

Caston Parish Council

CHAIRMAN: Mrs Jaki Porter

VICE CHAIRMAN: Mrs Kay Farmbrough

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL
MONDAY 7 DECEMBER 2020
BY ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL at 7.30 pm**

Councillor's present:- Jaki Porter, Kay Farmbrough, Brian Brooker, Chris Cook

Also present:- County Councillor Claire Bowes, Several Members of the Public

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Grimsditch.

2. To approve the Minutes of the Virtual Meeting held on Monday 2 November 2020

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 2 November be signed, by the Chairman, as a true and correct record. All voted in favour.

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

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

A member of the public raised the matter of Ultrafast Fibre Broadband, currently being offered by County Broadband. It was acknowledged that several parts of the village are still without reliable fast broadband. The member of the public an IT Manager felt that County Broadband are offering a very good deal and if Caston does not have sufficient uptake, the installation will not take place and the village should not ignore this opportunity. Whilst coverage may seem ok now for some residents, it may not be in the future and services such as Smart TV, smoke alarms etc are more and more relying on this technology. This view was supported by several members of the public. Cllr Brooker advised that he had spoken with County Broadband and it was his understanding that whilst County Broadband were short of a few to sign up for this offer, it was likely it would still be provided to Caston as it is necessary to run the cables through to the neighbouring village, which had signed up for the scheme.

A further member of the public advised that unless a house is currently a 'tech smart home' it is unlikely residents would be interested in the scheme.

A member of the public suggested that the Council may wish to support the scheme and encourage residents to sign up. It was explained that the Council cannot be seen to encourage residents to sign up for a scheme of which they have little knowledge of and when there is currently only one company offering the service. It was acknowledged that each individual has to make their own decision in this regard.

4. Guest Speakers

County Cllr Claire Bowes reported that Trading Standards had unfortunately received reports of fake vaccinations in relation to the Covid 19 Pandemic. The outbreak of Avian Flu in Attleborough puts Caston in the 10 miles exclusion zone.

There have been no new cases of coronavirus at the Cranswick site in Watton and numbers have dropped in Norfolk for the second consecutive week.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED:

CLERK: Joanne Blackman, Daisy Barn, 42 Long Lane, Feltwell, Norfolk, IP26 4BJ

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There is help available for those in need and all details can be found on the County Council website.

CC Bowes advised that she had no further update in relation to the Rangers but would look into it again. She advised that the Manager has been on long term sick leave.

CC Bowes was once again asked about the flooding which occurs at the junction of Dukes Lane as she had been speaking to Highways about this continual problem. She requested that further pictures are supplied to her and to be notified when this next occurs so she can come down and view it for herself. She advised that lots of things have had to be prioritised but she will speak to Highways again and revert to us.

5. Speedwatch

"Due to the lockdown the volunteers have been on standby. The Constabulary have now said we can resume but will only process the returns submitted prior to the 18 December and not resume processing until 5th January. Considering the long range weather forecasts, daylight hours and temperatures and throwing the whole lot in a risk assessment I have decided we will not resume our activities until January".

The Chairman reopened the Council meeting.

6. To record any Declarations of Interest and to consider any requests for Dispensations from Council Members.

Cllr Brooker – 8I, Cllr Farmbrough – 8L

7. Planning Applications

The following updates were provided in relation to current planning applications.

- A. 3PL/2020/1293/HOU – Foxhall Cottage, Dukes Lane – Single storey extension to rear. **Undecided.**
- B. 3PL/2020/1214/HOU - Orchard Cottage Northacre Caston NR17 1DG - Demolition of part of the existing building and construction of extension to form enlarged kitchen and lounge and provide 2 additional bedrooms with ensuite shower rooms. **Undecided.**
- C. 3PL/2020/0274/F - Proposed Detached House & Garage / Workshop To Garden Plot. (Re-Submission). **Appealed.**
- D. 3PL/2020/1000/F – The Barns, Attleborough Road, NR17 1DJ - Conversion of single storey storage building to dwelling. **Undecided.**
- E. 3PL/2020/1147/F - Flat Above Northacre Farm Pool, Northacre NR17 1DG - Proposed Garage Conversion to Create 'Air BNB style' Accommodation at Northacre Farm Pool. **Undecided.**

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

- A. To approve salary payment including holiday allowance to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman, for the month of November 2020 in the sum of £221.07. *Proposed by Cllr Farmbrough, seconded by Cllr Cook, all voted in favour.*
- B. To approve additional hours payment to the Clerk for dealing with the Freedom of Information request and associated matters 10 hours 50 minutes in the sum of £144.19. *Proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr Brooker, all voted in favour.*
- C. To approve reimbursement payment to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman, for printing costs for the months of May through to November in the sum of £55.93 (£7.99 per month). *Proposed by Cllr Farmbrough, seconded by Cllr Cook, all voted in favour.*
- D. To approve reimbursement payment to Cllr Brooker in relation to Paragon Internet Group t/a Tsohost for domain renewal for caston-online in the sum of £8.34 (incl VAT) in respect

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- of invoice number 6118436. *Proposed by Cllr Farmbrough, seconded by Cllr Cook, all voted in favour.*
- E. To ratify payment to Norfolk Association of Local Councils for FOI training in the sum of £48.00 (incl VAT) in respect of invoice 4308. *Proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr Farmbrough, all voted in favour.*
- F. To ratify payment to PKF Littlejohn LLP for audit fees in the sum of £240.00 (incl VAT) in respect of invoice SB20202318. *Proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr Farmbrough, all voted in favour.*
- G. To ratify payment to Plusnet for Broadband at the Village Hall in respect of invoice number 00004758344-016 in the sum of £34.20 (incl VAT). *Proposed by Cllr Farmbrough, seconded by Cllr Cook, all voted in favour.*
- H. To ratify payment to 1&1 Internet Ltd in respect of Caston Community Cars in respect of reference V74393235-94870013 in the sum of £7.20 (incl VAT). *Proposed by Cllr Farmbrough, seconded by Cllr Cook, all voted in favour.*
- I. To ratify reimbursement payment to Brian Brooker in respect of Voipfone invoice 1013380655 in respect of Caston Community Cars in the sum of £3.60 (incl VAT). *Proposed by Cllr Farmbrough, seconded by Cllr Cook, all voted in favour.*
- J. To ratify payment to David Bracey Play Safety Inspections for the annual playground inspection in the sum of £120.00 (incl VAT) in respect of invoice number 1318. *Proposed by Cllr Farmbrough, seconded by Cllr Cook, all voted in favour.*
- K. To ratify payment to DC Escott for the village planters for the previous 12 month period in the sum of £450.00. *Proposed by Cllr Farmbrough, seconded by Cllr Cook, all voted in favour.*
- To approve additional payment item.
- L. To approve payment to Didlington Nurseries in respect of supply of plants for the village planters in the sum of £135 (incl VAT). *Proposed by Cllr Farmbrough, seconded by Cllr Cook, all voted in favour.*

9. To discuss propose and vote on the following subjects

A. Bank signatories

Following the resignation of Cllr Brown, it is necessary to add a further signatory to the bank mandates. Cllr Cook offered to become a signatory. Proposed by Cllr Brooker and seconded by Cllr Farmbrough, all voted in favour. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that Cllr Cook would be added as a signatory to the Parish Council and Allotment to Former Highway Surveyors accounts forthwith.

10. Matters to Report

A. Co-option Update

The Clerk reported that she had received one email expressing interest for co-option to the Council and had provided the necessary forms but to date, no response has been received. It was agreed that this matter would be placed on the Agenda for January and we would try and recruit two new Councillors in the New Year.

B. Financial Balances

The Chairman reported the current balances to the meeting.

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C. The Rangers

The current position with regards to the Rangers is still unknown. CC Bowes advised that she would look into this again and again with regards to the flooding issue, requested that she be advised when this happens again so she can visit to see it for herself.

D. Play Area

The Chairman advised that there were two newly trained inspectors for the Play Area and the latest report showed no issues. The RPII Inspector had mentioned two holes in the basket swing which could collect water and this has been forwarded to the manufacturers who are looking into it. It was a recommendation that the play equipment is inspected weekly but this is advisory only and our insurance states monthly inspections.

E. Remembrance Book

The Clerk advised that this is now with our legal advisors to draw up a legal Agreement as to the future of the book.

F. Coronation Terrace Green

Cllr Brooker had received a call from a resident suggesting that the hedge needs trimming. Concerns had also been raised with regards to vehicles entering the terrace from the far end and it was discussed as to whether further hedging could be put in place to prevent this happening. The matter will be placed on the January Agenda and the Clerk will look into the Woodland Trust with regards to hedging.

G. Fibre Service Subscription

This matter was discussed at 3 above.

H. Village Planters

The Chairman advised that within an hour of making the appeal for volunteers, 17 people had come forward. Help and advice has been received from the contractors who have stood down which has been gratefully received. Plantgrow have donated compost and associated products to the scheme. There are some bulbs in the planters. All planters will be kept in place and managed by the volunteers. A delivery of new plants was received from Didlington Nurseries which will be planted shortly. There will be a group meeting in the Spring to discuss further ideas etc.

11. Correspondence

The Clerk advised that she had received a report of flooding on the B1077 between the junction of Carbrooke Road and the sharp bend on the Attleborough Road, this has been reported on the County Council website.

12. To agree the next meeting date

4 January 2021

The Chairman closed the meeting to permit public discussion.

13. Participation and questions from the public – session 2

The ultrafast fibre broadband was again raised by a member of the public and was hoping that the Council would endorse the plan for the good of the village.

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The Chairman once again confirmed that the Council could not do this. Concerns were again raised that the opportunity would be lost and that rural areas such as Caston would be forgotten. Another member of the public advised that although County Broadband will be installing the service, a resident would not be tied to them after an initial period and could change supplier as you can with any service. Cllr Brooker suggested that there were two groups of residents, those that are happy with the current service and those who continue to have poor broadband and are keen to get the project underway. It is unfortunate that numbers are not sufficient but there is little the Parish Council can do in this regard.

14. Matters for future discussion to be noted

Nothing further than listed above.

Meeting closed at 8.55 pm

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