



Caston Parish Council

CHAIRMAN: - Mr. J. Chapman VICE CHAIRMAN: - Mr. P. Hall

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL 2nd March 2015, at 7.30 P.M CASTON VILLAGE HALL

Councillors present: - Mr. J. Chapman - Chairman, Mr. P. Hall - Vice Chairman,
Mr. D. Blincow, Mr. P. Chapman, Mrs. K. Farmbrough, Mrs. J. Horner.

Also present: - Many members of the Parish of Caston.

1. To accept apologies for absence: - Mr. C. Bearne (Home Watch & Speed Watch), Mr. J. Rogers (Breckland Council), Mr. S. Hebborn (County).
2. The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 2nd February 2015 were handed out to the public and Councillors as Draft. It was RESOLVED that after corrections to the date the minutes could be signed by the Chairman, as a true and correct record.
3. Declarations of Interest from members, in any item to be discussed were noted: - John Chapman - 4.C., David Blincow - 4.C. & 5.B., Kay Farmbrough - 4.C & 5B. Peter Chapman - 4.D. & 4.E., Jane Horner - 4.F.
4. Planning:- The following decisions were noted:-
 - A. 3PL/2014/0608/F. Northacre Farm Pool, Caston. Change of use of office & store room to one bedroom caretakers flat. Waiting for result from Breckland Council.
 - B. 3PL/2014/1002/F. The White House, The Street. Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 8 new dwellings. Permission given by Breckland Council.
This item was considered by the planning Committee at Breckland Council. Mr. Blincow represented the Parish Council views. Letters from him and Mr. Gerald Haggett who also attended the meeting are in the planning file. There were 4 absentee members of the Council when the application was considered and points heard. Mr. Blincow was disappointed that not all the points were raised. The vote was hung so the Chairman took the casting vote to approve the plans. The letters in the file explain concerns about the traffic hazards and safety opposite the school, the change of street scene due to the loss of a historical clay lump building and the addition of three storey buildings near the road side, and the threat to any wildlife on the site - namely a possible Water Vole colony which are protected species.

The PC meeting was adjourned at 7.35pm for public participation.

Members of the public asked why “past planning application decisions for The White House were not taken into consideration at the meeting”, e.g. the previous Refusal for plans.

Mr. Blincow explained that; each new application is taken on its own merits and that all past decisions are not binding if a new application for Full Planning is being considered. Past applications decisions are only relevant if they were passed by Breckland Council and the applicant is now applying for changes in the Conditions placed on that planning permission at the time of decision. If the latest application has significant changes to the plans e.g. more or less buildings, type of buildings, size buildings or of the site etc, then the application is considered to be a New application and therefore has to be considered accordingly.

The villagers were very annoyed that this new application for the White House was given permission.

Mr. Blincow also said that; Breckland Council has said it has an obligation to fulfil housing needs quotas and the dwellings on this site were considered to be helping towards this. The public should note that in trying to fulfil their quotas, it is possible for them to consider applications which are close to, or just on, the village Settlement Boundary which historically forms the edge of the building envelope of the village. This is a new policy brought in recently as part of a Government strategy to help create new housing in England.

It was asked how parishioners are expected “to know” about planning applications especially ones which are of a major interest to the village.

The Parish Councillors pointed out that any planning application they receive is always on the nearest meetings’ Agenda for discussion and the plans are available at that meeting to view.

The councillors’ final comments will not be available until all members have seen the plans.

It was asked if the Parish Councillors discuss the plans together.

The Chairman replied and explained that it would be normal for the councillors will talk to or

phone each other about plans, if they are of an important nature, before their comments are forwarded to the Breckland Planning Department. The PC planning policy is also available on the PC website. There is also a link to see all Planning Applications on the Breckland Council website; many parishioners can access the information here. If they do not have a computer or internet access the Clerk or a councillor could help.

It was asked why there is never state a “majority” view For or Against an application by the PC but they only submit Comments. It was pointed out that some other Parish Councils state their majority view - For or Against.

The Chairman replied saying that each councillor’s comments were always considered to be representing the parishioners. The PC’s “majority” view could be seen by reading the comments which are submitted in sections, one for each councillor. Their comments are more useful to understanding their decision than a simple For or Against answer.

Mr. Peter Chapman explained that anyone is allowed to add their personal comments on the planning applications either by post or on the Breckland Website. He said that the more individual comments sent in, may help the planning department understand the potential implications or outcomes of their decision on the village and its residents.

It was requested that the PC’s policy/method for the consideration of planning applications be reviewed. Item for next Agenda.

The meeting was reconvened at 7.55pm

- C. 3PL/2014/1330/F. Village Hall, The Street. MMA in respect to enlarge store room. Permission given by Breckland Council.
- D. 3PL/2014/1377/LB. Willow Farm Northacre - Remove timber board door and infill aperture with brick wall and new window. Listed building. Currently being considered by Breckland Council.
- E. 3PL/2015/0075/LB. Church Farm. - Replacement of existing windows to front elevation. Currently being considered by Breckland Council.
- F. 3PL/2015/0147/F. Land East of Walnut Tree Cottage, Attleborough Rd. Erection of 8 dwellings. Plans with PC councillors for consideration.
- G. 3PL/2015/0168/F. Fallowfield, Northacre. Demolish rear porch & conservatory & replace with larger extension. PC comments to be sent to Breckland Council tomorrow.

5. Finance:-

- A. The Clerks wages for February 2015. In budget. Proposed by Kay Farmbrough and seconded by Peter Hall.
- B. Payment for Village Hall hire for PC meetings 2015/16. Proposed by Peter Hall and seconded by Jane Horner.
- C. Payment for expenses for Breckland Council visit. In budget. Mr. Blincow was offered expenses to cover his costs for representing the PC the Breckland Council planning meeting. He thanked the PC but declined to take this.
- D. Payment to Mr. Brooker for web site fees. In budget. Proposed by Mr. Blincow and seconded by Peter Chapman.
- E. EXTRA item. A quote for cutting the grass at The Green and Coronation Terrace Green had been received from RGM for 2015/2016. The Clerk asked if he PC would require alternative quotes. It was agreed by all the councillors that the work done last year was excellent and further quotes were not needed as the cost had not increased. Proposed by Jane Horner and seconded by Peter Hall to accept this quote.

6. Matters to report: - Clerk

- A. Notice board on The Green. The notice board is being made and due for delivery in May/June.
- B. Tree risk assessment - moved to the next agenda.
- C. Elections- the Clerk had attended a course explaining the new procedure for elections to Parish Councils. Caston Parish Council is officially allocated 7 seats for councillors. If more than 7 people apply for the seats there will be an election for the 7 positions. This will run alongside the normal election on May 7th 2015. There will be a charge to the PC for this. This is previously minuted and budgeted for. If 7 or less nominations are received then there will no need for an election and only a nominal fee. There needs to 3 Councillors to form a quorum, more councillors can then be co-opted on within a timescale.
Notices about the elections had been added to the website and the notice boards. The Clerk has nomination packs for anyone who would like one. It was pointed out that the responsibility for the return of the completed pack was with the nominee and not the Clerk and all nominations have to be returned by April 9th at 4pm at Breckland Council offices in Dereham delivered in person and not posted. More information has been added to the PC website.

It may be needed to have an inauguration meeting for new councillors. Hall hire is in budget.
Every village household is to receive a printed letter from the PC explaining the election.
Jane Horner has kindly volunteered to distribute these to every house in the village.

- D. Discussion on defibrillator. Clerk to invite a speaker about these. Next Agenda.
- E. Update on information from last month. None
- F. Any urgent information for PC to consider. None.

7. Correspondence from: -

Caston village school have sent a letter explaining that they wish to become federated with Saham Toney village school to share the costs of the head teacher. They sought the opinion of the Parish Council. Letter to be replied to after all councillors have read it.

Breckland Council are offering a grant to the towns & villages in Breckland of up to £200 to Spring Clean their environment. This could also include bulb/plant planting. PC agreed that Kay Farmbrough and Jane Horner apply for bulbs to be planted in the village to add colour in the Spring of 2016. The villagers and children at village school are to be asked to join in this event. Breckland Council are also proposing supporting the formation of Neighbourhood Plans for towns and villages and awarding grants to help construct these. A meeting at Wayland Partnership in April will explain more. Next Agenda.

We have had no volunteers for a representative of the village at Wayland Partnership meetings. Other correspondence from Breckland Council, Police, NCC and others, including local events etc. to be posted to the village notice boards and web sites. Items sent to The Councillors' Folder - to be circulated for information only.

8 Caston Speed Watch Team monthly report from Mr. Bearne.

There were 4 sessions since the last report. 466 vehicles were recorded and 7 speeders and 11 travelling at over 35mph. Thanks to the dedication of the team we now have regular visits from the Police camera support officer which will hopefully help to reinforce our efforts. The winter has been kind to us this year and very few sessions had to be cancelled or abandoned. A CWS session is to be held this week. If you are concerned about speeding in the village please join the team and help us. 1 to 2 hours every alternate week is all that is needed. Tel 483 961.

9 Caston Home Watch co-ordinator Mr. C. Bearne.

The Police are concerned at the continuing spate of theft of heating oil in the county. Rural domestic burglaries also prevalent. Please check your external security lights. Plus check any time switches you may use for internal security. If you are going away please tell a neighbour or friend or contact Homewatch on 01953 483961 to keep watch on your property.

10 Matters for future discussion to be noted. Items mentioned above plus: -

End of year PC finances. Welcoming new councillors (District/County).

11 The next meeting date is agreed as **Monday 13th April 2015** in Caston Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

CHAIRMAN: -

DATE: -

CLERK: -

Alison Skipper 2nd March 2015

12 County Councillor Mr. Hebborn can be contacted by email: - stan.hebborn@norfolk.gov.uk
Mr. Hebborn was absent.

13 District Councillor Mr. John Rogers can be contacted by email: - john.rogers@breckland.gov.uk
Mr. Rogers was absent. He sent a message to say that he will not be representing Caston after the election on May 7th.

14 Participation & questions from the public: -

The PC was told about a lot of small sticks fallen from the tree after the storm at Coronation Terrace Green. Jane Horner volunteered to collect them with a parishioner.

Overhanging branches at the corner of Flaxmoor noted.

The Government states that some people are not allowed to become a Parish Councillor for specific reasons e.g. having committed an offence (not including a driving fine). The full list in the nomination pack shows these.