



Caston Parish Council

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

**MINUTES OF
THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF CASTON
WEDNESDAY 18TH MAY 2016
CASTON VILLAGE HALL at 7.30 pm**

Councillor's present:- David Blincow, Kay Farmbrough, Brian Brooker, Frank Brown, Rob Lond-Caulk, Peter Chapman, Jaki Porter

Also present:- Members of the Public, Phil Cowen (District Councillor), PCSO Tonya Winsley, Colin Bearn (Home Watch & Speed Watch)

1. Apologies for absence:-
None
2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11 May 2015 – proposed by Kay Farmbrough, seconded by Peter Chapman.
3. Chairman's 2015 – 2016 report from David Blincow – see separate sheet.
4. Police report from the Community Police Team – PCSO Tonya Winsley
Reported that a Norfolk crime map is now available online showing where crimes occur and their type. The next Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel meeting, at the Fire Station in Watton, is on 25 May 2016. The public are welcome. There were no questions from the public.
5. County/District Councillor's report:-
Report from District Councillor Phil Cowen
Breckland Council's new website will be more use friendly and enable payments to be made online for council services. Match funding grants from £133K of Section 106 and DC11 contributions are available for community projects and he is supporting the heart defibrillator grant application from Caston. New dementia services are available from Breckland. The District leisure centres have had increased used since last year. Breckland Council has been working with the Police to reduce the number of Anti Social Behaviour Orders. The Department of Work and Pensions now has its office in the foyer of Breckland Council and services of both can be used by clients more easily. The Local Plan is nearing its final consultation and will be adopted in January 2017. 120 new development sites have been identified in the District but the Council are looking at controlling the development more carefully in rural areas in order to preserve the communities and the rural scene. Some villages have now completed Neighbourhood Plans to stipulate their wishes for future development in their villages. Phil Cowen is now the Cabinet Member for Economic Development. Devolution for Norfolk is an open ended question as it is being debated at the moment.
6. Accounts:-
Cllr Brown gave a brief report on the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2016.
 - The Parish Council Balance Sheet £12,927.
 - The Highways Surveyors Charitable Trust totalling £13,290.
 - Fuel Allotment Accounts – Distribution of funds was £250 from the interest on a capital of £6,700 which is held by COIF, a charities investment fund.
 - Village Hall Accounts – The Village Hall is now registered as a Charitable Trust to aid fund raising.

7. Parish Website:-
The Chairman thanked Cllr Brian Brooker for his work maintaining the websites for the village, the PC and the Village Hall. The village and PC websites continue to prove very popular and received many visitors over the year. The PC website has now changed to a new address, www.castonparishcouncil.gov.uk. The new Clerk will be taking over the updating of the PC website and Cllr Brooker will assist as necessary.
8. Homewatch:-
The Chairman thanked Mr Colin Bearne for co-ordinating the Homewatch scheme. In response Mr Bearne thanked residents for assisting with this work which is designed to reduce the risk of burglary and theft and encouraged residents to continue to be vigilant and to advise of suspicious activity and absences from their properties. He further re-emphasised the need for residents to lock away valuables and secure their vehicles and homes.
9. Caston Community Speed Watch Team:-
The Chairman thanked Mr Bearne for organising the Speedwatch team sessions. In response Mr Bearne reported that despite wet weather and illness, which had led to cancellations, 45 sessions had been held resulting in the Police writing 80 letters to speeding vehicle drivers. Continuing Mr Bearne advised that speeds of between 37 and 50 mph had been recorded in the year and that the group had recruited two new members. He anticipated that the soon to be operational SAM2 multiple location flashing speed sign would assist in the deterrence of speeding through the village.
10. Open Form for public participation:-
None.

It was agreed that the next Annual Meeting of the Parish will be on Monday 8 May 2017.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

CHAIRMAN

DATE

Joanne Blackman
Parish Clerk
25 May 2016