

Caston Parish Council

CHAIRMAN: Mr Chris Cook VICE CHAIRMAN: Mrs Kay Farmbrough

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTON PARISH COUNCIL
MONDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2022
AT CASTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM**

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

Also present:- District Councillor Phil Cowen
Members of the Public

1. Apologies for absence

None.

2. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 10 January 2022

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 10 January 2022 be signed, by the Chairman, as a true and correct record. Proposed by Cllr Farmbrough and seconded by Cllr Moss, all voted in favour.

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

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

None.

The Chairman reopened the Council meeting.

4. To consider co-option

Deferred until the next meeting (March).

5. Guest Speakers

DC Cowen advised that there will be some matched funding opportunities available for community groups together with a bursary scheme to provide a longer lasting legacy, the details of which will be released shortly. Parish Councils often have some funds where the community groups do not.

It has recently been reported by the Chancellor that a £150 Council Tax allowance will be made to most properties. DC Cowen advised that this will not be shown on the bills which are currently being prepared. It is a large undertaking and will take a while to implement, the execution is not as simple as it sounds!

Cabinet have agreed to recommend an increase in Council Tax for Breckland Council in the sum of £4.95 (approx. 10p per week) per Band D property. This does not include Norfolk County Council or the Police etc.

Breckland have a balanced budget and all statutory and discretionary services remain unchanged.

Budgets for the next four years are currently being looked at.

There are some things coming down from Central Government such as collection of food waste which is logistically very difficult in rural areas. They are also proposing a separation of all types of recyclable waste. There are implications of this in terms of costs which will be significant.

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

New burden allowances are usually given by Central Government to smooth the transition in these situations.

Elizabeth House was empty during the pandemic and the opportunity was taken to update the building.

Cllr Moss suggested the as recycling of this nature is in place in other areas there must be information available to assist. DC Cowen advised that the problem Norfolk has is that it does not have a central hub and we are not currently able to take the items separately. Food waste is managed in some areas currently but not in the same way as it will need to be processed in the new proposals.

Breckland take the view not to encourage food waste and that we should not have any. Supermarkets generate the most food waste and could potentially take more food past its best before date. Foodbanks get most of their food from supermarkets. It is recognised that it is an educational thing for both individuals and companies too.

6. **Speedwatch**

"There were no checks organised for January.

I took this precaution due to the Omicron and the predicted cold weather.

Unfortunately, three members of the team have decided to withdraw their services and are no longer registered with the Constabulary.

I have sent out requests for volunteers for checks in February and await their replies.

As always I am willing to recruit new members to the team and will explain what it entails."

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

Cllr Farmbrough – 8D and 8E.

8. **Planning Applications**

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

- A. **3PL/2021/1662/HOU** - The Old Rectory Attleborough Road NR17 1DL - The construction of an acoustic fence and gates. **Undecided.**
- B. **3PL/2021/1590/HOU** – Richmond The Street NR17 1DD - Proposed Single Storey Side Extension and Alterations (Amended Scheme to Permission 3PL/2020/0406/HOU). **Permission.**
- C. **3PL/2021/1562/VAR** – Chase Farm The Street NR17 1DD - Variation of Condition No2 on 3PL/2021/0002/F - change in design. **Permission.**
- D. **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.**
- E. **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.** DC Cowen explained that conditions are usually imposed to ensure certain things are done prior to occupation of properties and often refer to access roads etc.

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 January 2021 in the sum of £221.07.

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- B. To approve reimbursement payment to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman, for 36 stamps at £0.66 each, totalling £23.76, envelopes £1.85, total £25.61.
- C. To approve payment to Andrew Deptford for replacement Chargestick and two sets of pads for the defibrillator (invoice no 13470) in the sum of £118.80.
- D. To ratify payment to Plusnet for Broadband at the Village Hall in respect of invoice number 00004758344-029 in the sum of £27.00 (incl VAT).
- E. To approve payment to Open Spaces Society for Membership Fees in the sum of £45.

Proposed by Cllr Farmbrough, seconded by Cllr Moss, all voted in favour.

10. Matters to Report:-

A. Financial Balances

The Clerk advised the current Caston Parish Council balance amounts to £7,744.77.
Highway Surveyors balance amounts to £14,187.15.

B. Highways/The Rangers

The hedge at the Carbrooke end of Northacre continues to be of concern and has been reported to Highways as does the flooding at Dukes Lane corner. Two cars have ended up in the field at the junction at the end of the Carbrooke Road. The signage has been knocked down and is not sufficient for purpose. Clerk to report to Highways.

C. Jubilee Celebrations

An application for the road closure has been submitted by Cllr Moss. The costs are likely to be between £100 and £150 including signage.

The Group understand that the arrangements are under the guidance of the Parish Council which will hopefully be acceptable to the Council insurers. (Clerk to confirm).

A member of the group has suggested a slogan BRING & SHARE – LEAVE NOTHING THERE to encourage people to bring and share but to clear up after themselves.

There is approximately £300 - £350 left in the budget and a decision will be made as to how best to use these funds. They propose to commission a celebratory cake and will buy tablecloths/napkins/cups and flags.

There is an interactive map on the official Government Jubilee website where the group will register the event.

DC Cowen advised that he was aware Thomson, Stow Bedon and Great Ellingham were also organising events over the Platinum weekend. Some villages had beacons which will be lit but they are expensive and because of the timings across the commonwealth it will be dusk (9pm) when lit. The group confirmed that they had discussed and declined the possibility of a beacon in Caston based not least on the lack of a suitable location.

As noted in the minutes of the jubilee meeting which Cllr Howell circulated an action was for the PC to write to Chase Farm to explore if they would be prepared to allow The Street end of their private drive be a back up location should the road closure application fail.

D. Village Gates

A quote for repairs to the village gates had been received from C E Clarke (the installer of the gates) in the sum of £717.60. The Council felt that this was high and we should seek an alternative quote for comparison. Clerk to arrange.

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E. Vehicular access to 10 Coronation Terrace

The Clerk advised that this was with Land Management at Breckland Council for consideration and she was awaiting further information. Clerk to follow up.

F. Plum tree at Coronation Terrace

A quote for a further £90 to grind down the stump has been received (£190 total). It was agreed that this would be safer. Proposed by Cllr Cook and second by Cllr Hill, all voted in favour. Clerk to organise.

11. Correspondence

Signed letter from WI taking responsibility for maintenance of the two rowan trees to be planted at the Village Green and Coronation Terrace. Date yet to be confirmed.

12. To agree the next meeting date

Monday 7 March 2022.

The Chairman closed the meeting to permit public discussion.

13. Participation and questions from the public – session 2

A member of the public advised that some flooding has been occurring outside Church Farm. This was noted and will be monitored. A member of the public enquired what would happen to those riparian owners who did not carry out their responsibilities. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council have no jurisdiction over this and we can only appeal to their better nature. DC Cowen advised that the County Council are the lead authority on flooding and there is a hierarchy of villages which will be looked at first.

14. Matters for future discussion to be noted

As above.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm

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