



Caston Parish Council

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

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL 13th April 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. Mr. C. Bearne (Home Watch & Speed Watch).

1. To accept apologies for absence: - Mr. J. Rogers (Breckland Council), Mr. S. Hebborn (County).
2. The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 3rd March 2015 were handed out to the public and Councillors as Draft. After corrections 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, Peter Hall - 4.C, David Blincow - 4.B, Kay Farmbrough - 4.B, Peter Chapman - none Jane Horner - 4.E.
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. No information to date from Breckland Council.
 - B. 3PL/2014/1330/F. Village Hall, The Street. MMA in respect to enlarge store room. Permission on 10.02.15
 - C. 3PL/2015/0075/LB. Church Farm. - Replacement of existing windows to front elevation. Permission on 13.03.15
 - D. 3PL/2015/0147/F. Land East of Walnut Tree Cottage, Attleborough Rd. Erection of 8 dwellings. Currently under consideration by Breckland Council.
 - E. 3PL/2015/0168/F. Fallowfield, Northacre. Demolish rear porch & conservatory & replace with larger extension. Permission on 19.03.15
 - F. 3PL/2015/0180/F Co-Dunkall Ltd, The Barn, Dukes Lane. Erection of storage building with offices (Retrospective). Extension given by Breckland Council for further information.
 - G. EXTRA item - It was noted that the application 3PL/2014/1088/O. Site adjacent to Home Farm, Northacre, proposed residential development for 3 detached dwellings. This was refused by Breckland Council and has gone to APPEAL. A letter supporting the previous decision by Breckland Council has been sent to the Planning Inspectorate by the PC. The Clerk phoned them to check they had received this.

The PC meeting was adjourned at 7.35pm for Public Participation to discuss item 4. F. and the ownership of Dukes Lanes road.

- Many residents of Dukes Lane had attended the meeting to ask the PC about the ownership of the lane known as Dukes Lane.
- The Chairman and The Clerk had searched the PC archives and found a letter of 18.04.1972 from the PC solicitor saying that the road was mentioned in the Caston Enclosures Award book as a “private road”.
- The County Council Highways dept. when recently asked, believed it is an Un-adopted road.
- In 2004 the PC took legal advice again, when MR. Rob Lond Caulk wanted to build properties on his land at the end of Dukes lane. He requested that the PC relinquish their interest in a section of Dukes Lane at the end next to his property where it leaves Dukes Lane at the SW corner of Allotment 127 until it enters the old Enclosure169. (Currently at the end of the lane near to Brooke House and Hogweed House). There were no objections to this, the solicitor was informed but there was no reply from them.
- There is also a current but retrospective planning application, for a large metal barn which is the depot and offices, for Mr. Lond Caulk’s businesses in the field at the end of Dukes Lane. Many residents are very concerned about the amount of heavy traffic this causes and any potential future traffic. Also that he wished to widen this lane to 22 feet along its length. They pointed out that some concrete had been laid near an electricity pole which had effectively widened the road. Mr. Lond-Caulk said he would be willing to take the concrete up. The Chairman referred to copy of solicitor’s letter of 18.04.1972 about the road width and road use which he read to the parishioners.
- A discussion ensued between the residents and Mr. Lond Caulk regarding his business use of the road. The residents stated that the current width was more than adequate for their needs. After more discussion the parishioners requested that the following sentence from Mr. Lond Caulk was Minuted: - “I will, irrespective of the Planning Permission outcome, relocate the barn to a different site within the next 9 months. I will use my very best endeavours to do this.”

The meeting was reconvened at 8.30pm

The Councillors agreed that the PC solicitor should be asked about the legal ownership, custodianship and

maintenance of the road known as Dukes Lane. Mr .J. Chapman said he would visit the solicitor this week when returning the Caston Enclosures Award book and ask if the solicitor could look into this matter for the PC.

5. Finance:-

- A. Donation to Caston PCC for churchyard maintenance £450.00 in budget. Proposed by Peter Hall and seconded by Peter Chapman.
- B. Payment to ICO for Data protection £35.00 in budget. Proposed by David Blincow and seconded by Kay Farmbrough.
- C. Payment to RGM for March grass cutting £36.00 in budget. Proposed by Peter Chapman and seconded by Kay Farmbrough.
- D. Payment to Norfolk Assoc. of Local councils subscription £61.65 in budget. Proposed by Kay Farmbrough and seconded by Peter Hall.
- E. To agree to appoint Mr. Canwell as the PC external auditor for 2014/15 accounts. Proposed by Jane Horner and seconded by Peter Hall.
- F. To agree to appoint risk assessor for Coronation Terrace Green trees 2015/16. One quote had come in and others the PC are waiting for. This was considered urgent so the best quote was agreed to. Proposed by Jane Horner and seconded by Peter Hall.
- G. To consider Parish Council insurance policy due May 2015. To be moved to the next Agenda as quote had to come in.
- H. The Clerks wages for March 2015 and holiday pay for 2014/2015. In budget. Proposed by John Chapman and seconded by David Blincow.
- I. The Clerks expenses for March 2015. In budget. Proposed by John Chapman and seconded by David Blincow.

6. Matters to report: - Clerk

- A. Notice board on The Green. Moved to the next Agenda as it was being made.
- B. Tree risk assessment. See finance item 5. F.
- C. Elections. The Clerk informed the PC that 8 nominations had been sent to Breckland Council and the official list of candidates was due to be sent out today. This would be posted to the notice boards and web site as soon as it was received. Unofficially it listed : - David Blincow, Peter Chapman, Kay Farmbrough, who are re-standing and Leslie Crosthwaite, Brian Brooker, Frank Browne, Rob Lond-Caulk & Jaki Porter who are all new candidates. It was noted that John Chapman - current Chairman who is retiring from the Parish Council, Peter Hall - current Vice Chairman, and Jane Horner were not standing again for the next four year term of office.
- D. Defibrillator. Item for the next Agenda.
- E. Planning Policy.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.30 for public questions.

- The public asked how the decisions were made by the Parish Councillors on the planning applications and whether they all sat round a table and discussed the plans together before formulating any decisions and why do they have to use a Round Robin system?
- The Clerk referred the members of the public to the PC Planning Policy which was formulated a couple of years ago after much discussion and can be seen on the PC website or a copy is available from the Clerk. This states the PC's process for considering the planning applications.
- The public asked why there is no main For/Against answer ever given on the replies Breckland Council receives, only Comments. It was explained that by reading these comments the overall decision for or against plans could be deduced.
- It was asked if controversial plans were discussed at meetings before decisions and comments were made. It was explained that if plans were very controversial then this would happen and extra meetings could always be planned and time extensions requested for replies. This has been the case in the past for The White House. The Councillors said that they have a good understanding of which plans would need further discussion which they do talk about them outside meetings.
- It was pointed out that sometimes the plans were received at times when there were public holidays and breaks from main PC meetings and this occasionally does not allow for the public to be involved in telling the council their opinions. This is not helped by Breckland Council no longer putting up planning application notices near sites and also sometimes not informing the neighbours of changes to the plans. The councillors all said that they could all be contacted personally to discuss any plans.
- The Clerk said that the planning applications are always added to the next Agenda for notice. The Agenda can be seen on the notice boards and web site.
- It was asked if the Clerk could send the planning applications to the PC web site as they arrived so villagers were aware of them. It was noted that this does not help those without internet who had to rely on word of mouth and notices.
- The public requested a talk from the Planning dept. of Breckland Council similar to the one given by the Enforcement Officer last year.

The meeting reconvened at 8.45pm

The Councillors agreed that planning application consideration may need reviewing by the new Councillors in the future to cope with the problems brought up.

- F. Neighbourhood Plans Wayland Partnership meeting. A meeting is to be held on Thursday 17th April,

which the Clerk will attend and report on at the next meeting.

G. Update on information from last month.

- The PC was successful in their application to Breckland Council for a Big Spring Clean Grant of up to £200. The full amount was awarded to the PC to buy bulbs to plant outside the Village School, on the Village Green and alongside the edge at Coronation Terrace. The Caston Carpet of Colour will consist of over 1000 Crocus bulbs planted by volunteers and school children. This will flower in Spring 2016.
- The broken glass in the BT phone box next to the school had been repaired.

H. Any urgent information for PC to consider. Update on information from last month. None

I. 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. It was agreed to sign this letter to allow this to go ahead.
- Norfolk Assoc of Local Councils is asking if new councillors would like to join their executive committee. This will be offered to them again after the Elections.
- The Clerk has been in contact with Norfolk Wildlife Trust about identifying the Water Vole colony at The White House. Their reply referred the PC to the letter from Breckland Council planning.
- The Norfolk Rural Community Council has now joined forces with another body and has a new address. The Clerk has this info if anyone needs it for prospective grants etc.
- 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 6 sessions since the last report. 717 vehicles were recorded and 16 speeders and 12 travelling at over 35mph. We are hoping for another visit from the Police camera support officer which will hopefully help to reinforce our efforts. 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.

Fortunately nothing to report this month except to renew the warning about the continual theft of heating oil in the county. Catalytic converters from 4x4's are also being targeted. On warm days remember to keep your doors shut or locked if you are not near them as opportunists may be about. 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. None

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

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

CHAIRMAN: -

DATE: -

CLERK: - Alison Skipper 13th April 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.

14 Participation & questions from the public: -

- Could a short version of the PC meetings appear the next Waylander magazine?
- Who named Dukes Lane? - This was named after old The Dukes Head pub which stands on the corner of the entrance and closed during the late 1960's poss. 1970. Resident Charlie Prebble suggested the name about the time when signs were being purchased for some of the roads in Caston.

The Chairman collected from the solicitor Spire in Attleborough, the 1814 Enclosures Award for Caston - a large leather bound book with hand calligraphy parchment pages and a map on vellum.

This book has a detailed map and information about all the numbered Enclosures of land in the village. This valuable book is kept in a steel case in a safe. Due to its fragility it is hardly ever seen and can only be removed from the solicitor by the PC Chairman. Some photos of pages were taken for reference by the Clerk and parishioners. The Clerk recommended that this should be properly stored at Norfolk Records Office in Norwich in the future. The book was shown to the public at the end of the meeting.