



Caston Parish Council

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL

MONDAY 7 OCTOBER 2019

CASTON VILLAGE HALL at 7.30 pm

- Councillor's present:- Jaki Porter, Kay Farmbrough, Frank Brown, Brian Brooker, Peter Chapman, Chris Cook, Michele Grimsditch
- Others present:- County Councillor Claire Bowes and District Councillor Phil Cowen
- Also present:- 4 Members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence:** None.
2. It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 2 September 2019, be signed, by the Chairman, as a true and correct record. Proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Farmbrough. All voted in favour.

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

3. **Participation and questions from the public, session 1:** It was reported that the storm drains in Stow Bedon Road are blocked. CC Bowes agreed to contact Highways in this regard. A member of the public requested permission to place poppies on the village gates for Armstice Day. As the gates are due to be painted towards the end of October it was felt unlikely this would be possible this year and the request was declined however, should the painting be delayed they would be notified accordingly.
4. **Guest speakers:** CC Bowes reported as follows:-

"Sunday, 6 October, saw significant rainfall affecting Norfolk. Northern, Central and Eastern parts of Norfolk were worst affected.

This was the first real test of the new NCC/Norse Highways out of hours service. Highways site crews responded to 34 separate flooding related events on Sunday. Teams also responded to reports of blown manholes and fallen trees which were affected by the intense rainfall. There were also reports of some damaged roads and these are currently being investigated by the local Highways teams.

The Highways out of hours teams were a key part of the multi-agency emergency response, supporting Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service and Norfolk Constabulary in attending incidents.

The Council's Flood and Water Management team will start investigating reports of internal property flooding from today. Highways teams will be engaged over the coming days and weeks with clearing up, repair works and investigations.

The Norfolk Armed Forces Covenant Board has launched a fund to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The Norfolk 202 Commemoration Fund is open for events or projects that commemorate the 75th anniversaries of Victory in Europe (VE) Day, Victory in Japan (VJ) Day or the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Dunkirk and Operation Dynamo.

The Covenant Board are working with Norfolk Community Foundation, who will manage the £10,000 fund, making individual grants of up to £500 available to non-profit groups.

Norfolk is to receive a share of £84m to support young people in or at risk of coming into care.

CHAIRMAN..... DATED:

The County Council successfully bid to be included in the national Strengthening Families and Protecting Children programme, funded by the Department for Education. The 18 successful councils have just been announced.

The announcement means that Norfolk County Council will adopt the nationally recognised "No Wrong Door" project, which puts additional support around the most vulnerable young people.

Developed in North Yorkshire, the project combines residential care and foster care in specialist hubs. Young people have a key worker who sticks with them and then draws in support from mental health workers, speech and language therapists and police officers.

A new service for children aged 0-5 was launched in Norfolk last week. The Early Childhood and Family Service, funded by the County Council, and run in partnership with Action for Children, will offer a range of support and advice to families across the County.

The service, which replaces Norfolk's Children's Centre Services, will focus on helping families who might need extra support to care for their child. There will be one-to-one and group support for parents, with a range of activities and courses on offer.

The aims of the new Service are to support children to achieve their developmental milestones, prevent more children aged 0-5 from experiencing neglect or emotional harm and to increase social mobility.

Families will be able to access support and group activities provided by qualified and experienced staff working out of 15 Early Childhood and Family Service bases.

There are two bases in each district and three in Norwich. There will also be Bounce and Rhyme sessions at each of the Council's 47 libraries, in addition to the wide range of toddler groups and play sessions already taking place across Norfolk's communities.

As part of its work to further develop activities in local communities, Norfolk County Council is also developing Early Childhood Advisory Boards. These boards will be made up of parents and representatives from local agencies and will assess local needs and help make decisions on how and where to award the £250,000 community fund.

Traffic using Watton High Street will be temporarily prohibited from parking, stopping and loading/unloading vehicles from 18:30 hours on 12 October 2019 to 15:30 hours on 13 October 2019 for the duration of resurfacing works. The road is affected from Saham Road junction to Cadman Way".

Cllr Grimsditch asked what proportion of the £84m would be available to Norfolk. CC Bowes did not know but agreed to find out.

DC Phil Cowen reported as follows:-

The Local Plan is nearing completion and an approved report from the Planning Inspectorate should be received this week. Once it has been checked it should go to Committee for adoption by 12 December at the latest. DC Cowen advised that the Council have been advised that the Plan will need to be reviewed again in the next two years as the housing delivery and employment is considered to be inaccurate.

DC Cowen explained that the Council are reliant on individuals putting land forward and developers building. The Council has not delivered for several years and this has left them vulnerable.

Further, electrical distribution is a problem. Historically Norfolk has been largely made up of military bases and agricultural land and there has been little demand from manufacturing. We are at the end of the loop and electricity supply is at its limit. Steps are being taken to overcome this but at present there is no electricity to feed through.

The Local Plan envisage employment to grow but it cannot given the current problems. Further, unemployment in Norfolk is virtually nil.

CHAIRMAN..... DATED:

The Government have set up Homes England from which Grants may be available.

The Budget will be agreed in February and the process has started to establish the needs of the Council with emphasis to increase affordable housing and improving the market towns. The Council is financially sound and has reserves and no borrowing at the current time.

Cllr Grimditch enquired how long is the list for affordable housing. DC Cowen advised that this is almost impossible to calculate as it is not just local people. Breckland has an Affordable Housing Policy and by way of example, 17% (of 343 houses) currently being built on the new estate in Thetford will be affordable housing. This percentage is protected and will not go on the open market.

The Council's aspirations is that 25% of all houses should be affordable housing.

Smaller developments of less than 10 houses do not have to provide affordable housing. However, if the same land owner splits land into separate plots which are developed separately, the number of houses is combined.

Breckland are currently building affordable housing in several locations.

CC Bowes and DC Cowen left the meeting at 8.10 pm.

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

"August saw the volunteers assess in excess of 635 vehicles during 6 checks at various locations out of these 30 were found to be exceeding the 35mph guideline and were reported to the constabulary. Which if my calculations are right equate to 21% of speeders. Perhaps the message is getting across that Caston will not tolerate excess speed or we need to revise times and locations.

One of our volunteers is collating our results so we can optimise our times and locations but we need a few more checks to be done to act on the information that has been recorded.

If anyone would like to participate as a volunteer all we require is one or two hours a month to be a scribe to record number plates or press a clicker to record the volume of traffic or point the gun to record the speed.

Please contact me on 01953 488902.

Tony Ash
Speedwatch Co-ordinator".

6. **Caston Neighbourhood Watch monthly report:** No report available but the Council are not aware of any incidents.

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

8. **Planning Applications**

A. **3PL/2019/0518/F – The Barns, Attleborough Road, Caston, NR17 1DJ – Two new self-build dwellings.** This application was approved at Committee but it was noted that Breckland website has yet to be updated to reflect this.

B. **3PL/2019/0772/F – School Lodge, The Green, Caston, NR17 1DB – Proposed detached house and garage/workshop to garden plot.** *Undecided.*

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 September 2019 in the sum of £216.75.

CHAIRMAN..... DATED:

- B. To approve reimbursement to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman, in respect of expenses incurred in the sum of £70.39.
- C. To approve payment to R G Maintenance Services Ltd in respect of grass cutting for the month of July in the sum of £117.60 (incl VAT), invoice number 2242574.
- D. To approve payment to Mr Horner in respect of material costs for repainting of the village sign in the sum of £22.36.
- E. To approve payment to A T Coombes Associates Limited for pre-installation tree maintenance at the Play Area site in the sum of £702.00 (incl VAT) in respect of invoice number 2812.
- F. To ratify payment to I&I IONOS Ltd in the sum of £7.20 (incl VAT) in respect of invoice number 203018784134 (Community Cars). PAID
- G. To ratify payment to Plusnet in the sum of £16.20 (incl VAT) in respect of invoice number 00004758344-002. PAID
- H. To ratify payment to Community Action Norfolk for Play Area Inspection Course in the sum of £60.00. PAID

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

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

- A. **To confirm that D & Y Nurseries should continue to maintain the planters and agree payment of the annual sum of £450.00**

Cllr Farmbrough expressed disappointment at this year's planting as there did not appear to be many plants although it was acknowledged that it has been a very dry year and not a fair year for comparison.

After discussion it was agreed that the Council would continue with D & Y Nurseries, having acknowledged that it was a particularly dry year and review again next year.

Proposed by Cllr Chapman and seconded by Cllr Farmbrough.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that payment of £450 should be made to D & Y Nurseries for maintenance of the 10 planters.

11. **Matters to Report**

- A. **Speed Limits on Stow Bedon Road/HGV Traffic** – Cllr Porter has collated all the paperwork, letters and speed limit policies and believes there is next to no chance of getting a speed reduction implemented. She believes a more effective way would be to frame our application around the 450m continuous building line and the safety of residents and other road users. Emphasis needs to be placed on the fact that there is no verge and it is very unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists. Safety has been referred to in the letters from the residents at Rayners Falgate.

Cllr Cook asked whether it would be worth contacting the local bus company.

Cllr Porter will prepare a letter/pack and will supplement it with any additional information. Cllr Porter advised that a petition can be made on the Highways website but this has to be done by a resident. The grass areas and verges are the responsibility of Highways and the hedges/trees are the responsibility of the landowners. **Item for next Agenda.**

- B. **Financial Balances**
The Clerk had previously supplied the six monthly reports to the end of September 2019. Cllr Brown suggested that we need a projection for the end of the year and will prepare a report with an estimate in readiness for the next meeting. **Item for next Agenda.**
- C. **Matters for the Rangers** – pavements still require sweeping and siding out as previously advised.

Cllr Farmbrough reported damage to the pavement outside her house on the curbside.

CHAIRMAN..... DATED:

The Clerk was asked to reiterate to RG Maintenance Limited that the cutting of the hedge at Coronation Terrace should be below the fence height so there is clear sight into the Play Area.
Item for next Agenda.

- D. **Play area** – Cllr Porter advised that the works had now been completed. The security fence is to be removed, seat installed and waste bin provided. The Clerk advised that there is an additional premium of £100.70 to insure the play area.

It was proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Farmbrough that £100.70 should be paid to our insurers with immediate effect. Further, payment of the balance of £21,827.45 should be paid to NGF Play Limited, all voted in favour.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that payment in the sum of £100.70 would be made to Came & Company in respect of the additional insurance premium and £21,827.45 would be made to NGF Play Limited.

Cllr Brown enquired whether any progress had been made in respect of the S106 monies. Cllr Porter advised that she had the form to complete. **Item for next Agenda.**

- E. **Cleaning/repaint/repair of the Village Gates** – The Clerk reported that the contractor hopes to carry out the works at the end of October, weather permitting. **Item for next Agenda.**
- F. **Village Cross Notice** – Cllr Cook reported that he had received a quote in the sum of £405 plus VAT and had contacted Historic England to enquire if they have any special requirements and whether they would be prepared to contribute to the same. A response is awaited. **Item for next Agenda.**
- G. **Caston Museum(s)** – Cllr Cook reported that the proposal is to tidy up the phone boxes and use them as a place of interest to display old pictures of Caston. The windows in the phone box by The Mill are perspex and need replacing. Cllr Cook has obtained a quote for new glass in the sum of £325. Cllr Porter suggested a working group should be set up to fundraise.

The phone box on the Village Green is ready to be used and the material is readily available. It was proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Brooker that a budget of £100 should be agreed to cover any incidental costs of preparing the material, all voted in favour.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that a budget of £100 would be set aside to cover any incidental expenses incurred in relation to this project.

- H. **NALC Training Days for Chairman and New Councillors** – Cllr Porter advised that she is unavailable for the Chairman training in December. Cllrs Cook and Grimsditch to be provided with the briefing sheet of the training for new Councillors.

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 4 November 2019.** Agreed.

The Chairman closed the Council Meeting to permit public discussion.

14. **Participation and questions from the public – session 2.** A Parishioner advised that the broken trolley was still at the entrance to Coronation Terrace. A Parishioner enquired whether a wreath would be required by the Parish Council for Armistice Day this year, agreed.
15. **Matters for future discussion.** As above.

Meeting closed 9.20 pm

Joanne Blackman
Parish Clerk
22 October 2019

CHAIRMAN..... DATED: