



Caston Parish Council

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

**MINUTES OF
THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL
MONDAY 9 JANUARY 2017
CASTON VILLAGE HALL at 7.30 pm**

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

Also present:- Peter Fuller – Breckland Outdoor Sport and Children's Play Fund, Members of the Public

1. **Apologies for absence:** None.
2. **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2016 be signed 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. **Peter Fuller, Breckland Outdoor Sport and Children's Play Fund:**
The Council had invited Peter Fuller from Breckland Outdoor Sport and Children's Play Fund to provide a short presentation on funding which is currently available.

Under Policy DC11 new housing developments are required to contribute towards sports equipment and/or facilities. The current period of funding is available until 1st March and has a budget of £9,760 for outdoor sports and £7,320 for children's play areas. This sum is shared within our District Group which consists of Griston, Thompson, Merton and Caston.

The requirement is that you must have a site available and be in a position to proceed with the project within 1 year of the funding being received. The site must be owned or on a long-term lease and a lessee has to be a constituted community group, Parish Council or Charity. There should be a consultation in the Parish to support the need for such a project and match funding by the Parish Council is welcomed but is not absolutely necessary. Other funding may also be available.

We would consult with District Councillor Phil Cowen and Councillor William Smith if we wished to proceed with an application.

Peter provided us with a couple of examples of funding which has been made available within the local area where a small contribution by a Parish/Town Council has been made towards the overall cost. Cllr Lond-Caulk enquired how small and Peter advised that there is no minimum but any contribution will strengthen an application.

At 1st March any applications are assessed. If the current budget is not spent within a certain timeframe, then it is possible the funds could be returned to the developer. It is unknown whether this year's available funds will rollover in to next year. It is possible that future funding would be made available from new developments.

The restructure of Breckland Council has resulted in a delay of relaying this information to Parish Councils and Peter advised that if we were able to submit a basic application in time for the 1st March deadline, it may be possible to add to it during the assessment period.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED:

CLERK: Joanne Blackman, Westcroft, Watton Road, Ashill, Norfolk, IP25 7AQ
Tel: 01760 447484 Email: parish.clerk@castonparishcouncil.gov.uk www.castonparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Chairman thanked Peter for his time and Peter subsequently left the meeting.

The general view was that we would be unlikely to submit such an application at such short notice but that Cllr Lond-Caulk should prepare a proposal for consideration should any future funding be made available.

5. **Guest Speakers:** None.

6. **Caston Speed Watch Co-ordinator Colin Bearne – Contact 01953 483961**

The attached report was provided by Colin Bearne.

7. **Caston Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Colin Bearne – Contact 01953 483961**

The attached report was provided by the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, Colin Bearne.

The Chairman reopened the Council meeting.

8. **Declarations of Interest:-** Cllr Lond-Caulk, item 9B and 9C.

Dispensations from Council Members: - None

9. **Planning Applications:-**

A. **3PL/2016/1272/HOU** – 2 The Green – this application has now been approved by Breckland Council.

B. **3PL/2015/0180/F** – The Barn, Dukes Lane – Cllr Lond-Caulk advised that the new building was being erected on Monday next week and whilst they were on course, it would be very tight to meet the deadline.

C. **3PL/2016/1507/F** – Bilhams Cottage, The Street - Cllr Blincow advised that this matter would be moved to the end of the meeting when Cllr Lond-Caulk would be asked to leave to enable this matter to be discussed.

D. **3PL/2016/1557/HOU** – Highfields, Stow Bedon Road – no objections.

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

A. Cllr Blincow advised that all Councillors had been provided with the precept budget calculation for consideration. If the precept was increased to £9,863, as proposed, this would result in a 10 pence per week increase on a Band D property. Cllr Blincow advised that the Parish Council had taken on several new obligations and the Beech Tree on Coronation Terrace continues to be an ongoing cost concern. Cllr Brown proposed that the precept should be increased to £10,600 as the Beech Tree costs were in fact significantly more than those budgeted. It was therefore **PROPOSED** by Cllr Brown that the Precept should be set at £10,600 and seconded by Cllr Brooker. Five voted in favour with two abstentions. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that the Precept budget would be increased to £10,600 for the year 2017/18.

B. A discussion took place and it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Lond-Caulk and seconded by Cllr Farmbrough that we should register Caston into the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and agree expenditure in respect of new signage requirements. No further costs are considered likely. Six voted in favour with one abstention. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that Caston would be registered into the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme by the Co-ordinator Colin Bearne.

11. **IT WAS RESOLVED** with all in favour, that the following payments should be made:-

A. Salary payment including holiday pay allowance to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman, for the month of December 2016 in the sum of £207.61.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED:

- B. Payment to Cllr Brooker in reimbursement of the sum of £29.95 in respect of the Annual Spanglefish Gold Subscription for caston-online.
- C. Payment to Colin Bearne, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for reimbursement of new adhesive Neighbourhood Watch signage in the sum of £30.

12. **Matters to Report:-**

- A. Whilst the defibrillator has been installed at the Village Hall, there remains a problem with fitting everything in to the defibrillator bag. The defibrillator however is available for use, if required. Cllr Brown suggested that members of the Parish Council, Village Hall Committee and church should also be provided with the code for use in an emergency although of course it is recognised that the code will be available from the emergency services in the event of an emergency. It was agreed that this matter would be left until after the presentation which has been arranged for Thursday 26 January at 7.30 p.m. at Caston Village Hall.
- B. The Clerk advised that the laminated copies of the Welcome Pack are now available for use. The Clerk will send a copy of the Welcome Pack to new residents upon notification from the Electoral Register. The Clerk would also seek permission to place six copies in the church, The Red Lion and at the Friday Drop-in Coffee Morning.
- C. The Clerk advised that Hugh Coggles, the Tree Officer at Breckland had responded to our letter requesting support of Breckland Council to the felling of the large Beech Tree at Coronation Terrace. It was noted that the response stated that Breckland would prefer that the tree was not felled. After discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Lond-Caulk would approach Andrew Coombes to carry out a report on the tree for consideration.
- D. The Clerk advised that she had been promised a report from Simon Swann on the repairs to be carried out to the Village Cross. This would be forwarded upon receipt and the Clerk would continue to pursue further quotes for consideration.
- E. The Clerk advised that she was now in receipt of a licence from Norfolk County Council to site a larger multi-use bin next to the bus shelter, outside the school. The small bin inside the shelter would need removing and the new bin sited. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would seek to obtain quotes for the purchase of a new bin up to the value of £160 plus installation.
- F. Cllr Farmbrough advised that there had been a slight delay in the printing and distribution of the Village Appraisal forms but she hoped these would be delivered to every household the following week with responses required by 17 February 2017. Cllr Farmbrough advised that she has purchased envelopes and labels which will require reimbursement in due course.
- G. The Clerk provided the Councillors with financial balances prior to the meeting.
- H. The Clerk advised that we are not yet in a position to proceed with internet banking with Lloyds but this is still being pursued and the sum of £4,400 has been transferred in to the new Lloyds Bank account and that all future cheques would be issued from this account. Cllr Farmbrough advised that she has been able to access internet banking.
- I. The Council was advised that there are 5 or 6 people who have formed a group and are pressing ahead with the adoption of the phone boxes. It was agreed that the voluntary group would continue to pursue this matter.
- J. It was noted that the drains remain blocked in various locations throughout the village and leaves remain on footpaths and have become slippery. The Clerk will report these matters to the Rangers to address on their next visit.
- K. The Northacre Noticeboard requires some repair and it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk and Cllr Blinecow would liaise and seek to obtain a quote for these repairs.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED:

13. Any correspondence and associated information added to the Councillors' Folder for circulation. The Clerk advised that there had been two requests for donations from Norfolk Age UK and the Open Spaces Society. It was agreed that all allocations had been made for this year and the Clerk should advise them to approach us next year when further consideration would be given.

14. **To agree the next meeting date Monday 6 February 2017.**

The Chairman closed the Council Meeting to permit public discussion.

15. Participation and questions from the public – session 2.

The Chairman advised that he was in receipt of the Minutes of the Caston Fuel Allotment Trustees meeting held on Wednesday 14 December and that these would be placed as an Agenda item for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting. **Item for next Agenda.**

The Chairman reopened the Council Meeting.

Item 9C

3PL/2015/1507/F – Bilhams Cottage, The Street – conversion of garage to 1 ½ storey cottage

Cllr Lond-Caulk, the Applicant, was permitted to speak in respect of this planning application. Cllr Lond-Caulk provided the Design and Access Statement to all members of the Council along with supporting plans. Cllr Lond-Caulk advised that the conversion is to provide a two-bed retirement home which is in character with the village which he believed would improve the street scene. Cllr Lond-Caulk further stated that the roof of the property would not be any higher but the garage would be extended to the back and side. The proposed dormer windows would overlook the back of Bilhams Cottage and the adjacent neighbouring property. The plot is approximately ¼ acre and both properties would retain a reasonable size garden and would prevent any backfill development.

Cllr Lond-Caulk left the Council meeting at 9 p.m.

Cllr Brooker advised that the Parish Council have always opposed backfill developments. Cllr Chapman felt that this could establish a precedent for further backfill developments in the village. There would be more vehicular movements to the property and access could prove to be a problem. It was noted that there had been no objections to the application at the present time but it was expected that some would be received. Cllr Porter felt that the street scene had changed when the garage had been built but believes that it would prevent further backfill at this location. Cllr Brooker felt that it was an inappropriate place for a property.

The Council took a vote with zero in support, four against and two abstentions.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** to object to this application on the grounds of backfill and access.

16. **Any other business/matters to be noted for next Agenda.** None.

Meeting closed at 9.18 pm.

Joanne Blackman
Parish Clerk
16 January 2017

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED: