



Caston Parish Council

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

MINUTES OF
THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF CASTON
MONDAY 14 MAY 2018
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:- District Councillor Phil Cowen, Members of the Public

1. Apologies were received and accepted from County Councillor Claire Bowes.
2. It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish of Caston held on Wednesday 8 May 2017 could be signed, by the Chairman, as a true and correct record. All voted in favour.
3. Chairman's Report from Mr David Blincow – please see attached.
4. County Councillor's report from County Councillor Claire Bowes – please see attached.
5. District Councillor's report from District Councillor Phil Cowen – please see attached.

6. **Financial Reports**

The Clerk reported the current financial position to the Council.

7. **Neighbourhood Watch report from co-ordinator Colin Bearne**

"After a spate of criminal activity in the first six months of the past year during which it seemed almost as though the village was being specifically targeted the past six months have been, to our knowledge crime-free.

The effect of the earlier events has been to increase parishioners' awareness of suspicious activity and in particular suspicious vehicles and people acting suspiciously.

It is sad that crimes have been the stimulus to heightened awareness but that is how it works.

I am grateful to those residents who conscientiously report either to me or the Police strange vehicles and people acting suspiciously.

Please do not hesitate to report what you have observed either to the police on 101 or to me on 01953 483691 or to my deputy Mandy Goldsmith on 01953 488736. Where vehicles are concerned the recording of the Vehicle Registration Mark is very helpful.

Let's all strive to make the coming 12 months crime free."

8. **Speedwatch report from co-ordinator Colin Bearne**

"Traffic flow through the village has increased marginally though the number of HGVs using the village as a through route may have decreased.

Northacre continues to be used as a rat-run and this has proved difficult to deal with. We suspect that our presence is being signalled to drivers as they approach from Griston.

CHAIRMAN..... DATED:

Despite the harsh weather conditions, we have missed surprisingly few sessions and teams have been out on more than 40 occasions.

The number of drivers we have been able to record as speeding has attracted the attention of the Police and the patrol car has been in the village on a number of occasions. We have also had a good many visits from the Enforcement Officer, with whom we are hoping to form a closer working relationship.

In general, we still suffer from lack of flexibility due to the small number of volunteers. We need more able bodied people who are not working outside the village and so can be on tap during the hours of daylight.

Our experience over the past 12 months has only hardened our belief that the only really effective long term solution to antisocial speeding in the village lies in physical traffic management i.e. kerbing or speed humps.”

9. **Financial Statements of Caston Village Hall Charitable Trust for the year ended and as at 31 March 2018**

Cllr Brown provided a short update and confirmed the reports will be made available on the Village Hall website in due course. The next phase of the refurbishment is to improve insulation, continue with the external cladding, build a store room and resurface the car park. Grants will need to be sourced to continue with the refurbishment.

10. **To consider installation of a Play Area**

This item was added to the Agenda in the hope that families who had previously expressed an interest for installation of a play area would attend. Cllr Lond-Caulk reiterated that his own work commitments had prevented him from progressing this matter further. After further discussion it was agreed that Cllr Lond-Caulk would present a proposal to the next meeting of the Parish Council (4 June 2018) to progress this matter. Funding of £5,196 has been made available from the Norfolk Community Foundation.

The Chairman closed the Council Meeting to permit public discussion.

11. A member of the public advised that the plants in the planters in Northacre were covering the village sign. Cllr Farmbrough advised that she had spoken with the contractors and they had confirmed that these plants were being removed and replanted shortly.

The Chairman re-opened the Council Meeting.

12. Council agreed the date for the next Annual Meeting of the Parish as **Monday 13 May 2018.**

Joanne Blackman
Parish Clerk
20 May 2018

CHAIRMAN..... DATED: