



# Caston Parish Council

CHAIRMAN:- Mrs Jaki Porter      VICE CHAIRMAN: - Mrs. Kay Farmbrough

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2019**

CASTON VILLAGE HALL at 7.30 pm

Councillor's present:- Jaki Porter, Kay Farmbrough, Frank Brown, Brian Brooker, Peter Chapman, Chris Cook, Michele Grimsditch

Others present:- District Councillor Phil Cowen and District Councillor Sarah Suggitt

Also present:- 4 Members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence:** None.
2. It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 7 October 2019, be signed, by the Chairman, as a true and correct record. Proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Farmbrough. All voted in favour.

### The Chairman closed the meeting to permit participation from the public.

3. **Participation and questions from the public, session 1:** The flooding outside Delmar House was raised again and the Clerk advised that she was continuing to chase CC Bowes in this regard. Photographs had been sent to CC Bowes and to Highways. It was noted that the painting of the village gates was due to be completed tomorrow and the Remembrance poppies could therefore be attached to them. A parishioner had kindly removed the brambles by the telephone exchange. RG Maintenance Services Limited ('RGM') have also been to clear this area and an invoice received. The Clerk to speak with RGM to establish which areas had been cleared and invoiced.
4. **Guest speakers:**  
DC Cowen introduced DC Suggitt to the meeting. He explained that DC Suggitt looks primarily after the eastern side of the ward and he looks after the western side. DC Suggitt has also been appointed as Executive Support Member.

The Council meeting has been brought forward to the 28 November to adopt the new Local Plan which the Officers are currently reviewing. As a consequence, all planning applications which are currently in the pipeline, but are yet to be decided, are being revisited to be considered with the new policies.

The Planning Inspectorate has instructed the Council to immediately undertake a review of the Plan as projections contained therein are unlikely to be achieved.

Once the Local Plan has been adopted, the 5 year housing plan should be sound until October 2020.

This should give the Council an opportunity to review the policies thoroughly as a lot has changed since the start of the process. It is hoped that additional policies can be implemented in a new plan. Water resources is one of the biggest challenges.

DC Cowen advised that last week Breckland had suffered a two day power outage. He explained that the Council server was shut down for routine maintenance at the exact moment a power surge occurred in Dereham which blew out the server completely. The Council emergency plan was implemented but it took a couple of days to resolve.

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DC Sarah Suggitt advised that there are currently two grants available for community groups for commemorations for VE Day/VJ Day/Battle of Britain. The grants are aimed at bringing people together.

DC Cowen advised that the Budget is currently being prepared and they are looking to implement a Vulnerability Policy to tackle homelessness and vulnerability in the community.

Cllr Grimsditch raised the issue of cell coverage in the area. Caston does not benefit from any direct coverage and she explained that she intends to do a survey with people in the village. DC Cowen explained that the Council has no influence over where masts are installed and Norfolk is a poorly serviced area. DC Cowen advised that we should report any finding to MPs and complain to Ofcom.

Cllr Chapman asked whether it was time to stop multiple housing and urbanisation of rural areas. DC Cowen explained that this point always raises tensions. There is always natural growth and housing demand is driven by births, longevity and fragmented families. It is a reality the Council faces and policies need to be managed with what we have. There are systems and practices in place for example to preserve water but leakage rates remain high and it requires joined up thinking and the Council needs to lobby electric/water companies and central Government. It is a national problem and not specific to Norfolk.

**DC Cowen and DC Suggitt left the meeting at 8.30 pm.**

5. **Caston Speed Watch Team monthly report from Tony Ash, Speed Watch Co-ordinator:**

"Firstly please accept my apologies for my miscalculations for the last report it should have read we caught 4.7% of speeders not 21%.

October saw the volunteers assess 488 vehicles during the six checks at various locations. From these we caught 20 offenders found to be exceeding the 35mph guidelines and these were reported to the Constabulary. On my calculations this means about 4%. On one of the checks we were passed by 92 vehicles and not one offender was detected during the one hour check.

We now have a further volunteer trained and three more awaiting training and authorisation.

From the information we have provided to the Constabulary I am pleased to report that during the last three months we have caught no inhabitants of Caston exceeding the speed limits.

Due to the willingness of the volunteers I am also pleased to report that the six proposed checks for November have all been fully assigned.

If there are any more residents who would like to offer their services as a volunteer please contact me for more information on 01953 488902.

Tony Ash  
Speedwatch Co-ordinator".

6. **Caston Neighbourhood Watch monthly report:** The Co-ordinator sent his apologies but advised that there was nothing to report. Cllr Porter advised that there had been one report on Facebook a suspicious dark van outside a property.

Cllr Farmbrough reported a strange incident of a stranger at her back door. He was escorted off the premises.

7. **Declarations of Interest:-** None.  
**Dispensations** from Council Members. None.

8. **Planning Applications**

A. **3PL/2019/0518/F – The Barns, Attleborough Road, Caston, NR17 1DJ – Two new self-build dwellings.** This application was approved at Committee but it was noted that Breckland website has yet to be updated to reflect this.

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- B. **3PL/2019/0772/F – School Lodge, The Green, Caston, NR17 1DB** – Proposed detached house and garage/workshop to garden plot. It was noted this application has been withdrawn.

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 October 2019 in the sum of £216.75.
- B. To approve payment to R G Maintenance Services Ltd in respect of grass cutting for the month of October in the sum of £235.20 (incl VAT), invoice number 2242803.
- C. To approve payment to R G Maintenance Services Limited in respect of hedge cutting and clearing verge at the telephone exchange in the sum of £138.00 (incl VAT), invoice number 2242807.
- D. To approve payment to Caston Village Hall for hall hire for the period April to September 2019 in the sum of £35.
- E. To ratify payment to I&I IONOS Ltd in the sum of £7.20 (incl VAT) in respect of invoice number 203019118114 (Community Cars). PAID
- F. To ratify payment to Plusnet in the sum of £34.20 (incl VAT) in respect of invoice number 00004758344-002. PAID
- G. To ratify payment to Spanglefish for Gold Subscription for Caston Parish Council website in the sum of £29.95 (incl VAT). PAID
- H. To approve payment to HCI Data Limited to renew castonparishcouncil.gov.uk for two years in the sum of £86.40 (incl VAT).

The above expenditure, with the exception of item C, was proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Brooker, all voted in favour.

The Clerk to make enquiries of RGM re item C (clearing of the verge). If satisfactory then it was agreed that payment should be made in full.

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

- A. **Purchase of a new printer**  
Cllr Brown **PROPOSED** that a budget of £100 should be approved and seconded by Cllr Grimsditch. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should purchase a new Council printer within the budget of £100 and the old printer be disposed of accordingly.

11. **Matters to Report**

- A. **Speed Limits on Stow Bedon Road/HGV Traffic** – Cllr Porter advised that the two parishioners that are driving this are putting together a petition to Highways based on the safety issues raised. **Item for next Agenda.**
- B. **Financial Balances**  
The Clerk had previously supplied a monthly financial report and Cllr Brown a projection for the end of the year. The Clerk has submitted an interim VAT claim and Cllr Brown advised that the application for the Section 106 monies had been submitted. **Item for next Agenda.**
- C. **Matters for the Rangers** – pavements still require sweeping and siding out as previously advised as some are becoming unwalkable. **Item for next Agenda.**
- D. **Play area** – A trained volunteer has carried out the first safety report. A waste bin is to be installed however a licence needs to be obtained from Norfolk CC for collection of the same. Rob Lond-Caulk has donated a bench. Cllr Farmbrough recalled a further recycled bench which is stored with Cllr Chapman which may also be available if required. The Clerk to continue to chase A T Coombes re the branch to be removed and Cllr Porter has removed the broken barrow from the entrance to Coronation Terrace. **Item for next Agenda.**
- E. **Cleaning/repaint/repair of the Village Gates** – Repainting of the gates should be completed tomorrow. **Item for next Agenda.**

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- F. **Village Cross Notice** – Cllr Cook reported that he had received a positive response from Historic England who have indicated a Section 17 Application should be made for possible funding. The Clerk to check whether this is the same funding application required for the repair works and report to Cllr Cook. **Item for next Agenda.**
- G. **Caston Museum(s)** – Cllr Cook reported that work is in progress on the telephone kiosk on the Green. **Item for next Agenda.**
- H. **Trees** – It was suggested and agreed that the two articles sourced by Cllr Porter should be placed on the Council website. Cllrs Porter and Brooker to liaise in this regard.
- I. **Parking on Council land** – Cllr Porter advised that research has shown that it is not illegal to park on Council land unless a by-law says otherwise. There is no by-law in place. The Clerk to speak to Open Spaces for advice as how best to approach this. The main problems being mowing of the area and health and safety.
- Cllr Farmbrough reported some mattresses on the path at Coronation Terrace. Cllr Farmbrough will check and report as fly-tipping is considered necessary. **Item for next Agenda.**
- J. **Caston House Map** – Cllr Cook has prepared a map of the village and the location of each property. It was agreed that Council members would review the same and report any amendments. **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 2 December 2019.** Agreed.

**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.** As above and feedback from the Well Being Conference and Cell Phone Coverage.

Meeting closed 9.03 pm

Joanne Blackman  
Parish Clerk  
22 November 2019

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