



THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL 5th OCTOBER 2015, at 7.30 P.M CASTON VILLAGE HALL

Councillors present: - Mrs. Kay Farmbrough, Mr. Brian Brooker, Mr. Frank Brown, Mr. Peter Chapman, Mrs. Leslie Crosthwaite, Mrs. Jaki Porter.

Also present: - 3 members of the Parish of Caston. Mr. Colin Bearne - Co-ordinator for Caston Home Watch & Caston Speed Watch team.

1. **To accept apologies for absence:** - Mr. David Blincow - Chairman. Mr. Stan Hebborn - County Councillor Recently resigned from this post so it is currently vacant. Mr. Phil Cowen - District Councillor did not attend. PCSO Tonya did not attend.
2. **The minutes** of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 7th September 2015 were handed out to the public and Councillors as Draft. It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes could be signed by the Vice - Chairman, as a true and correct record.
3. **Declarations of Interest** from members, in any item to be discussed were noted: - None.
Dispensations from Council Members: - none.
4. **District Councillor Mr. Phil Cowen.** Contact: - phil.cowen@breckland.gov.uk Mr. Cowen was absent.
5. **County Councillor - Vacant position.**
6. **The PC Vice - Chairman opened the public meeting at 7.30pm.**
There was no **guest speaker**.
7. **Participation & questions from the public: -**
 - Owing to the sad passing of Mr. Alan Hall on 31st August this year aged 93, a previous parish councillor and a trustee for the Fuel Allotment charity in the village, a new trustee is to be proposed. Item for the next Agenda. Councillor Frank Brown asked what this was and Mrs. Horner explained; that it is a fuel charity dating back to the Enclosure of the Village when the residents of the older properties in the village were allowed to take wood for their heating and cooking fires from the common land in the village. When the village Common was sold, the money was invested and each year the interest is shared between these properties. The amount per property is small by today's standards but is a traditional right of the property owner. Mr. Brown as the finance overseer of the PC asked to see more information about this charity.
8. **Caston Speed Watch Co-ordinator Mr. Colin Bearne.** Contact: - 01953 483961
There were 4 sessions since the last report. 591 vehicles were recorded 18 speeders and 13 travelling at over 35mph. This low percentage is only achievable during speed watch sessions. There has been an increase in the volume of traffic and an increase in driver bad behaviour; tail gaiting, use of hand held phones, eating and drinking, smoking and abusive hand gestures towards Speedwatch members. The Parish Clerk has written to various GPS and map providers with respect to the village street as a through route to non local traffic.
If you are concerned about speeding in the village please join the team and help us. One to two hours every alternate week is all that is needed.
9. **Caston Home Watch co-ordinator Mr. Colin Bearne.** Contact: - 01953 483961
There are no serious crimes in the parish to report since the last meeting. Please check your security lighting and locks as nights draw in. If you are going away please tell a neighbour or friend or contact Homewatch to keep watch on your property.

The Vice- Chairman opened the Parish Council meeting at 7.50pm.

10. **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. Still under consideration by Breckland Council.
 - B. **3PL/2015/1080/F** The Barn, Dukes lane Erection of storage building with offices. Retrospective. Permission refused by Breckland. No action at this time so this item is to be added to the May 2016 PC Agenda for review of Enforcement Order to remove the building.
 - C. **3PL/2015/0613/F** Former coach depot Dukes Lane. Residential development of 3 new dwellings (Including: - Removal of a temporary structure used as a site office and store).The 3 new dwellings is under consideration by Breckland Council
 - D. **3PI/2015/0147/F** Land East of Walnut Tree Cottage, Attleborough Rd. Erection of 4 dwellings. (Reduced from 8 dwellings). This has been reduced to 3 then back to 4. Due to go to the Planning Committee at Breckland Council in October.
 - E. **3PL/2015/0832/LU 2**, Hall Farm Cottages, Caston. First floor extension, internal alterations and convert



Caston Parish Council

Year 2015 - 2016

CHAIRMAN: - Mr. David Blincow VICE CHAIRMAN: - Mrs. Kay Farmbrough

garage to home office. (0832/LU). Permission from Breckland Council.

F. 3PL/2015/0765/LB & /F Thatched Cottages, The Street. New garage/office & ancillary accommodation, replacement porch and reconfigure part of roof, remove chimney and flue. Under consideration by Breckland Council.

11. **Finance:-** To report and approve the following expenditure:-

- A. **Payment** to RGM for grass cutting in September £192.00 inc. VAT (each green x 2 cuts). In budget under village maintenance. Proposed by Frank Brown and seconded by Jaki Porter.
- B. **Payment** to Mazars for external audit. £150.00 Inc VATS In budget. Proposed by Frank Brown and seconded by Lesley Crosthwaite.
- C. **Payment** to NALC for 4 x councillors' Introductory Training courses £190.00 inc VAT, in budget. Proposed by Kay Farmbrough and seconded by Peter Chapman.
- D. **Payment** to Open Spaces Society for Subscription £45.00 in budget. Proposed by Peter Chapman and seconded by Frank Brown.
- E. **Payment** to NALC for Autumn Conference £160.00 inc VAT, in budget under Misc. as the Training budget has been used this year. This conference will address matters of specific interest to the Council and Four Councillors will attend. Proposed by Kay Farmbrough and seconded by Peter Chapman. The attendees are requested to prepare a short written report for the next PC meeting.
- F. **Payment** to The Clerk - wages for September 2015 £108.11, in budget under Wages. Next Agenda as invoice not ready.
- G. Note the 2015 Election charges invoice has yet to arrive - approx £500.00 partly in budget under Election costs. Next Agenda.

It was noted that some councillors are still not happy with the current method used by the PC for the consideration of planning applications and the replies. Notably the "round robin" method of viewing plans and councillors comments. They are concerned that this does not allow all the councillors to see each other comments, before sending the final summation decision by the Chairman, to Breckland Council via the Clerk. It was suggested that the PC should ask for more time from Breckland Council, so that the file could go around again before the final submission of their comments. Some felt this was to time consuming. They did not feel that the PC should hold a planning meeting each month unless there was a contentious application for a large development or specific type of building. The PC would like to be able to persuade/discuss with each other the various aspects of the plans, whatever the application type. The Clerk suggested finding out about the processes and systems other PC's use. Update on next agenda.

12. **Matters to report: - Clerk**

- A. **Notice board** on The Green. Peter Chapman has spoken to Peter Hall and Mr. Hall will put up the notice board for the PC.
- B. **Defibrillator:** - There is now a new co-ordinator, Jane Raine. The Clerk has booked her and the Village Hall for an open village meeting on Tues 24th Nov 2015. The Clerk is to make posters and advertise this.
- C. **New email** address for PC - on going item. Next Agenda.
- D. **IT:** - Computer and office equipment for PC - on going item. The Clerk has been informed about a Government grant available for £350 for a laptop and £100 for a scanner in order that the PC can comply with the Governments requirements for PC Transparency. Brian Brooker and the Clerk to co-ordinate and fill in the application form. Update on next Agenda.
- E. **Speeding:** - Request for permanent flashing sign showing speed of traffic - update of working group meeting. Mr. Bearne, Jaki Porter and Frank Brown had met with the representatives from the Police and NCC Highways dept. to discuss the traffic problems in the village. It was noted that the 30mph repeater signs could be considered too small and too far apart. Several types of flashing signs had been quoted for by various companies and they were due to meet with one next week to gather further information. The Clerk had given them the NCC grant match funding information. They thanked the Clerk for notifying various sat nav providers and route planner map makers that The Street is classed as a "C road" and not as a "primary route" for heavy lorries. The Vice - Chairman thanked them for all the work they had done so far. The Clerk is to investigate the Quiet Lanes scheme. Update on next agenda.
- F. **Update on information from last month.**
 - **Trees:** -A quote had been received for the remedial work on the trees at Coronation Terrace. The Clerk is to get two more quotes.
 - The Crocus bulbs, purchased with the grant from Breckland Council, will be collected by the Clerk this week. The school will be contacted and offered some for planting under their tree outside the school and a poster is to be made to call for volunteers to help with the planting of the others at Coronation Terrace and on The Green.



Caston Parish Council

Year 2015 - 2016

CHAIRMAN: - Mr. David Blincow VICE CHAIRMAN: - Mrs. Kay Farmbrough

- Accounts: - Frank Brown asked to see the PC accounts for the last 3 months for the 1/4ly check. Peter Chapman said that he was quite satisfied that the accounts would be in a good order as they have always been so in the past and could not see the need for checking. Mr. Brown pointed out that there were new rules governing internal checking of PC accounts and that he had been requested by the Council to undertake this task.

G. Any urgent information for PC to consider.

- Footpaths: - Some trees, hedges and plants, including brambles and nettles, are growing along the fronts of properties in Caston which run parallel to the public footpath. These are either too low or overgrown and they are limiting the space for safe passage of pedestrians along the footpath. The Councillors would like the owners to trim their plants back and or upwards, so that the footpath can be used safely. Also the footpath itself may have broken twigs or leaves on it from these plants. Maybe these could be swept too. The Clerk said that the paths are swept by special request to Breckland Council contractors but this may involve a waiting list. The Clerk has been asked to write to villager's next footpath asking them to inspect and prune the necessary plants.

13. Correspondence from: -

- Items moved to Councillors' Folder for consideration.

14. Matters for future discussion to be noted: -

- See above. No new items.

15. The next meeting date is agreed as Monday 2nd November 2015 in Caston Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Clerk: - Alison Skipper

Public Participation: -

- A member of the public informed the PC that Google are producing a Pot hole APP, so that the public could list pot holes. Councils and vehicle drivers would then be aware of their presence and condition. It was hoped that this would speed up the repair of pot holes and reduce the number of accidents and car repairs they can cause.
- There is more money available for better Broadband for Norfolk.
- Comments for and against planning applications allow for discussion and reasoned arguments. This helps to highlight issues and concerns of the villagers.
- The Govt. would like to devolve the power of planning committees to a more local level.
- The PC members have attended several planning committee meetings and like to make sure that the PC views are heard at these meetings if needed, thus representing the parishioners.