



# Caston Parish Council

CHAIRMAN:- Mr. David Blincow      VICE CHAIRMAN: - Mrs. Jaki Porter

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MONDAY 2 JULY 2018**

CASTON VILLAGE HALL at 7.30 pm

Councillor's present:- David Blincow, Jaki Porter, Kay Farmbrough, Frank Brown, Peter Chapman,

Also present:- CC Claire Bowes, DC Phil Cowen, 4 members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Brooker. No apology received from Cllr Lond-Caulk.
2. It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 4 June 2018, be signed, by the Chairman, as a true and correct record. Proposed by Cllr Farmbrough and seconded by Cllr Brown. All voted in favour.
3. **Participation and questions from the public, session 1:**  
None.
4. **Guest Speakers:** DC Cowen reported that Breckland Council have agreed their budget. They had to bring in £182K in the last financial year to balance the books. This was, in the main, as a result of loss of income from the rental of the Jaeger factory which generated a yield of approximately 14%. The property remains unlet but they have had interest from two parties, one a pharmaceutical company and the other a kitchen manufacturing company. The kitchen company have now pulled out but negotiations continue with the pharmaceutical company. Further, the development in Thetford failed to attract as much interest as anticipated however, this should be 98% let in the next couple of months.

Breckland have launched several initiatives to promote market towns in the County. An app called ShopAppy has been launched which enables customers to shop with local businesses via an app. The goods are ordered and can be collected from a central collection point.

The Local Plan is now in the last stages. The Council are keen to build properties but it is vital housing and employment work hand in hand and that residents have an opportunity to work in the local towns to avoid them becoming dormitory towns.

**Planning Application 3PL/2018/0027/F** – Development of Cattle Roundhouse, Thompson Road, Grison, IP25 6PX - George Freeman MP had contacted DC Cowen to advise that he had received communication from the Applicant who was not happy about the reluctance to approve the application. DC Cowen advised Mr Freeman that the application was in the wrong place, located near both residential properties and a school. Both DC Cowen and Cllr William Smith have submitted objections to this application.

**Planning Application 3PL/2017/1267/0** – Land adjacent to Caston Primary School – DC Cowen reiterated that he remains of the view that this proposed development is in an inappropriate location given the serious nature of flooding and is continuing to work on our behalf to object to this application.

Cllr Brown advised DC Cowen that he is amazed that following our complaint regarding the conduct of the Chairman at the Planning Meeting that 10 weeks on, the matter has not advanced in any way. Cllr Brown advised that the response seems to deal with the matter of the slides not being presented correctly and completely missed the point that it was the conduct of the Chairman which was in question. DC Cowen was unable to comment.

CHAIRMAN.....

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A member of the public enquired about the timescale for the Local Plan. DC Cowen was unable to confirm an exact timetable but advised that a meeting will take place with the Planning Inspectorate in September and then hopefully it will be sent to the Secretary of State and formally adopted. They remain hopeful that this will be by the end of the year but it may creep into 2019!

Cllr Brown asked a general question regarding Appeals and that they seem to be dealt with by correspondence, is this normal? DC Cowen advised that the Appellant has a choice of written representations, site visit or full enquiry. Smaller applications are generally dealt with by written representations as this is generally the quickest way. The decision is in the hands of the Appellant entirely.

DC Cowen left the meeting at 7.53 pm.

**CC Claire Bowes** – “The Parish Partnership Initiative will be repeated in the next financial year. The County Council has again provisionally allocated £325,000 on a 50/50 basis to fund schemes put forward by Town and Parish Council to deliver projects that are priorities for local communities. We are particularly keen to encourage and support first-time bids. The closing date will be the 7 December 2018. If you need any advice in developing your ideas, you can consult your local Highway Engineer. Once all bids have been received they will be assessed and you will be informed of the decision in March 2019 following approval by the Council’s ETC Committee.

The 20mph flashing signs for outside Caston School, financed through my member’s budget, are scheduled for October/November this year. I will update when I hear further from the Highways Engineer.

**Hazardous Waste Days** – We hold special events at some of our recycling centres so that people can dispose of household hazardous waste free of charge. The next household hazardous waste days will take place across several weekends in September and October 2018. 15-16 September at Dereham and 6-7 October at Thetford. Details of acceptable items can be found on the County Council website.

**The County Council is urging MPs to back fairer funding for rural areas, to tackle social exclusion** – In a report to the all-party parliamentary group on social mobility, the County Council have advised that Norfolk is not receiving enough national investment in local public services, due to ‘false perceptions’ that it is a relatively rich area. The report says Norfolk’s people are the least socially mobile within the eastern region:

- The districts of Breckland, Great Yarmouth, King’s Lynn and West Norfolk, North Norfolk and Norwich are amongst the worst 10% nationally for social mobility.
- Since 2010/11 the County Council’s grant from the Government has reduced by £189m. The authority has made savings of £334m and had to absorb additional costs of £319m.

**Norfolk County Council’s Public Health team have won a national award at the Municipal Journal’s Local Government Achievement Awards** – their work on combating domestic abuse in Norfolk had also previously received national acknowledgement from the Development for Communities and Local Government. Norfolk is becoming a leader in this field and particularly its work to train ‘champions’ in the community – people in frontline roles, such as nurses, dentists and social workers, who are taught to spot signs of abuse and know where to go to for help and support. Domestic abuse has a huge physical and emotional impact on victims, their families and society, and costs up to £100m each year in Norfolk. It can be physical, sexual, emotional, financial, psychological, or controlling or coercive behaviour. You may be interested to know that another organisation working to combat this problem is local and is The Daisy Programme, based in Watton and covering the whole of the Breckland area, it is a local charity which is providing support and counselling to those affected by domestic abuse and it is seeing an increase in referrals.”

CC Bowes was asked whether steps were being taken to improve mobile coverage in the area, CC Bowes advised that there is a Committee working towards this. Cllr Brown suggested if residents have access to wi-fi, they can use Mobile Wi-fi to ensure they can send and receive telephone calls.

CHAIRMAN.....

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

“There have been 4 sessions since the last council meeting, 536 vehicles were observed of which we were able to log 43 as speeding. This is once again an unusually high proportion and reflects the time of day and the venue chosen. This month’s figures were gathered in the main from Coronation Terrace, Attleborough Road.

Our new recruits continue to be trained.

Our human resources are still fragile some weeks and we are still in desperate need of fresh volunteers.

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

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

“There is nothing to report this month.

In this summer weather, please secure front access while you are enjoying your garden. If you are going to be away for any period, however short, lock and secure your possessions.

For Neighbourhood Watch ring 483961. For reporting suspicious activity and seeking advice use 101”.

**The Chairman reopened the Council meeting.**

7. **Declarations of Interest:-** Cllr Farmbrough, item 8B.  
**Dispensations** from Council Members: - None

8. **Planning Applications:-**

- A. **3PL/2015/1080/F** – The Barn, Dukes Lane. The building is now empty and is still on track for removal by September. Cllr Lond-Caulk was unavailable to provide an update and the Clerk will contact Cllr Lond-Caulk to provide same.
- B. **3PL/2017/1267/0** – Land adjacent to Caston Primary School – erection of five dwellings and car park for Caston Primary School. This matter remains undecided and we await confirmation of when and if it will return to Committee.
- C. **3PL/2018/0395/HOU** – Evergreen, The Street, Caston, NR17 1DD – Erection of front porch. Permission has been granted.
- D. **3PL/2018/0027/F** – Development of Cattle Roundhouse, Thompson Road, Griston, IP25 6PX – erection of 1 no organic free range egg laying unit with connected packing area. This matter remains undecided.
- E. **3PL/2018/0465/HOU** – Little Barn, Caston Road, Caston – Single storey side extension including glass link corridor and new porch to front elevation. The Council has no objections to this application. Permission has been granted.

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

- A. To approve the salary payment including holiday pay allowance to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman, for the month of June 2018 in the sum of £212.52. All voted in favour.
- B. To approve the additional hours to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman, for the months of April, May and June in the sum of £104.53. All voted in favour.
- C. To approve the expenses of the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman, for the months of March, April, May and June in the sum of £56.91.
- D. To approve payment to R G Maintenance Limited for grass cutting for the month of May in the sum of £342.00 (invoice number 2239884)

CHAIRMAN.....

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10. **To discuss propose and vote on the following subjects:**A. **Purchase of a 'Tommy' Statue to commemorate the end of WW1**

The Clerk advised that she had received offers of contributions totalling £110. Whilst the Facebook post had been seen and read by many, only one response had been received. Cllr Brown suggested that given the lack of interest locally this matter should not proceed. All agreed. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council, having given due consideration, should not proceed with the purchase of a 'Tommy' statue. The Clerk will write to those offering contributions to advise of the outcome.

B. **Hedging for Coronation Terrace**

Cllr Farmbrough advised that she has had second thoughts regarding planting hedging at Coronation Terrace. A large percentage of the hedging would be near or under the large Beech tree and it would be very difficult to plant and would be unlikely to thrive. Further, if the play area that is proposed goes ahead, this may prove unnecessary. It was therefore agreed that this matter would be further reviewed in three months' time. **Item for October Agenda.**

11. **Matters to Report**A. **Update on original Village Cross repairs.**

The Clerk reported that she had been provided with the name for a further masonry specialist based in Norwich, by Historic England, and that she had invited them to tender for the project. The Clerk has requested an extension of time as the original Grant offer was for work to begin in July. This has been granted to the 1 October 2018. It was proposed by Cllr Farmbrough and seconded by Cllr Porter that if a tender is received which is within the limit of the Grant offer then the Clerk be authorised to accept the same. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that if a tender is received, prior to the next meeting of the Council, which is within the limits of the Grant offer from Historic England, that the Clerk be authorised to accept the same. **Item for next Agenda.**

B. **Financial Balances.**

The Clerk reported the current account balances. **Item for next Agenda.**

C. **Update on telephone boxes.**

Phil Wells has advised that he hopes to begin painting the telephone boxes in July. **Item for next Agenda.**

D. **Matters for the Rangers**

The Clerk advised that all matters have been reported to the Rangers and she has requested notification of when they will be visiting Caston. CC Bowes asked to be copied in to requests to the Rangers so she can keep track of works we have requested.

The pothole in Church Lane has been repaired and the pothole outside Flaxmoor House has been scheduled for repair (timescale six weeks). **Item for next Agenda.**

E. **Update from Claire Bowes re 20mph flashing signs outside the school.**

This work is scheduled for October/November. **Item for next Agenda.**

F. **Complaint letter to Leader of the Council in respect of Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 February 2018 re 3PL/2017/1267/0 – Land adjacent to Caston Primary School – erection of five dwellings and car park for Caston Primary School.**

Further to the update received from DC Cowen, this matter should now be progressed to the second stage. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would prepare a letter, for the approval by the Council, to be sent to Jon Berry advising that we wish to take our complaint to the second stage. **Item for next Agenda.**

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**G. Update re Play Area**

Cllr Lond-Caulk was not available to provide an update. Some discussion took place and Cllr Bowes suggested that we should speak to DC Cowen. Cllr Brown reiterated that Cllr Lond-Caulk needs to provide a report which sets out the full details such as costs, funding, ongoing costs, insurance etc. It was agreed that Cllr Porter will liaise with Cllr Lond-Caulk in this regard. **Item for next Agenda.**

**H. Update from Highways re No Stopping Signs**

The Clerk advised that she had received an update on this matter stating that the Council 'would monitor the situation'. This refers to the instability of the signs and not the question of whether they have been illegally installed. The Clerk will email the details to Cllr Bowes to follow this up. **Item for next Agenda.**

**I. Update re possible purchase of a second SAM2 sign**

The Clerk confirmed that she had forwarded the details of the Parish Partnership Initiative to Cllr Porter. Cllr Porter will investigate this matter and revert. **Item for next Agenda.**

**12. Correspondence from:-**

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

**13. To agree the next meeting date Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September (unless urgent business arises when a meeting in August may be called).**

The Chairman closed the Council Meeting to permit public discussion.

**14. Participation and questions from the public – session 2. None.****15. Matters for future discussion.**

- Possible exemption from Annual Governance and Audit Regulations.
- Parking outside the Ju Jitsu Centre.

**Meeting closed at 8.40pm.**

Joanne Blackman  
Parish Clerk  
4 July 2018

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED: .....