

Caston Parish Council

CHAIRMAN: Mr Chris Cook VICE CHAIRMAN: Mrs Kay Farmbrough

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL
MONDAY 4 OCTOBER 2021
AT CASTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM**

Councillor's present:- Chris Cook, Kay Farmbrough, Mary Howell, Graham Moss, John Hill

Also present:- 8 Members of the Public

1. Apologies for absence

None.

2. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 6 September 2021

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 6 September 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.

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

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

A pothole was reported between the entrance of Chase Farm and Bilhams Cottage. Clerk to report.

A member of the public expressed concerns regarding the junction of Northacre with the Carbrooke Road. A high hedge blocks the view towards the direction of Carbrooke and the signage indicating Northacre is very small and vehicles travelling down the Carbrooke Road are not always aware this junction is there. The hedge could possibly be on Norfolk County Council land. Lines in the road or a larger sign could make people aware of the junction. Matter to be raised with Highways.

A member of the public raised the vehicular access to 10 Coronation Terrace. Cllr Cook explained that this had been discussed at the last meeting but the land is subject to a Restrictive Covenant so could not be pursued further. The member of the public advised that the housing association wish to discuss exploring the possibility of lifting the Restrictive Covenant. Cllr Cook explained that we would be open to discussions but the Parish Council cannot incur any costs in this regard. Clerk to write to Housing Association and explain the position.

The Chairman reopened the Council meeting.

4. Guest Speakers

None.

5. Speedwatch

"During September Six checks were completed by the volunteers at various locations. A total of 572 cars were assessed and 58 reported to the constabulary for processing. The results produced several offenders over 40mph.

There is a new site in Northacre awaiting an assessment and approval from the Constabulary.

We could still do with more volunteers if anyone is interested, please ask them to contact me.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED:

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

Tel: 01842 829821 Email: parish.clerk@castonparishcouncil.gov.uk www.castonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Come October I have a volunteer who has expressed an interest in being my deputy.”

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

Cllr Farmbrough – 7D, 7E and 7F as a neighbour.

7. Planning Applications

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

- A. **3PL/2021/1241/HOU** - The Old Rectory Attleborough Road Caston Attleborough, Norfolk
NR17 1DL - The Construction of An Acoustic Fence & Gates. **Undecided.**

The Chairman closed the meeting to allow the Applicant to speak.

The Applicant explained that his family had lived in the village for over 30 years, the last 13 in the Old Rectory. Since 2015 there has been an incremental and gradual increase of traffic through the village. Both in terms of type of vehicles and volume.

The Applicant explained that a full noise assessment had been carried out and the full report forms part of this Application. The Applicant advised that the World Health Organisation recommendation on noise levels is 55 decibels being considered acceptable. At times the noise levels recorded 66 decibels and 57 decibels at night.

The Applicant explained the report suggests a 2.5 metre acoustic fence and gates are the only solution. Considerable thought had been given to the project with zero impact on neighbouring properties. A percentage of the fencing would be behind the hedge and fully screened and the gates would be set back 7m from the road.

Cllr Moss said the figures are recorded over a 24 hour period and is slightly concerned the premise is based on misleading information.

The Applicant explained that they are woken by traffic at night and ear defenders are worn when working in the Woodland Walk (near the existing hedge).

The Applicant explained the fence and gates would also offer additional security.

The Applicant confirmed the gate would be a solid gate and the fence double skinned timber.

Cllr Howell enquired whether normal gates, more in keeping with the village, had been considered. The Applicant confirmed these would not offer the same acoustic benefit.

Cllr Moss expressed concerns that if the same approach was taken by other villagers, the village could take on a very different look and we need to be careful not to set a precedent.

Cllr Howell expressed concerns that a prominent historic property in the village will no longer be visible from the road.

Cllr Farmbrough raised concerns that if new owners wished to remove the hedge then they could.

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Cllr Moss said that a 2.5m fence is quite imposing and asked the Applicant whether they would be prepared to compromise on the height of the gate. The Applicant advised that he could put up a smaller gate and fence and permission would not then be required but would not do the job intended.

The Chairman reopened the Council meeting.

A further discussion took place and it was considered that the gate is less of a concern than the fence which is a very long stretch along the Attleborough Road.

It was noted the fencing also includes the Cottage, not just the Old Rectory. Consideration should be given, if permission is granted, that hedging to minimise the impact is a condition of the permission.

Concerns were again raised as to setting a precedent and there are a lot of properties throughout the village who are of closer proximity to the road. It was further noted, the information on which the Applicant relies is recorded over a 24 hour period and not specifically at night.

The Clerk to draft comments to be submitted to Planning.

- B. **3PL/2021/1039/HOU** – Willow Farm Northacre NR17 1DG – Construction of new building to be used as a games room in rear garden. **Approved.**
- C. **APP/F2605/W/21/3268777** – (3PL/2020/0262/O) Land to the North of School View – Erection of 3no. two storey dwellings with associated car parking, landscaping and access. **Appeal allowed.**
- D. **3OB/2021/0013/OB** - Land Adjacent to Caston Primary School Caston Norfolk NR17 1DD - Modify The Application Obligation on 3PL/2017/1267/O The obligation required for the provision of a car park for Caston Primary School. However, since the approval was granted it has become apparent that the school does not wish to have the car park provided. **Undecided. Comments submitted.**
- E. **3PL/2021/0223/D** - Land Adjacent To Caston Primary School Caston NR17 1DD - Reserved matters application for Erection of five dwellings following outline application 3PL/2017/1267/O. **Undecided. Comments submitted.**
- F. **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. **Undecided. Comments submitted.**

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 September 2021 in the sum of £221.07.
- B. To approve payment to RG Maintenance Services Ltd in respect of invoice no 2245862 for grass cutting (September) in the sum of £288.00 (incl VAT).
- C. To ratify payment to Plusnet for Broadband at the Village Hall in respect of invoice number 00004758344-026 in the sum of £27.00 (incl VAT).

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

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

A. Tree inspection

Three quotations were obtained to carry out the tree survey from R G Maintenance Services Limited, S P Landscapes and Ravenscroft Trees. After discussion it was agreed to accept the quote from Ravenscroft Trees, Clerk to arrange.

B. Hedge cutting

RG Maintenance Services Limited have quoted £200 plus VAT to carry out the hedge cutting at Coronation Terrace. The quote was approved, Clerk to arrange.

C. Poppy wreath

A resident enquired whether the Parish Council would like the purchase of a memorial wreath to be arranged. It was agreed that the Parish Council would appreciate it, Clerk to arrange.

D. Remembrance 2021

Consideration was given to the purchase of a Tommy or other memorial for the village. This matter had already been dismissed at previous meetings as location is a problem and it was considered the permanent memorial on the Village Green is sufficient.

E. Blue plaque – Honour for Community Efforts made in the Pandemic Year

Following further clarification from Norfolk ALC as to the purpose of this plaque and how it is to be awarded to the people of the village, not the Parish Council, it was agreed to accept the plaque. Clerk to arrange.

F. Jubilee Celebrations

This matter to be deferred to the next meeting. It was suggested a representative from the Church and the Village Hall should be in attendance at the next Parish Council Meeting to discuss.

10. Matters to Report:-

A. Financial Balances

The Clerk advised the current Caston Parish Council balance amounts to £10,267.00. Highway Surveyors balance amounts to £14,147.11.

B. Highways/The Rangers

It is still unknown the current position with regards to the Rangers but the Clerk advised that she believed they were due to return shortly. Signs require cleaning, weeds on the kerb and in the side of the kerb need cutting back/removing.

C. Play Area – overhanging branches, reported matters, minor repair volunteers

The branches will hopefully be dealt with once the tree survey is completed. There are a couple of minor issues reported which will be looked at by a resident and Cllr Cook will contact the co-ordinator of the inspection group to discuss.

D. Bank signatories – update

The Clerk advised that she had received confirmation from Lloyds Bank that the mandate changes had been implemented and Cllr Moss now has his card and Pinsentry device. Cambridge & Counties have confirmed they have received the necessary paperwork and it is being processed.

E. Telephone kiosk – Northacre

Cllr Cook advised that this is an ongoing project and should be removed from the Agenda.

F. Plant trees with a grant

This matter was deferred to next month's meeting.

G. Royal Mail post box.

The Clerk advised that the condition of the box outside the Village Hall had been reported to Royal Mail who were investigating.

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11. Correspondence

Two letters have been received from the WI:-

- to request permission to plant a Rowan Tree on the Village Green – deferred until the next meeting
- Platinum celebrations – deferred to the next meeting although Clerk to report back that the Parish Council wish to be involved and suggest that a representative from each group be in attendance at the next Parish Council meeting.

A complaint has been received from a resident as to the conduct of the Council Chairman. Clerk to revert to resident.

12. To agree the next meeting date

Monday 1 November 2021.

The Chairman closed the meeting to permit public discussion.

13. Participation and questions from the public – session 2

The directional sign at the junction of Carbrooke Road/Attleborough Road has been knocked down and requires reporting. Clerk to report.

14. Matters for future discussion to be noted

As above.

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