



Caston Parish Council

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL

MONDAY 4 MARCH 2019

CASTON VILLAGE HALL at 7.30 pm

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

Also present:- DC Phil Cowen, 21 members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Lond-Caulk
2. It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 4 February 2019, 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 spoke on behalf of Colin Bearne, Speedwatch Co-ordinator, to request further volunteers for the Speedwatch Team. Cllr Porter advised that the person who had been kindly relocating the SAM2 sign on behalf of the Parish Council for the last two years has stepped down. A volunteer is also required to undertake this task. Cllr Blincow will arrange for a request to be placed in the Waylander and Cllr Porter advised that a request is scheduled to be published on Facebook the following day.

4. **Guest Speakers:** None.

The Chairman advised that the next Agenda item would be item 10A.

10. A. **Community Car Scheme ("CCC")**

- i. Proposal to adopt the CCC service as an activity of the council by appointing a sub-committee consisting of one councillor and three residents to organise and feedback on the service. (The reason for having three residents is to have a volunteer driver, a volunteer co-ordinator and Dr Chris Riddell on that committee.
- ii. Proposal to an increase in funding to £200.00pa which will enable the service to set up a voip (virtual) telephone line and a separate properly laid out website which will carry full working details for anyone interested in volunteering or requiring to use the service.

Cllr Brown requested clarification that Cllr Brooker is the Council Committee Member at the present time, the passenger would pay the volunteer driver direct and there would be no other subsidy by the Parish Council. Cllr Brooker confirmed these statements to be correct.

It was therefore **PROPOSED** by Cllr Brooker, as per items 10A(i) and (ii) above. Seconded by Cllr Farmbrough, all voted in favour.

The Chairman advised that the next Agenda item would be item 11F.

11. Matters to Report:-

- F. **Breckland Local Plan**

DC Philip Cowen provided the following update re the Breckland Local Plan:-

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED:

- The proposed Local Plan is in the final stages of consultation and it is expected to be adopted in the Summer of 2019.
- Representations (comments) are invited via the consultation portal (<http://consult.breckland.gov.uk/portal>) on the proposed Modifications from **Monday 18th February to 5pm Monday 1st April 2019**
- A schedule of the Main Modifications and the Local Plan, and other supporting documents are available to view at <https://www.breckland.gov.uk/article/7344/Examination-Documents> (EX125)
- HOU1 refers to the number of houses required to provide a five year rolling house supply in Breckland District namely 612 dwellings per annum on a rolling basis up to 2036 which equates to 15,298 homes to 2036.
- HOU4 refers to Villages with Boundaries of which Caston is one and reads:-

“The following rural villages settlements have settlement boundaries (as defined on the policies maps): Beeston, Beetley, Carbrooke, Caston, Gressenhall, Griston, Hockham, Lyng, Mundford, North Lopham, Rocklands, SahamToney, Thompson, Weasenham, Shropham, Eccles Road (Quidenham), Clint Green and Yaxham

Appropriate development will be allowed immediately adjacent to the settlement boundary, subject to being supported by other policies within the Development Plan and where all of the following criteria are satisfied:

1. The development is of an appropriate scale and design to the settlement;
2. It would not lead to the number of dwellings in the settlement significantly increasing by more than 5% from the date of adoption of the Plan. The settlement refers to the number of dwellings inside the defined settlement boundary;
3. The design contributes to preserving, and where possible enhancing, the historic nature and connectivity of communities; and
4. The development avoids coalescence of settlements.

Opportunities for self build dwellings which meet the criteria set out above will be supported.”

- There are currently between 3-4K planning applications approved within Breckland which have yet to be built. The calculations are based on dwellings built and not planning applications approved.
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- The Local Plan should address issues faced by Breckland to meet housing land supply as it requires less than the current plan.
- Caston is reasonably protected and is only likely to see smaller, more sustainable developments.
- Great Ellingham has seen a large, accelerated increase, in application approvals due to its proximity to Attleborough.
- *“It would not lead to the number of dwellings in the settlement significantly increasing by more than 5% from the date of adoption of the Plan.”*

By way of example, if Caston has 100 dwellings then there is potential for 5% of that 100 dwellings i.e. 5 dwellings that could be built on land adjacent to the settlement boundary.

If, say, 20 further dwellings are built **within** the settlement boundary so that the number of dwellings **within** the boundary increased to 120, the 5% would be calculated on the 120 dwellings i.e. 6 dwellings that could be built on land adjacent to the settlement boundary.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED:

The 5% is calculated on dwellings **within** the settlement boundary and does not include any additional dwellings built adjacent to the settlement boundary.

This is on an annual rolling basis.

- There is no limitation to the number of dwellings on land outside and not adjacent to the settlement boundary.
- If Breckland are unable to meet the criteria of 612 dwellings per annum, they could be open to hostile planning applications in areas which would not have been supported.
- There is a presumption to build within the settlement boundary.
- Infill sites are likely unless they are considered a strategic site.
- Backfill developments are resisted and not encouraged by Breckland.
- Breckland are unable to change the amendments to the Local Plan, they can and will however, make representations to the Inspectorate and encourage residents to submit their views to Breckland by **5pm on Monday 1st April 2019**.

A discussion took place and it agreed that communication to the community was vital to encourage residents to make their own representations. The Council will digest the information provided and consider making their own representations.

The Chairman advised that the next Agenda item would be item 10B.

10 B. **Proposed Play Area**

Cllr Porter provided an update on the proposed play area. The sub-committee have identified the proposed site for the play area, next to the telephone exchange at Coronation Terrace. A letter was sent to all residents of Coronation in September 2017. A letter has been received from a resident regarding safety at the site in respect of the BT vans and speeding vehicles on Attleborough Road.

The outcome of a funding application to the Norfolk Community Foundation is awaited, £7,000 has been received from the National Lottery Fund, £5,196 from Breckland and a further £6,000 has been proposed by the Parish Council.

There will be some ongoing costs namely annual maintenance, annual ROSPA report and such costs as trimming around the fencing and liability insurance.

Cllr Brooker suggested that a sub-committee should be formed to ensure that weekly checks of the equipment and surrounding areas are carried out.

It was therefore proposed to formalise the details as follows, all voted in favour.

The Chairman informed the members that the Playground Project formalities were incomplete and should be brought current. Continuing the Chairman advised that the following resolutions have been proposed to thus complete the formalities. It was **RESOLVED** that Council will make provision and be responsible for the initial and ongoing management and operation of a playground or play area on the Council's land adjacent to the BT telephone exchange at the junction of Attleborough Road and Coronation Terrace at a provisional net capital cost of about £26,000 which sum covers the play equipment, fencing, a waste bin, signs and installation subject to [a] the raising of the appropriate grant finance and [b] acceptable arrangements for safety, risk, facility management and insurance during and after the construction period and [c] approval of a budget for the ongoing management and operational expenses of the facility.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED:

In respect to the financing the Council holds Breckland Council sports and leisure grant funding monies of £5,196 which are subject to a time limit for appropriation. Breckland Council have indicated that the time limit can be extended for the Caston Playground Project and it is therefore **RESOLVED** that these monies be and are hereby earmarked towards the cost of the Playground Project together with a grant of up to £6,000 from the general reserves of the Parish Council amounting in total to about £11,200.

The Chairman reminded the members that the Council was also in receipt of a grant of £7,000 from the National Lottery towards the Playground Project which means that the total funds currently available to the Playground Project amounted to about £18,200 and further that the Council was in the process of completing a match funding grant application to Breckland Council in the sum of £7,000 and has additionally made grant applications to Tesco in the sum of £4,000 and Grantscape in the sum of £7,000 which if successful would mean funding of up to £36,000 will have been achieved which would more than cover the net after VAT capital cost plus contingencies.

The remaining Agenda items followed.

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

“There have been 6 sessions since the last council meeting, 498 vehicles were observed of which we were able to log 21 as speeding. These figures reflect the fact that during a lengthy span of this period The Street was used as a diversion, mainly for traffic from Norwich Road in Watton.

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**

“Nothing to report this month.”

7. **Declarations of Interest:-** None
Dispensations from Council Members: - None

8. **Planning Applications:-**

1. **3PL/2019/0104/HOU** – Foxhall Cottage Dukes Lane Caston NR17 1BL – Proposed single storey side extension. *No objections.*
2. **3PL/2019/0134/HOU** – Northacre Farmhouse Northacre Caston NR17 1DG – front, rear and side extensions to dwelling. *No objections.*
3. **3PL/2019/0136/VAR** – Bilhams Cottage The Street Caston NR17 1DD - Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 3PL/2018/1146/VAR -Window in west elevation. *No objections.*

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 February 2019 in the sum of £212.52. All voted in favour.

To approve and report the following additional expenditure:-

- B. To approve payment to the Village Hall for hire charges for the period January to March 2019 (5 sessions) in the sum of £25. All voted in favour.

It was proposed by Cllr Brown that additional hours and expenses of the Clerk should be agreed and paid before the end of the financial year. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that the additional hours and expenses of the Clerk are to be calculated, reviewed and subject to approval by Councillors, are to be paid before 31 March 2019. Such sum to be ratified at the Parish Council meeting on 1 April 2019.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED:

11. **Matters to Report**A. **Financial Balances.**

The Clerk reported the current account balances. ***Item for next Agenda.***

B. **Update on telephone boxes.**

No update available. The Clerk to write to Phil Wells requesting firm proposals. ***Item for next Agenda.***

C. **Matters for the Rangers**

Siding out and sweeping of pavements throughout the village but particularly by the school. ***Item for next Agenda.***

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

No update available. The posts have been installed but the signs have not. Clerk to chase CC Bowes. ***Item for next Agenda.***

E. **Parish Council Website**

Cllr Brooker advised that all sites are now encrypted.

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.

A formal note of thanks was made to those who assisted in the Childrens' Play Area consultation day.

13. **To agree the next meeting date Monday 1 April 2019.** Agreed.

The Chairman closed the Council Meeting to permit public discussion.

Participation and questions from the public – session 2.

14. A member of the public advised that the problems with the parking outside the Jujitsu Centre are getting worse and speeding is still an issue.

There was a suggestion for children to draw attention to the speeding issues by way of a competition and/or write to the Prison re their concerns.

Cllr Blincow advised that the parking situation outside the Jujitsu Centre is being monitored and enforcement is very difficult. . It was noted that Kevin Pell of the Jujitsu Centre had personally made a commitment to monitor the situation. It was agreed that the Parish Council would contact Kevin Pell to enforce the previous undertakings and that if this second attempt to reach a reasonable and sensible approach fails then we would write to the Police and communicate our concerns and invite them to attend a Parish Council meeting and discuss those concerns

15. **Matters for future discussion.**

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Joanne Blackman
Parish Clerk

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED: