



# Caston Parish Council

CHAIRMAN:- Mrs Jaki Porter      VICE CHAIRMAN: - Mrs. Kay Farmbrough

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MONDAY 5 AUGUST 2019**

CASTON VILLAGE HALL at 7.30 pm

Councillor's present:- Jaki Porter, Kay Farmbrough, Frank Brown, Brian Brooker

Also present:- 8 Members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Chapman.
2. It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 1 July 2019, be signed, by the Chairman, as a true and correct record. Proposed by Cllr Farmbrough and seconded by Cllr Brooker. All voted in favour.
3. **To consider co-option of Chris Cook to the Parish Council:** It was proposed by Cllr Farmbrough and seconded by Cllr Brooker that Chris Cook should be co-opted on to the Council. All voted in favour. Chris Cook then took up office and shall sign the necessary paperwork as required.

**Cllr Chris Cook joined the meeting.**

**The Chairman closed the meeting to permit participation from the public.**

4. **Participation and questions from the public, session 1:** A member of the public raised the ongoing issue of water that collects outside Delmar House/junction of Dukes Lane. Cllr Farmbrough advised that this was earmarked for repair in 2016 but due to funding priorities at the time, this was not accomplished. It was therefore agreed that a letter should be sent to DC Claire Bowes/Highways advising that this is a safety issue and should be addressed. Clerk to prepare letter to DC Bowes in the first instance.

**The Chairman advised item 9B would now be discussed.**

9. B. **3PL/2019/0772/F – School Lodge, The Green, Caston, NR17 1DB** – Proposed detached house and garage/workshop to garden plot - the Applicant addressed the meeting. The proposed house will sit on approximately 1/3 acre of land with the original house remaining on a further 2/3 acre. The property is of a traditional design to enhance the village and the Applicant considers there are no overlooking issues.

**Cllr Brown joined the meeting at 7.40 p.m.**

A member of the public enquired about the role of the Parish Council in planning applications. Cllr Porter advised that the Council are permitted to submit comments on all planning applications but the decisions are made by the District Council and the Parish Council acts in an advisory role only. A question was raised as to whether the Applicant is permitted to attend the meeting. Cllr Porter advised that it is a public meeting and that no-one is excluded. A further question was asked whether the Parish Council ever object to any applications and Cllr Porter advised yes, when the Parish Council believes an application to be detrimental to the village.

A member of the public raised the following concerns in relation to this application:-

- The appropriateness of the design of the proposed property.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED: .....

- Several trees on the plot are the subject of Tree Preservation Orders and concerns were raised as to damage which may be caused to the same.
- The access/egress from the site is of concern.

Cllr Cook advised that he was not 'keen' on the design of the property and Cllr Porter advised that she would like to see a better appearance and more illustrative details of what the property may look like.

#### **The Chairman reopened the Meeting.**

Cllr Farmbrough raised concerns that the proposed application is within a Conservation Area, is outside of the Settlement Boundary and shares the Highways issues of the access and egress from the property.

Cllr Brooker believes that Breckland District Council are likely to approve this application and has no objection to the application. Cllr Brooker stated there is no reason why new property cannot be built in a Conservation Area. Also, as the plot is adjacent to the Settlement Boundary, current guidelines as laid down by government are clearly in favour for granting approval for this type of new property build.

Cllr Brown commented that we can only seek to ensure that the trees, subject to the Tree Preservation Orders, are protected and any conditions imposed are adhered to. Cllr Brown shares the concerns regarding access and egress to the site and feels the general design of the property is poor and we should ask the District Council to also consider the suitability of the design. The property is adjacent to the Settlement Boundary but there are no other reasons to justifiably object to the application. The Council should however consider any conditions they may feel appropriate for submission to Breckland.

Cllr Porter advised that she does not object to a dwelling on this site however, she also shares the concerns of others and feels she objects to the application as it stands at present.

Upon the casting vote of the Chairman **IT WAS RESOLVED** to object to the application on the following grounds:

- Access/egress from the site.
- Appropriateness of design of the proposed dwelling.
- Location.
- Trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders should be protected.

5. **Guest speakers:** None.

6. **Caston Speed Watch Team monthly report from Tony Ash, Speed Watch Co-ordinator:**

Cllr Porter advised that there had been two sessions today, one am and one pm. 100 cars had been observed with 34 recorded as travelling over 35mph (14 from the morning session and 22 from the evening session).

"In the first six months of this year a total of 1707 vehicles went through the 18 checks that were carried out. From those, 136 were recorded in excess of the 35mph limit required by Norfolk Constabulary. Which if my calculations are correct works out to 7.9%. On Saturday 3rd August we had an informal meeting of the volunteers, which was well attended. As a result of the meeting, future checks will be co-ordinated to ensure our locations and checks catch as many speeders as we can. The volunteers have a wealth of knowledge in relation to computer skills which I lack but they are rallying round to assist me together to support this scheme. The next few months will generate more returns that will be co-ordinated and result in the volunteers targeting our most productive sites. Many thanks to Michele Grimsditch for volunteering to assist me in the role of Co-ordinator  
Tony Ash  
Speedwatch Co-ordinator".

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED: .....

7. **Caston Neighbourhood Watch monthly report:** "There has been no notified criminal activity in the parish in the past month. However, the Police warn against the increasing activity of scam cold callers operating in the Wayland area. These may be offering to do work on the house or in the garden. Always ask to see the identity of those who claim to be from a public utility and let no one of whom you are unsure into the house".
8. **Declarations of Interest:-** None  
**Dispensations** from Council Members: - None
9. A. **3PL/2019/0518/F – The Barns, Attleborough Road, Caston, NR17 1DJ – Two new self-build dwellings.** Cllr Porter reported that Breckland District Council have an issue with the application and it is likely this will now be heard at the August Planning Committee meeting (to be held on 2 September 2019) or the September meeting which is later in the month. It was noted that DC Sarah Suggitt is on the Planning Committee and she can either speak on our behalf or vote as a member of the Planning Committee. DC Suggitt has not expressed strong views either for or against the application. It was agreed that the Parish Council would rather DC Suggitt is in a position to vote on the application.
- C. **3PL/2019/0706/VAR – Site adjacent to Walnut Tree Cottage, Attleborough Road, Caston, NR17 1DJ – Variation of Condition No4 on 3PL/2017/0438/F – Erection of four dwellings with detached garages and carports.** *Application approved.*

**The Chairman re-opened the Council Meeting.**

10. **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 July 2019 in the sum of £216.75.
- B. To approve reimbursement to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman, in respect of the wi-fi (Plusnet) set up fee for the Village Hall in the sum of £46.20 (incl VAT).
- C. To approve reimbursement to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman, in respect of storage fees to EPS Storage in the sum of £74.10.
- D. To approve payment to R G Maintenance Services Ltd in respect of grass cutting for the month of July in the sum of £235.20 (incl VAT), invoice number 2242255.
- E. To approve payment to Breckland Council in respect of uncontested election in May 2019 in the sum of £75.00.
- F. To approve reimbursement to Cllr Brooker for payment to Voipfone in respect of the Community Cars in the sum of £7.20 for July and £7.20 for August, total £14.40 (incl VAT).

The above expenditure was proposed by Cllr Farmbrough and seconded by Cllr Brooker, all voted in favour.

With regards to the storage position, it was agreed that the Clerk would review all files in storage and present them to the Council for a final decision on what should be kept and what should be destroyed.

11. **Matters to Report**

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

- A. **Speed Limits on Stow Bedon Road/HGV Traffic** – A member of the public advised that he had visited all 9 houses on Rayners Falgate and 8 out of the 9 houses agreed to sign a letter from the residents to the Parish Council. The letter includes photographs and seeks to request a 30mph speed limit from the A1075 through to Caston. The letters were handed to Cllr Porter who will contact the Clerk at Stow Bedon seeking their support in any application. Cllr Brooker suggested all letters should have been individual, not the same letter from all. Cllr Brown suggested that if we could get the support of Stow Bedon it would help. **Item for next Agenda.**
- B. **Wi-fi provision at the Village Hall** – the Clerk advised that wi-fi was due to be installed on 13 August. **Item for next Agenda.**
- C. **Financial Balances** – the Clerk reported the same. **Item for next Agenda.**

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED: .....

- D. **Matters for the Rangers** – pavements still require sweeping. *Item for next Agenda.*
- E. **Proposed play area** – discussion took place as to the suggested wording for the sign to be placed at the play area. It was agreed that this required further thought/advice and that the Council members would agree wording and report back to the contractors. The works are due to commence on 23 September, weather permitting, and should take around 1 week. It was agreed that courtesy letters should be sent to the residents of Coronation Terrace notifying them of the same. There is some remedial works to be carried out to the trees prior to commencement of the works. The Clerk to arrange letters to Coronation Terrace residents and seek quote from the contractors previously used at Coronation Terrace. *Item for next Agenda.*
- F. **Cleaning/repaint/repair of the Village Gates** – Cllr Porter does not feel the need for reflective paint previously suggested. Cllr Brooker suggested this was a good idea but if no other Councillor supports the idea then he is happy for this to be dropped. It was noted that a proper inspection of the village gates needs to take place to see if they require repainting or merely a clean. Cllr Farmbrough agreed to procure an inspection is undertaken. *Item for next Agenda.*
- G. **Update on Village Cross repairs** – the Clerk reported that funds were still awaited from Historic England.
- H. **SNAP Meetings** – the Clerk advised that she had followed this up and has been assured we have been added to the email list for notifications of future SNAP meeting dates, nothing received to date.
- I. **Wayland Partnership** – the Clerk advised that she has received no response from the Wayland Partnership in relation to dates of meetings.
- J. **To clarify the status of Caston Speedwatch, Caston Homewatch and the Telephone Boxes in relation to the Parish Council** – it was agreed that all of these items are the responsibility of the Parish Council along with the group responsible for the SAM2.
- K. **Approve the establishment of a monthly standing order payment to Cllr Brooker for Caston Community Cars VOIP costs** – it was confirmed that the two volunteer groups and the two telephone boxes are the responsibility of the Parish Council together with the volunteer group responsible for the SAM2.

**The Chairman closed the Council Meeting to the public.**

12. **Correspondence from:-** None.
13. **To agree the next meeting date Monday 2 September 2019.** Agreed.

**The Chairman closed the Council Meeting to permit public discussion.**

14. **Participation and questions from the public – session 2.** None.
15. **Matters for future discussion.** As above.

Joanne Blackman  
Parish Clerk  
21 August 2019

CHAIRMAN..... DATED: .....