

Caston Parish Council

CHAIRMAN: Mr Chris Cook VICE CHAIRMAN: Mrs Kay Farmbrough

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL
MONDAY 7 JUNE 2021
AT CASTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM**

Councillor's present:- Chris Cook, Kay Farmbrough, Mary Howell, Graham Moss, John Hill

Also present:- District Councillor Phil Cowen, Members of the Public

1. Apologies for absence

None.

2. To approve the Minutes of the Virtual Meeting held on Monday 5 May 2021

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 5 May 2021 be signed, by the Chairman, as a true and correct record. Proposed by Cllr Farmbrough and seconded by Cllr Moss, all voted in favour.

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

3. Participation and questions from the public, session 1.

None.

District Councillor P Cowen addressed the meeting and acknowledged how nice it was to meet again in public. The DC continue to offer support to local businesses. There remains some uncertainty as to whether restrictions will be lifted on the 21 June, lots of people are still furloughed and continue to be supported. Market towns are likely to recover quicker than the cities. Money is being invested in the market towns to help improve things like footpaths. Swaffham has secured Lottery funding to preserve historical quality of space/architecture. Several initiatives will be rolled out into the market towns over the coming year. The market towns also rely on people visiting from surrounding villages.

There is lots of work going on to deal with County Lines drug issues especially involving vulnerable children. The Chairman of Breckland Council is not supporting a specific charity this year but is instead supporting mental health issues, vulnerability and teenagers who have been particularly affected by the pandemic. The cabinet is to champion these areas in the next 12 months and beyond to provide a safety net and to 'Build Back a Better and Stronger Breckland'.

Normal work continues in relation to refuse collection and has not been disrupted by the pandemic. Breckland have teamed up with North Norfolk and Kings Lynn & West Norfolk councils to ensure that where the Councils cross, collections will be dealt with more efficiently. There are a new fleet of electric vehicles.

There is a balanced budget for this year and there is likely to be a minor deficit next year.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED:

CLERK: Joanne Blackman, Daisy Barn, 42 Long Lane, Feltwell, Norfolk, IP26 4BJ

Tel: 01842 829821 Email: parish.clerk@castonparishcouncil.gov.uk www.castonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Moss asked whether employees were back at the offices. DC Cowen advised that all staff have been working at home since 26 March 2020 and no staff were furloughed. It is unknown when they will return to the office, but this has given the Council an opportunity to have an overhaul of the offices. There is a new Conference Suite which has five cameras to enable them to host meetings remotely and livestream them from the building. The first cabinet meeting is on the 21 June.

The DC has been teamed with South Holland in Lincolnshire for the last 10 years, sharing some staff and resources. This has worked very well but due to the pandemic and various other matters, there has been an amicable split of this arrangement. There has been a restructure following the split, but no staff have been lost and some have been gained.

It is likely that staff will continue to work part from home and part in the office in the future.

A question was asked about why Breckland do not offer a Food Waste service. DC Cowen advised that this is very costly and covers over 500 miles. The collection works in high density areas but not in rural areas. Instead, the Council are encouraging supermarkets to support local Food Banks to discourage food waste.

DC Cowen commented on item 6A and does not believe that this Appeal will be successful. In relation to items 6C, 6E and 6F, he has written to both Breckland Planning Committee and to members separately to express his view and concerns in relation to these planning applications and still believes that these matters need to be taken as one and dealt with as a whole new application as it is so removed from the original application. This is likely to go to Committee but is not on the Agenda as yet. There have been issues with the Planning Committee meeting as they were no longer permitted to meet remotely after 6 May. The next meeting is scheduled for 5 July. Cllr Farmbrough asked if neighbours would be notified and DC Cowen advised that they should be but that the Clerk would also receive notification.

Cllr Moss asked if there was a possibility that the car park could be included but not passed on to the school. DC Cowen advised that the outline planning application includes it but the detailed application takes it away. This is one of the reasons that he has written to object as the application is fundamentally different to the outline planning.

DC Cowen left the meeting at 8.12pm

The Chairman reopened the Council meeting.

4. To record any Declarations of Interest and to consider any requests for Dispensations from Council Members.

Cllr Farmbrough –5C, 5E and 5F as a neighbour.

5. Speedwatch

“During May the volunteers managed to do a total of six checks. A total of 507 vehicles were assessed. Of these 52 were reported to Norfolk Constabulary for travelling over the 35mph guidelines. The highest speed being recorded was 52mph. A total of 5 hours of checking with four persons per check results in a total of 20 man hours.

Further to the above I did put out a request on the Caston Village Web Site asking for more volunteers to swell our ranks but as yet have had no responses”.

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6. Planning Applications

The following updates were provided in relation to current planning applications.

- A. **APP/F2605/W/21/3268777** – (3PL/2020/0262/O) Land to the North of School View – Erection of 3no. two storey dwellings with associated car parking, landscaping and access. This matter was discussed and it was considered appropriate to file further comments with the Planning Inspectorate in relation to the issues previously raised, specifically flooding and being outside of the Settement Boundary.
- B. **3NM/2021/0039/NMA** - Chase Farm The Street NR17 1DD - Non material amendment to 3PL/2021/0002/F-Relpositioning of fenestration, Addition of chimney and realignment of roof over single storey to provide covered area facing west. Approved.
- C. **3OB/2021/0013/OB** - Land Adjacent To Caston Primary School Caston Norfolk NR17 1DD - Modify The Application Obligation on 3PL/2017/1267/O The obligation required for the provision of a car park for Caston Primary School. However, since the approval was granted it has become apparent that the school does not wish to have the car park provided. Nothing further to add.
- D. **3PL/2021/0439/VAR** - The Barns Attleborough Road Caston NR17 1DJ - Variation of Condition No. 2 on 3PL/2019/0518/F Amended Design and inclusion of a balcony to the rear (Plot 1 Self-Build). Nothing further to add.
- E. **3PL/2021/0223/D** - Land Adjacent To Caston Primary School Caston NR17 1DD - Reserved matters application for Erection of five dwellings following outline application 3PL/2017/1267/O. Nothing further to add.
- F. **3DC/2021/0039/DOC** - Land Adjacent To Caston Primary School The Street NR17 1DD - Discharge of Condition No 4 & 9 on 3PL/2017/1267/O. Nothing further to add.

7. Finance – to approve and report the following expenditure:-

- A. To approve salary payment including holiday allowance to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman, for the month of May 2021 in the sum of £221.07.
- B. To approve payment to RG Maintenance Services Ltd in respect of invoice no 2245355 for grass cutting (May) in the sum of £288.00 (incl VAT).
- C. To approve payment to Roger Canwell for Internal Audit and secure return of documents in respect of invoice CAST21 in the sum of £51.00.
- D. To ratify payment to Plusnet for Broadband at the Village Hall in respect of invoice number 00004758344-022 in the sum of £34.20 (incl VAT).
- E. To ratify payment to 1 & 1 Internet for Caston Community Cars in respect of invoice number 203026157968/1 in the sum of £7.20 (incl VAT).
- F. To ratify payment to the Information Commissioners Office (direct debit) in the sum of £35.00.

An additional item for payment was added for authorisation.

- G. To approve payment to Didlington Nurseries for plants for the planters in the sum of £70.

The above payments were proposed by Cllr Hill, seconded by Cllr Moss, all voted in favour.

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

- A. To adopt Receipts and Payments Schedule, Balance Sheet and Bank Reconciliation for Caston Parish Council for the financial year 2020/21. Proposed by Cllr Farmbrough and seconded by Cllr Cook, all voted in favour.

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- B. To adopt the Balance Sheet for Highway Surveyors for the financial year 2020/21. Proposed by Cllr Farmbrough and seconded by Cllr Cook, all voted in favour.
- C. To approve, sign and complete the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21. Proposed by Cllr Farmbrough and seconded by Cllr Cook, all voted in favour.

9. Matters to Report:-

A. Co-option

The Clerk confirmed a further email has been sent to try and attract interest but no responses have been received. It was agreed to move this item to the August Agenda.

B. Financial Balances

The financial balances were provided to the meeting. Cllr Moss asked for information relating to the Highway Surveyors and the history of it. The Clerk agreed to try and locate the information she had to forward to the new Councillors.

C. The Rangers

A discussion took place and it was felt that a formal complaint should be sent to Cllr Bowes initially but if necessary to take it further as the Rangers have not carried out their duties to the satisfaction of the Council for a number of years, long before the pandemic. Draft letter to be circulated.

D. Play Area – overhanging branches

The overhanging branches at the Play Area were discussed and it was agreed that some work does need to be done. Three quotes will need to be obtained before the works will commence, Clerk to arrange.

E. Flooding Webinar

Cllr Howell reported that she had attended the Flooding Webinar. Fourteen recommendations have been made to Lord Dannatt. A flooding leaflet is being delivered to every household which has one specific phone number for reporting incidents of flooding. Assessments are based on reports of flooding and as people are reluctant to report it, planning will continue to rely on out of date information. There are 16 communities in Norfolk which are considered the worst in Norfolk, 5 of which are in our area. Lord Dannatt is appointing someone to oversee these areas first and will be rolled out to other areas in due course. When new homes are built the developer is only required to move water off site. The law is being reviewed to try and ensure that developers have to take further steps to ensure flooding does not occur. Flood data is up to 5 years out of date. Watton and Saham Toney have a Flood Action Group. Another meeting is to be scheduled of the Flood Alliance Board. The Board is encouraging local people to set up action groups and Emergency Response Plans. There is some money available for projects but we need to establish where from and where the problems are. Cllrs Howell and Moss to take forward.

F. Dog bins

The Clerk is trying to find details of a handyman who can deal with moving of the rubbish bins to the outside of the bus shelters or remove entirely. Clerk also liaising with County Council but other matters are pressing at the current time.

G. Bank signatories

The Clerk advised that progress was being made in this regard but until she herself had full access, the additional signatory could not be added.

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H. Caston Community Cars

It was acknowledged that this had now been closed. The Council felt this was a real shame but when looking into starting again, it was established that it was no longer a requirement.

I. Village Hall Internet

Cllr Hill advised that the Village Hall Committee are very grateful for the financial support provided in relation to the internet provision at the Village Hall. The Clerk advised that our contract is due to expire in August and we need to seek details of a further contract. County Broadband had previously advised that free internet would be provided to the Village Hall but it is unclear when this is likely to happen. Cllr Hill will make enquiries in this regard and the Clerk will speak to Plusnet to establish the position at the end of the contract.

J. SAM2

The Clerk advised that the new SAM2 sign had been received and is in operation.

10. Correspondence

None.

11. To agree the next meeting date

Monday 5 July 2021.

The Chairman closed the meeting to permit public discussion.

12. Participation and questions from the public – session 2

Cllr Cook will shortly refurbish the Noticeboard in Northacre.

The telephone kiosk at Northacre was also mentioned and Cllr Cook will get back on to the Museum of Caston idea.

13. Matters for future discussion to be noted

As above.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm

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