



Caston Parish Council

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL

MONDAY 8 JANUARY 2018

LITTLE ELLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL at 7.30 pm

Councillor's present:- David Bincow, Kay Farmbrough, Frank Brown, Brian Brooker, Peter Chapman, Jackie Porter

Also present:- Members of the Public

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Lond-Caulk.
2. It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 4 December 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:** County Councillor Claire Bowes advised that she had received a letter from the Parish Council in relation to possible traffic calming measures. CC Bowes stated that at this time, budget restrictions are such that the suggestions made are not possible however, they should be looked at in the future. CC Bowes also advised that the "quiet lane" status no longer exists. CC Bowes supports the aspiration of the Council for the 20mph limit outside schools and is prepared to fund 20mph flashing signs outside of the school from her budget and she is speaking to Highways with regards to the same. CC Bowes clarified that this is not a 20mph zone but a 20mph sign which flashes at certain times of the day namely drop off, lunch time and pick up times. The speed restriction is not enforceable.

Cllr Porter suggested that as the road is so busy at these times, it is self-regulated with regards to speed however it was acknowledged that it does not stop drivers attempting to 'get through' before ongoing traffic reaches the congested area.

Cllr Brooker suggested that a further SAM2 sign would be more beneficial in the village. CC Bowes advised that she is part funding a SAM2 sign in another village but she would not be able to cover the full cost of a SAM2. The deadline for funding through the Partnership Scheme has now passed to obtain further funding.

A member of the public expressed concerns over the level of traffic and stated that the current planning application next to the school, if successful, had a provision for additional parking spaces which could remove some vehicles from the road. Support was given for a flashing 20mph sign at this location.

Cllr Farmbrough suggested that we should not turn down the offer of the 20mph flashing sign as it is being offered at no expense to the Parish Council.

A member of the public advised that the signs would not address speeding vehicles at other times of the day, night time being of particular concern.

CC Bowes confirmed that she would need a decision in the next three weeks.

A vote was then taken as to the offer of the installation of 20mph flashing signs outside the school, 5 voted in favour with 2 abstentions.

CHAIRMAN..... DATED:

CC Bowes will discuss with Highways.

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

“There have been no Speed Watch sessions because the Police coordinator, Janet Overton, has been out of office over Christmas and the New Year. This means our reports would not have been processed.”

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

“I have not been notified of any criminal activity in the village which would have involved Neighbourhood Watch. In that respect the Parish has been fortunate.”

The Chairman reopened the Council meeting.

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

8. **Planning Applications:-**

- A. **3PL/2015/1080/F** – The Barn, Dukes Lane. Cllr Lond-Caulk was not in attendance to update the Council however, it was noted that the application to relocate the building to Carbrooke has been approved.
- B. **3PL/2017/1466/HOU** – Highfields, Stow Bedon Road, Caston, NR17 1DP. Application has been approved.
- C. **3PL/2017/1333/LB** – The Cottage, The Green, Caston, NR17 1DB. Application has been approved.
- 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.
- E. **3PL/2017/1045/0 (Appeal Reference APP/F2605/W/17/3186309)** – Land adjacent Old Rectory Cottage, Attleborough Road, NR17 1DL – residential development (two dwellings). The Parish Council has submitted their comments to the Planning Inspectorate. (Appellant final comments due by 19 January 2018).

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

A. **Budget/Precept requirements for 2018/19.**

Cllr Brown expressed his view that the budget should not be increased however, some provision needs to be included within the budget for repairs to the village cross. A discussion took place regarding various items in the budget which would include £1,100 provision towards the repairs to the village cross. Cllr Farmbrough proposed that the budget should remain the same as 2017/18 in the sum of £10,600.

A vote was taken with 4 in favour and 2 against. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that the Parish Precept requirement for the year 2018/19 would be £10,600. The Clerk will submit the request to Breckland Council.

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 December 2017, in the sum of £211.77. Proposed by Cllr Farmbrough, seconded by Cllr Porter. All voted in favour.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED:

- B. To formally approve the payment to Spanglefish re village website host renewal in the sum of £29.95 (incl VAT). Proposed by Cllr Farmbrough, seconded by Cllr Porter. All voted in favour.

11. **Matters to Report**

A. **Flood at school/White House development.**

During the recent heavy rainfall, severe flooding occurred outside the school/new White House development. Cllr Brown advised that during construction concerns were raised over the size of the pipes installed at the new development. Construction was temporarily halted whilst this was investigated by Norfolk County Council who subsequently approved the pipes in question. The stream outside of the development has been left with lots of debris which has subsequently blocked the narrow pipes. In the absence of the properties being sold, it was agreed that the responsibility for clearing of the ditches in front of the development would remain with the developer and it was suggested that a letter be sent to the developer requesting that the ditches and pipes be cleared of all debris. The Clerk will write to the developer accordingly.

The Chairman closed the meeting to allow a member of public to speak.

A member of public advised that the area has always been prone to flooding hence the pond outside of the school. The water table is very high and the excess water cannot get away. Cllr Blincow advised that the pipes are blocked with debris which is stopping the flow of water.

The Chairman reopened the Council meeting.

B. **Blocked and damaged land drain at Chervil, The Street.**

Cllr Blincow advised that a land drain was found where the new footings for the village hall were being laid. The builder diverted the drain which was originally thought to be blocked by roots. The pipes were jetted and equipment showed that the pipe was blocked in the drive entrance to Chervil.

The Chairman closed the meeting to permit the owner of Chervil to speak.

The owner of Chervil advised that after rodding the pipes, lots of sludge was dug out and also pieces of broken pipe. The pipes are now clear and water is running through. The owner is repairing the damaged pipe and stated that he has lived in the property for 20 years and has never experienced a problem until the pipe was broken.

It was agreed that this was a matter between the Village Hall Trust and the owner of Chervil and would be monitored.

Cllr Farmbrough asked who was responsible for the pipes which ran across the road from the entrance of Chervil to the opposite side of The Street. It was felt that this was the responsibility of the County Council and CC Bowes will check this point and revert.

The Chairman reopened the Council meeting.

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

The Clerk advised that following receipt of the letter from Fiona Wells at Historic England, she contacted Simon Swann to enquire whether he would be prepared for us to use his original quote as the basis for the tender document to be submitted with invitations to tender.

Whilst Simon is prepared for his work to be used in this way, he has suggested that a fee may be appropriate to be included in the tender documentation (£240 plus VAT) if (a) he was unsuccessful in his tender bid or (b) we chose not to invite him to tender. He also advised that should he be successful in his tender this fee would be waived.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED:

The Clerk has since spoken with Historic England who have confirmed that this is quite common practice and can be incorporated in the documentation.

Robert Parkinson (new contact at Historic England) is preparing the tender documentation which is awaited. Once this is received, we shall invite three tender bids based on a register of appropriate restorers (a list of which can be found on the Institute of Conservation Register). The Clerk confirmed that we do not require three tender bids we merely need to demonstrate that we have invited three tenders.

Robert has confirmed that their financial year end is 31 March 2018 however, he has also confirmed that we do not need to concern ourselves with the bid being approved before the financial year end as this is a relatively small application and believes we may struggle to get the application processed in this financial year. **Item for next Agenda.**

D. Financial Balances.

The Clerk reported the financial balances to the Council.

E. Update on telephone boxes.

The Clerk has made enquiries of BT as to the disconnection of the electricity supply who have confirmed that the electric supply should have been left however, as the box had previously been on the removal list, it is possible although unlikely this was done prior to them being taken off the removal list. BT are investigating and will revert to the Clerk in due course. BT have also suggested that it could be worth checking the bulbs. It was felt that we should not waste time on investigating this matter further as we would be unable to prove either way when the electricity was, if it has been, disconnected. **Item for next Agenda.**

F. Matters for the Rangers/update from Claire Bowes.

CC Bowes advised that she thought the Rangers had been and completed the requested maintenance. The Clerk advised that this was not the case and she will follow this up.

With regards to the ditch outside Sengana, Highways have advised that this is on private land and is therefore not the responsibility of Highways. The Clerk will revert to the owner of Sengana in this regard. **Item for next Agenda.**

CC Bowes left the Council meeting.

G. Provision of a Childrens' Play Area Facility.

In the absence of Cllr Lond-Caulk, this matter was deferred to the next meeting.

H. Update on letter to Claire Bowes re traffic in Caston.

Please see item 4 above.

I. Update on Village Hall refurbishment project.

Cllr Blincow gave an update as to the progress of the Village Hall refurbishments.

The kitchen is ready to be ordered to take advantage of the sale price currently being offered. A 10% deposit is required to secure the price. Concerns have been expressed that the full balance is payable prior to delivery. If any problems are encountered at this time, the Parish Council would be engaging in a dispute with the supplier.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED:

It was considered that the risk with the nationwide supplier Wren Kitchens nominated by the Village Hall Management Committee ["Committee"] was no greater than that applicable to any other nationwide supplier and that in the event of a dispute the responsible Committee members would render all necessary assistance to the Council to resolve same to the satisfaction of the Council. In consideration thereof **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Clerk be and is hereby authorised to proceed with the kitchen order.

J. Update re letter to Police & Crime Commissioner.

The Clerk advised that to date no response has been received.

12. Correspondence from:

The Clerk updated the Council on correspondence received.

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

13. The next meeting date is Monday 5 February 2018 at Little Ellingham Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting to permit public discussion.

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

A member of the public enquired whether 30mph flashing signs could be installed in the 30mph zones in the village. Cllr Blincow advised that the flashing signs were only for outside schools at 20mph.

The Chairman reopened the Council Meeting.

15. Matters for future discussion: Items for next Agenda as above.

The Parish Council Meeting closed at 9.08 pm.

Joanne Blackman
Parish Clerk
12 January 2018

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED: