



# Caston Parish Council

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

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MONDAY 2 OCTOBER 2017**

CASTON VILLAGE HALL at 7.30 pm

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

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

1. **Apologies for absence**: County Councillor Claire Bowes.
2. It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 4 September 2017 be signed, by the Chairman, as a true and correct record. All voted in favour.

**The Chairman closed the Council Meeting to permit public discussion.**

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

None.

4. **Caston Speed Watch Report by Co-ordinator Colin Bearne – Contact 01953 483961**

“There have been four sessions since the last council meeting. 474 vehicles were observed, and despite our signs and very obvious presence, we were able to record 33 of these as speeding.

The problem appears to have become most acute on the Attleborough Road at Coronation Terrace mornings and evenings. One session here again produced over 15 speeders. We are still considering why this should be.

Our team has been sufficiently diligent to be awarded one of the new style improved speed guns. Only a few of these are currently being issued. We hope to be receiving the equipment some time this week.

Please join us if you are concerned about speeding in the village. It takes only 1-2 hours of your time every alternate week. We are still critically short of volunteers.”

It was also noted that the Police have attended once at Coronation Terrace in this period. Data that is collected by the Speedwatch team contributes to Police data however, it is not enforceable.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the weight and level of HGV vehicles which continue to drive through the village. Whilst this is recognised, Cllr Porter reiterated that she has spoken with Highways several times on this subject and to seek a weight limit through the village is a costly exercise where legal advice would need to be sought and if the application was unsuccessful, these costs would be borne by the Parish Council. The advice received is to make the route through the village less attractive.

Some discussion took place as to whether a sign stating “Unsuitable for HGVs” would be worth consideration.

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District Cllr Phil Cowen advised the Council that Shropham had a similar problem and now have a 7.5 tonne limit in place. Any business operating or delivering to the Parish are entitled to drive in and out of the village to carry out business. DC Cowen accepts that enforcement remains a problem however, Shropham Parish Council have been very successful in reporting any vehicles using the village as a through route by obtaining the company name and number plate of the vehicle and speaking directly with the transport manager at the company in question. This approach has made a difference and Shropham continue to report any such vehicles. DC Cowen suggested that Cllr Blincow speak with the Chairman at Shropham Parish Council, David Napier, regarding this matter.

DC Cowen stated that the Council should approach the County Councillor Claire Bowes as it is a County Council issue and CC Bowes should be able to take this matter forward. Further, the Parish Council should not be responsible for costs in applying for a weight restriction limit, this is the responsibility of the County Council.

A letter has recently been sent to CC Bowes regarding the junction at the B1077 and this would also be followed up.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that Cllr Porter, together with the Clerk would draft a letter to CC Bowes in this regard.

5. **Caston Neighbourhood Watch Report by Co-ordinator Colin Bearne – Contact 01953 483961**

“Unfortunately, I have to report a break-in and burglary in the village in the period involved.

The circumstances show that the crime was committed even though the householder had taken almost every reasonable precaution.

Nevertheless, please seek advice if you wish to increase the measures you yourself have already taken.

Better safe than sorry – always.”

**The Chairman reopened the Council meeting.**

6. **Declarations of Interest:-** Cllr Lond-Caulk, item 7A and 7C.  
**Dispensations** from Council Members: - None

7. **Planning Applications:-**

A. **3PL/2015/1080/F** – The Barn, Dukes Lane. Cllr Lond-Caulk advised that he has submitted an application for the barn to be erected at his site in Carbooke and is awaiting a decision. Cllr Lond-Caulk further advised that either way the building would be removed by the end of the year.

B. **3PL/2017/1045/0** – Land adj Old Rectory Cottage, Attleborough Road. Application has been refused.

C. **3PL/2017/1125/F** – Bilhams Cottage, The Street. This matter was deferred to the end of the meeting when Cllr Lond-Caulk would be requested to leave the meeting.

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

A. **Alternative venue to hold Parish Council Meetings during the refurbishment of the Village Hall.** The Clerk advised that she had spoken with the following alternative venues:-

Little Ellingham Village Hall - £8 to £10 ph

Great Ellingham Recreation Centre - £9.50 ph

Carbooke Village Hall - £7.50ph but would be prepared to charge the local rate of £6.50 ph (they are about to undertake a refurbishment themselves and may not be available for all dates).

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would negotiate the best price with Little Ellingham Village Hall for the meetings on 4 December, 8 January and 5 February.

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- B. **Book of Remembrance – to clarify where it should be held during the refurbishment of Holy Cross Church.** The Parish Council reaffirmed its previous resolution that the Book of Remembrance should be held with parishioner Jane Horner for the duration of the refurbishment works at Holy Cross Church.

9. **Finance – to approve and report the following expenditure**

Payment of the following items was proposed:-

- A. To approve the salary payment, including holiday pay allowance to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman for the month of September 2017 in the sum of £211.77. Proposed by Cllr Farmbrough and seconded by Cllr Porter. All voted in favour.
- B. To approve payment of invoice number 2238664 to RG Maintenance Limited for grass cutting for the month of September in the sum of £96.00 (inclusive of VAT). Proposed by Cllr Farmbrough and seconded by Cllr Brown. All voted in favour.
- C. To approve payment of Hall Hire for the months of April to September (6 meetings) in the sum of £30.00. All voted in favour.
- D. To approve payment to Hilton Studios for amendments to the Book of Remembrance in the sum of £[tbc]. The invoice from Hilton Studios has not been received and this matter was deferred until the November meeting.
- E. To approve payment to Mazars LLP for the Audit Fee in the sum of £120 (inclusive of VAT). Proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Farmbrough. All voted in favour.

10. **Matters to Report**

A. **Update on original Village Cross repairs**

The Clerk advised that there was no further update on this matter as we are awaiting a site visit from Historic England. The Clerk will continue to chase this matter and Cllr Blincoe will telephone Historic England in this regard. ***Item for next Agenda.***

B. **Financial Balances**

The Clerk reported the current financial balances to the Council.

C. **Update on transfer of banking facilities from Barclays to Lloyds and the implementation of internet banking**

The Clerk advised that a further form required signature to permit the Clerk viewing access to the bank accounts. The Clerk would obtain signatures this evening and would submit the form accordingly. ***Item for next Agenda.***

D. **Adoption of telephone boxes**

The Clerk advised that there was no further update in this matter as we are awaiting BT to come and remove the cash box from the telephone box. The Clerk will continue to chase this matter. ***Item for next Agenda.***

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E. **Matters for the Rangers**

The Clerk advised that she continues to report matters to the Rangers but to date the requests have not been carried out.

DC Phil Cowen was surprised to hear this as most Council's have a good relationship with the Rangers who attend regularly and carry out the works required. The Clerk explained that various matters have been requested that have not been carried out.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would contact CC Bowes in this regard to attempt to get matters resolved. *Item for next Agenda.*

F. **Provision of a Childrens' Play Area Facility**

Cllr Lond-Caulk expressed his frustration that this matter is not moving forward. Cllr Brown advised that the Council are unable to move matters forward until they have in front of them a firm proposal. Cllr Porter suggested that a working party should be set up, made up of no more than five people, to be a mix of Council members and members of the public.

DC Cowen reiterated that the Council needs to set up a group to prepare a proposal. DC Cowen further suggested that by definition those in Coronation Terrace support the idea as only two oppositions had been received. Further, the location is a key element of the proposal, the land at the rear of the Village Hall would not be considered a good area for the reasons of safety. Play areas have to be visible and secure.

DC Cowen advised that there is still a lot of money available for projects like this which, if not spent, will ultimately be returned to the developers. Norfolk Community Foundation will require a fully budgeted proposal before they can consider the application and suggested that Cllr Lond-Caulk speak to Rhianna Rudlan at Breckland regarding the proposal.

Cllr Brown also suggested that Cllr Lond-Caulk should speak to John Hill who may be happy to assist a working party. Cllr Farmbrough is to join the working party. *Item for next Agenda.*

G. **Maintenance of streams bordering properties**

The Clerk advised that there is a Government Guideline document which explains the position regarding streams which border properties. The general assumption is that if your land boundary is next to a watercourse, runs alongside a watercourse or you own land with a watercourse running through it, is that you own the watercourse up to the centre of it (or the whole if running through it), unless it is owned by someone else. This can only be determined by inspection of individual property deeds. The Clerk has included a copy of the guidelines in the Councillors' folder. *Item for next Agenda.*

11. **Correspondence from:**

- A. A request had been received from the Norfolk Accident Rescue Service (NARS) for a donation to their Charity. The Clerk confirmed that £100 was allocated in the budget. A vote was taken and **IT WAS RESOLVED** that a donation of £100 would be made to NARS. All voted in favour.
- B. A thank you letter had been received from the PCC in respect of the Council's donation towards the maintenance of the churchyard.
- C. Subscription is due for the Open Spaces Society in the sum of £45.00. The Clerk confirmed that this sum was included in the budget. A vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED** that the Council would renew its subscription. All voted in favour.

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Any correspondence and associated information added to the Councillors' Folder for circulation, Public Information notices posted to the village noticeboards and websites.

12. The next meeting date is **Monday 6 November 2017.**

**The Chairman closed the meeting to permit public discussion.**

13. **Participation and questions from the public – session 2:**

Parishioner Jane Horner asked whether the Parish Council had any objections to the temporary erection of a gazebo on the Village Green for the Pashendale Memorial (29 October), should the weather be inclement. No objections were raised however, a concern was raised over insurance. The Clerk will speak with the insurers in this regard.

Parishioner Jane Horner asked whether the Parish Council would be prepared to make a donation to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal for a wreath. The Clerk confirmed that this was in budget and it was agreed that the donation would be made in the sum of £25.00.

A member of the public asked DC Cowen the result of a meeting which it was believed was being held to discuss Capita not managing planning applications favourably. DC Cowen advised that he was not aware that a meeting had taken place but it was recognised that there had been some inconsistency in decisions and moves were afoot to make changes in this regard. A new Director of Planning has been appointed and some applications have been overturned on Appeal.

There is a New Homes Bonus (NHB) scheme set by Central Government which is an incentive based payment made to local councils on the approval of planning applications. This scheme is not favourable to Councils should an application be refused and subsequently approved on appeal. By way of example, no NHB is payable on the site at Watton as this was originally refused and overturned on appeal.

Breckland is unable to demonstrate a five year rolling land supply at the current time.

A member of the public reported that the finger post sign at the junction of Northacre and Carbrooke Road was missing, possibly in the ditch. The Clerk will report the same to Highways.

DC Cowen and Cllr Lond-Caulk left the meeting at 8.58 p.m.

**The Chairman reopened the Council Meeting.**

- 7C. **3PL/2017/1125/F** – Bilhams Cottage, The Street.

The Council discussed the new planning application re Bilhams Cottage, The Street – conversion of garage to 1 ½ storey cottage.

It was noted that there appears to be no change from the original planning application and with this in mind, the Council's opinion remained the same and it was agreed that the Council would respond giving similar but expanded reasons for objection.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would object to the planning application on the grounds previously specified. All voted in favour.

14. **Matters for future discussion:** Items for next Agenda as above.

**The Parish Council Meeting closed at 9.15 pm.**

Joanne Blackman  
Parish Clerk  
11 October 2017

CHAIRMAN..... DATED: .....

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