



Caston Parish Council

CHAIRMAN:- Mr. David Blincow VICE CHAIRMAN: - Mrs. Jaki Porter

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL

MONDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2018

CASTON VILLAGE HALL at 7.30 pm

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

Also present:- 5 members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence:** were received and accepted from Kay Farmbrough.
2. It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 1 October 2018, be signed, by the Chairman, as a true and correct record. All voted in favour.

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

A member of the public raised the following:-

Coronation Terrace – there is a faded ‘handmade’ slow down sign at Coronation Terrace, could this be removed? A discussion took place and whilst it was acknowledged that handmade signs are not generally acceptable, this particular sign has been in place for a number of years and should either be removed entirely or refreshed.

Junction of The Street/Stow Bedon Road white lines – the white lines are very faded at this junction and drivers tend to cross on to the wrong side of the road particularly when turning into the junction. The Clerk will make a request to Highways for these to be repainted.

Storm drains in Stow Bedon Road – several of these drains are blocked and the Clerk will report these to the County Council.

Griston Road 30mph sign has rusted through – this was noted and the Clerk will report to Highways.

Petards to be fired on Remembrance Day – a member of the public raised concerns for livestock regarding notification that two petards are to be fired at 11.00 am and 11.02 am on Remembrance Sunday. It was noted that the devices will be fired in a nearby field. It was further noted that the person who will be responsible for the same would most likely have been required to apply for a licence. The Parish Council were not aware of the intention until the meeting and it was suggested that the resident speak directly with the organiser in this regard. It was further agreed that Cllr Blincow would follow this up on behalf of the resident.

4. **Guest Speakers:** None.

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

“There have been 5 sessions since the last council meeting. 576 vehicles were observed of which we were able to log 25 as speeding. These figures still reflect the fact that yet again we are failing to persuade drivers to treat the village with respect by observing the legal speed limit. Obviously other measures need to be taken in addition. The acquisition of another SAM2 flashing sign would in this respect be very helpful.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED:

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 Report by Co-ordinator Colin Bearne – Contact 01953 483961**

“There is nothing to report this month.

Before the winter weather sets in, it is a good idea to check the function of your house alarm and security lights or cameras.

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

The Chairman reopened the Council meeting.

7. **Declarations of Interest**:- Cllr Lond-Caulk, item 8A and 8E.

Dispensations from Council Members: - None

8. **Planning Applications**:-

- A. **3PL/2015/1080/F** – The Barn, Dukes Lane. It was agreed that this matter should now be removed from the Agenda.
- B. **3PL/2017/1267/0** – Land adjacent to Caston Primary School – erection of five dwellings and car park for Caston Primary School. This matter was heard and approved at a recent Planning Committee meeting by 5 to 4 on outline planning. The Parish Council will be given an opportunity to further comment when a full planning application is received in due course.
- C. **3PL/2018/0853/VAR** - Land adjacent Walnut Tree Cottage Attleborough Road Caston NR17 1DJ - Variation of condition 2 on pp 3PL/2017/0438/F - repositioning of garage/carports and discharge of conditions 3, 5, 6, 7 and 16. This matter remains undecided.
- D. **3PL/2018/1132/F** – Church Farm The Green Caston NR17 1DB – to erect a cattle shed to house livestock. This matter remains undecided.
- E. **3PL/2018/1146/VAR** – Bilhams Cottage The Street Caston NR17 1DD – Variation of conditions 2, 4 & 5 on pp 3PL/2017/1125/F (allowed on appeal) – (Conversion of garage to one and half storey cottages) – revised highway area. Cllr Lond-Caulk advised that this matter has now been approved.

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

- A. To approve the salary payment including holiday pay allowance to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman, for the month of October in the sum of £212.52. Proposed by Cllr Porter and seconded by Cllr Lond-Caulk, all voted in favour.
- B. To approve payment to RG Maintenance Services for grass cutting for the month of September (invoice number 2240598) in the sum of £228.00. Proposed by Cllr Porter and seconded by Cllr Lond-Caulk, all voted in favour.
- C. To approve reimbursement payment for purchase of the Armistice Day Wreath in the sum of £25.00. (Cheque to be made payable to Royal British Legion). All voted in favour.
- D. To approve payment to Spanglefish for Parish Council website hosting annual fee in the sum of £29.95. Proposed by Cllr Porter, seconded by Cllr Lond-Caulk. All voted in favour.

To approve and report one additional item of expenditure:-

- E. To approve payment to Open Spaces Society for annual subscription in the sum of £45.00. Proposed by Cllr Porter and seconded by Cllr Brooker. All voted in favour.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED:

10. To discuss propose and vote on the following subjects:

A. Proposed play area

Cllr Porter provided an update on recent grant applications regarding the proposed play area. The Village Appraisal reported that there are 30 children under the age of 16 in the village and it was suggested by Cllr Porter it would not be unreasonable to double that figure given the new houses and Appraisals which were not returned. Four quotes have been sought to include equipment which accommodates all ages which range from £23K and £26K. It is proposed that the project will be funded from various sources and grant applications. The applications will be submitted and Cllr Porter is hopeful a further update will be available in January/February once the outcome of the applications is known. **Item for next Agenda.**

B. To consider contribution to the Church for churchyard maintenance for the year 2018/19

A discussion took place as to the contribution previously made towards the maintenance of the churchyard. A member of the public advised that the Churchyard Fund is separate from the funds of the Parochial Church and is maintained by the Trustees. Cllr Chapman pointed out that the churchyard is a village amenity and should be maintained. Cllr Chapman therefore **PROPOSED** that a contribution of £450 should be made towards the maintenance of the Churchyard, seconded by Cllr Brown. A vote was taken with 4 in favour/2 abstentions. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that a contribution of £450 would be made to the Churchyard Fund for maintenance of the Churchyard.

C. To discuss riparian ownership of the ditches in the village

A discussion took place regarding riparian ownership of any ditch which runs alongside/within the boundary of a property. Guidelines can be found on Norfolk County Council's website entitled 'Living Next to a Watercourse' (<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling-and-planning/flood-and-water-management/information-for-homeowners/living-next-to-a-watercourse>) which states "If you have an ordinary watercourse or a main river running through your land or along the boundary of your property you are likely to be the riparian owner or joint riparian owner, unless the watercourse is known to be owned by someone else." Cllr Brooker suggested that the Parish Council has a duty to advise all residents who may be affected by riparian ownership. It was suggested that notice could be placed in the Waylander and a personal letter should be sent to all those affected. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that the Chairman and Clerk would draw up a list of properties and a letter would be sent accordingly. **Item for next Agenda.**

D. Community Cars

Cllr Brooker explained the purpose of a Community Car Scheme and referred to two schemes currently operated in Massingham and Ashill. The scheme at Ashill is a simpler version which has a number of volunteer drivers and a volunteer co-ordinator who assist residents in attending medical visits. The journey is charged on a 45 pence per mile basis with 20 pence charged to the user, 12.5 pence paid by Breckland Council and 12.5 pence paid by Ashill Parish Council.

The scheme is operated by Breckland Council and if the same method was used, certain rules would have to be followed. If operated separately, only DBS checks of drivers would need to be obtained.

Cllr Brooker suggested estimated costs to the Parish Council for the scheme to be operational would be in the region of £100 per annum.

Cllr Brooker enquired whether the Parish Council would, in principle, be prepared to support such a scheme. A straw poll was taken with 5 in favour/1 abstention. It was therefore agreed that Cllr Brooker would make further enquiries in this regard. **Item for next Agenda.**

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED:

E. Parish Council and Village Website costs

Cllr Brooker provided an update in relation to the Council website and advised that he had experienced some difficulties in changing the website but the important thing was to ensure that the website was encrypted. This can be provided through the current provider, Spanglefish, in the sum of £24. Cllr Blincow proposed that this expenditure be approved, seconded by Cllr Brown, all voted in favour.

Cllr Brooker provided an update in relation to the village website and advised that once the website is changed over, the encryption could be included for free. However, this requires that the monthly costs for the website are paid by direct debit. It was agreed that this could be set up on the Parish Council account. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that Cllr Brooker will proceed with the websites on these terms.

11. Matters to Report**A. Update on original Village Cross repairs.**

The Clerk reported that she had requested an update from the contractor and would continue to chase for the same. *Item for next Agenda.*

B. Financial Balances and Six Monthly Financial Statements

The Clerk reported the current account balances and provided Six Monthly Financial Statements. *Item for next Agenda.*

C. Update on telephone boxes.

No update was available, the Clerk to chase for an update. *Item for next Agenda.*

D. Matters for the Rangers

The Clerk to chase up all outstanding matters and report new matters reported at 3 above. *Item for next Agenda.*

E. Update from Claire Bowes re 20mph flashing signs outside the school.

No firm date is known for installation of the flashing signs, CC Claire Bowes to provide an update in due course. *Item for next Agenda.*

F. Complaint letter to Leader of the Council in respect of Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 February 2018 re 3PL/2017/1267/0 – Land adjacent to Caston Primary School – erection of five dwellings and car park for Caston Primary School.

It was agreed not to pursue this matter any further. Clerk to notify Breckland Council accordingly. *Item for next Agenda.*

G. Update from Highways re No Stopping Signs

The Clerk advised that Highways had confirmed that the signs had been illegally installed and we should therefore request their removal. Clerk will request removal of the signs. *Item for next Agenda.*

H. Update re possible purchase of a second SAM2 sign

Cllr Porter advised that an application for funding would shortly be made. If successful, the funding would be provided on a 50/50 basis to be match funded by the Parish Council. *Item for next Agenda.*

I. Parish Council Website

See 10E above. *Item for next Agenda.*

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED:

J. Defibrillator

A brief discussion took place and it was agreed that the Clerk would contact Wayland First Responders to see if they would be prepared to attend to run a short refresher course on the use of a defibrillator. The Clerk to make enquiries. **Item for next Agenda.**

K. Parking at Jujitsu Centre

A further took place regarding the parking situation outside the Jujitsu Centre and the Clerk and Chairman will prepare a letter to be sent regarding the same. **Item for next Agenda.**

L. Hedging at Coronation Terrace

The Clerk advised that RG Maintenance Services Limited had quoted £120 plus VAT for the cutting of the hedge. Cllr Brooker proposed that this should be done, seconded by Cllr Brown. All voted in favour. Cllr Chapman advised that the hedge should be pruned quite hard (approximately 2 feet). Clerk to arrange for works to be carried out. **Item for next Agenda.**

12. Correspondence from:-

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

13. To agree the next meeting date Monday 3 December. Agreed.

The Chairman closed the Council Meeting to permit public discussion.

14. Participation and questions from the public – session 2.

A member of the public expressed support for the Community Car Scheme and was familiar with a similar scheme in a village where he previously resided.

15. Matters for future discussion. None.

*Joanne Blackman
Parish Clerk
28 November 2018*

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED: