

# Caston Parish Council

CHAIRMAN: Mrs Jaki Porter

VICE CHAIRMAN: Mrs Kay Farmbrough

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL  
MONDAY 1 MARCH 2021  
BY ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL at 7.30 pm**

Councillor's present:- Jaki Porter, Kay Farmbrough, Brian Brooker, Chris Cook, Michele Grimsditch, Mary Howell

Also present:- County Councillor Claire Bowes, District Councillor Phil Cowen and a Member of the Public

**1. Apologies for absence**

None.

**2. To approve the Minutes of the Virtual Meeting held on Monday 1 February 2021**

With the addition of a 'y' to number 2, line 3 of the Minutes of 1 February 2021, it was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 1 February 2021 be signed, by the Chairman, as a true and correct record. Proposed by Cllr Farmbrough and seconded by Cllr Cook, all voted in favour.

**3. Co-option of Mary Howell**

It was **RESOLVED** that Mary Howell would be co-opted onto the Council with immediate effect. All voted in favour.

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

**4. Participation and questions from the public, session 1.**

A member of the public raised the use of the telephone kiosks with the Chairman prior to the meeting. It was agreed that with effect from 12 April the telephone kiosk on the Village Green would be used as a seed/plant exchange (current COVID guidelines permitting). The formal details of the opening are to be discussed by the working party to present to the next meeting of the Parish Council with full details. *Item for next Agenda.*

**5. Guest Speakers**

CC Bowes reported as follows:-

The County Council have now approved the budget for 2021/22. There is money set aside for highway improvements and flooding issues in the County. The new Highways Manager has been appointed and he has a good handle on the problems he and his team are facing. A general update was also provided.

DC Cowen reported as follows:-

DC Cowen raised the reserved matters application at land adjacent to the school. DC Cowen explained that although strictly speaking the time had lapsed for the reserved matters application, Central Government had put in place rules to enable some application deadlines to be extended in light of the pandemic.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED: .....

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

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The original application was for five, two bedroom dwellings (10 bedrooms), the reserved matters application is for three, three bedroomed and two, four bedroomed dwellings (17 bedrooms). The hard landscaping on the original application was relatively small and provision had been made for the installation of a car park for the school. The hard surfacing in the reserved matters application is significantly more and the car park has been removed and replaced by a pond.

DC Cowen is of the opinion that the reserved matters application is a significant departure from the original and as such, should be a new application. DC Cowen confirmed that he has made a request that this matter be called-in to Committee in light of this.

Extensive discussions took place about the matters in question particularly in relation to flooding. The surface water, which will be significantly increased with the additional hardstanding, has nowhere to go. The pond will fill extremely quickly during any significant rainfall, as experienced already by the pond outside the school, and the ditch does not connect to any outflow and has nowhere to go.

Concerns were again raised for the safety of the children given that larger houses will almost certainly increase the level of traffic coming in and out of the estate.

DC Cowen advised that there is the second application for the discharge of conditions on the original application. This was also discussed at some length.

DC Cowen reiterated the point that the reserved matters application is so far removed from the original application that this should be a new application so that all matters can be fully considered. Further, both applications need to be responded to independently.

#### **6. Speedwatch**

Speedwatch is working towards returning to some level of activity from the 29 March, Government guidelines permitting.

#### **The Chairman reopened the Council meeting.**

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

Cllr Brooker – 9B and additional item (i). Cllr Farmbrough – 8A and 8B.

#### **8. Planning Applications**

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

- A. 3PL/2021/0223D – Land adjacent to Caston Primary School Caston NR17 1DD – Reserved matters application for Erection of five dwellings following outline application 3PL/2017/1267/O.** This matter was discussed at some length at point 5 above. Further discussions took place into other concerns regarding the planting scheme, specifically the removal of a very mature large tree towards the back of the site. There is no social or economic benefit to the village. It was noted that no site notices had been put up in relation to this application nor application 3DC/2021/0039/DOC Discharge of Conditions, discussed below. It was agreed that the Parish Council would strongly object to this application based on the fact that the application was so far removed from the original scheme and should be considered as a new application. The final wording to be agreed. All voted in favour.

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- B. **3DC/2021/0039/DOC – Land adjacent to Caston Primary School The Street NR17 1DD – Discharge of Condition No 4 & 9 on 3PL/2017/1267/O** – It was agreed that the Council would object to this application, as discussed above, with the final wording to be agreed. All voted in favour.
- C. **3PL/2021/0075/F – Kings Landing Dukes Lane NR17 1BL - Proposed Residential Development of 2 Detached Dwellings with Integral Garages.** *Undecided.*
- D. **3PL/2021/0002/F - Chase Farm, The Street NR17 1DD - Construction of new farm house.** *Undecided.*
- E. **3PL/2020/1431/LB - The Mill, The Street NR17 1DD - Temporary removal of the windmill cap to carry out repairs by Smithdale Millwrights, crane off the existing cap and replace it with a temporary cap whilst repairs are made.** *Approved.*

**9. 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 February 2021 in the sum of £221.07.
- B. To ratify payment to Brian Brooker in respect of Voipfone invoice number [                    ], in respect of Caston Community Cars in the sum of £3.60 (incl VAT).
- C. To ratify payment to Plusnet for Broadband at the Village Hall in respect of invoice number 00004758344-019 in the sum of £34.20 (incl VAT).
- D. To ratify payment to 1&1 Internet Ltd in respect of Caston Community Cars in respect of reference V74383235-92903664 in the sum of £7.20 (incl VAT).
- E. To approve payment to Westcotec Limited (inv 11970) only upon receipt of grant monies (50% excl VAT) from the Norfolk Community Foundation in the total sum of £3,780 (incl VAT).

The above payments were proposed by Cllr Farmbrough, seconded by Cllr Cook, all voted in favour.

Two additional items of payment:-

- (i) To approve reimbursement to Brian Brooker for payment to Namecheap in respect of the caston-online.co.uk mailbox in the sum of £8.99.
- (ii) To approve payment to Calico UK Internet Services in respect of SSL Certificate for caston-online.co.uk (invoice number 116820) in the sum of £28.80 (incl VAT).

The above payments were proposed by Cllr Farmbrough, seconded by Cllr Cook, all voted in favour.

**10. Matters to Report**

**A. Co-option Update**

It was agreed that we would seek another Council member once restrictions have been lifted and we can resume face to face meetings. ***Item for July agenda.***

**B. Financial Balances**

The Clerk reported the current financial balances.

**C. The Rangers**

The Clerk advised that the direction sign at the end of Northacre had been reported to Norfolk CC. The Clerk was advised that the chevrons at the junction of Griston Road had been knocked down again, Clerk to report. It was noted the paths still need to be cleared.

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**D. Play Area**

Cllr Porter to check the position with regards to the springer for the play area and will revert to the Council.

**E. Coronation Terrace Green**

Following previous discussions on this matter, it was agreed that as far as the Council could see, there is no solution to the problems at Coronation Terrace. The Council has no budget for these matters and with regret this matter will be removed from the Agenda. If the residents wish to put forward any proposals in the future the Council will of course be happy to look at them.

**F. Flooding**

The Clerk advised that she has not been able to reach the contact at the WMA but will continue to try. Cllr Grimsditch suggested that we should report the flooding as a village and not just rely on individuals to report. As The Street is considered a Zone 3 route with direct access to HMP Wayland, we are able to report in this way. We can source suitable photographs to include with our report. We should still encourage individuals to report their own flooding issues. CC Bowes suggested it was a good idea to report in this way and it is of help to the Flood Authority. It was also suggested that a meeting with local land owners may be beneficial. Cllr Grimsditch to prepare the report. **Item for next Agenda.**

**G. Dog Fouling**

The Clerk reported that several complaints had been made regarding the increase in dog mess around the village. The duty of the Parish Council is to provide dog bins and arrange regular emptying of the same. This is done. The Parish Council has no power to enforce nor police the activities of dog owners and as such can only reiterate the message for dog owners to clear up after their dogs in the bins provided.

**H. School Parking**

We are awaiting a response from the school as regards their position. It was agreed to remove this item from the Agenda for the time being.

**I. Data storage/emails**

Cllr Brooker explained the position with regards to the data storage that we currently have available and how we view/store/delete our emails can reflect on the level of data being stored. Cllr Brooker advised on best practices and individually we need to check our own positions and take necessary actions. The Clerk can reset passwords if required to access the data area.

**11. Correspondence**

Letter from CPCC requesting donation towards Churchyard maintenance. This was discussed but as a donation for this financial year had already been made, the Clerk will write explaining the position and suggest that a further application be made in the new financial year.

**12. To agree the next meeting date**

12 April 2021

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

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

None.

**14. Matters for future discussion to be noted**

As above.

Meeting closed at 9.27 pm

DRAFT

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